



TACKLING HOMELESSNESS IN CAMBRIDGE, **TOGETHER**

[It Takes A City](#), brings together people and resources from across the community to develop and implement new solutions to homelessness. Our Action Groups focus on specific issues that affect those experiencing homelessness in Cambridge. The following is a summary of our work during 2020/21, including the response to COVID-19, and our plans for 2021/22:



HOUSING

In 2020 we:

- Developed a strategy, aiming to build 20-50 new homes every year for the next 10-15 years, dedicated to rough sleepers and hostel residents.
- Set up and incorporated a Community Land Trust to raise funds and identify suitable sites.

Our goals for 2021/22:

- To **promote** the work of the CLT in finding partners, land and finance.
- To **connect** the CLT with related initiatives.



WOMEN

In 2020 we:

- Developed plans for a women's respite centre.
- Responded to request for a trusted female support worker during lockdown, ensuring women had an advocate.

Our goal for 2021/22:

- To **ensure** that no woman need be on the streets due to lack of appropriate services.



WORKING

In 2020 we:

- Developed a project to help current and former rough sleepers find employment.
- Identified funding and recruited an outreach worker, hosted by CHS Group.

Our goal for 2021/22:

- To **work** with businesses and partners to identify employment and training opportunities.



SUPPORT

In 2020 we:

- Developed a mentoring scheme to support homeless people making the transition from street to home.
- Identified and trained first mentors.
- Linked first mentees with mentors.

Our goals for 2021/22:

- To **promote** the scheme across our partners.
- To **develop** a programme of training in coproduction and trauma informed care for key staff, partners and volunteers.



BUSINESS

In 2020 we:

- Established a group to help retail establishments provide support and receive advice about rough sleeping.
- Drafted a 'toolkit' of advice and guidance for businesses to develop a consistent approach to the issue of rough sleeping.

Our goals for 2021/22:

- To develop the group as a way to **connect** with the business community.
- To **support** businesses by developing and rolling-out the toolkit.
- To present funding and resource needs to the business community.



YOUTH

In 2020 we:

- Developed proposals for a common basic assessment and referral system for all youth accommodation services, now adopted within the re-commissioning for young people's housing related support services.
- The group concluded that it had met the original purpose and agreed to disband.

Our goals for 2021/22:

- To **ensure** young people's views are heard in ITAC's other action groups.



CO-PRODUCTION

In 2020 we:

- Supported a Co-production Group of those with lived experience of homelessness.
- Part of oversight group for new Co-production Facilitator.

Our goal for 2021/22:

- To **support** the group and help identify opportunities for developing coproduced services



TRAINING

In 2020 we:

- Facilitated training for 35 partners and volunteers.
- Delivered two trauma informed care courses.
- Delivered one co-production course.

Our goal for 2021/22:

- To **deliver** more courses for those working with homeless people.



STREET SUPPORT CAMBRIDGESHIRE

www.streetsupport.net/cambridgeshire is a mobile friendly website that we launched in 2019. It provides information on support available for rough sleepers and the homeless, and ways in which the public can help.

Our goals for 2021/22:

- To **build** awareness and usage of the site.
- To **support** the new districts in developing their information.
- To **promote** initiatives such as Cambridge Street Aid.



COVID-19

The pandemic affected our plans for 2020/21. We refocused our networks and resources to support the "Everybody In" initiative, locating suitable accommodation and offering associated services, in conjunction with the City Council. To summarise, we:

- **Supported** the COVID-19 Cambridge Homelessness Partnership meeting, to ensure a coordinated multi-agency response.
- Set up and led a wide partnership to **prepare, transport and deliver** daily meals and essentials, and provide daily contact for up to 120 people across 7 locations, 7 days a week.
- Secured high quality, summer-long, en-suite student accommodation for the Council for 20 rough sleepers.
- Provided on-site support for 20 people, including **resettlement**, bedding, laundry and other domestic needs, coordinated with local hotels.
- Secured high quality, winter-long, en-suite student accommodation for the Council for 60 rough sleepers, **significantly reducing** the Council's need for expensive hotel accommodation.
- Provided on-site **support** for 60 people, including resettlement, bedding and laundry and other domestic needs.



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