

June 2020

Good morning all

We want to say a massive thank you for all your help and support over the last months. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone from donating items, donating funds, prayers, kind words or offering your time to volunteer. We really could not function without everyone's help and we are extremely grateful.

We also want to give everyone an update on how everything is currently going.

As many of you will know that the Care Shelter moved in to the Old Waverley Hotel on Princes Street on 16th April. Since then we have had 321 individuals stay with us. Our team have been working in partnership with the council to ensure that people can move on quickly to alternative accommodation, and through this amazingly 278 individuals have moved on from the Care Shelter into various other accommodations, including temporary accommodation or they have been supported to return to their previous tenancy. Whilst the shelter season was due to finish on 3rd May, we will now be open until 15th July.

The Care Van is still maintaining its usual timings, going out every evening and 5 lunchtimes a week. We are very thankful for the provision of sandwiches from Social Bite which has helped ensure the lunchtime service can still run and also helped supplement the evening provision. On average we are seeing 33 people at the evening Care Van and 42 people at lunchtime.

Again, thank you so much for all your help. At present the only items we are in need of are sleeping bags, men's roll on deodorant and men's razors. We now believe that we have plenty of other supplies for the rest of the season so are in no need for any more food or games and musical instruments etc. Thank you though!

One of the good challenges we have faced due to so many people moving on so well from the Care Shelter is that we are having to spend many hours each day cleaning rooms. The volunteer support in this at the weekend has been incredible. Not only are you doing an excellent job cleaning the spaces to make sure we have room for new people presenting but also you are allowing the support staff to concentrate on looking after the guests and all they are going through. The team work is so vital to the running of the service. We want to thank everyone who has offered their help cleaning rooms at the weekend!

We now are in need of the same support during the week, can you maybe help us?

The idea was originally that the hotel would be cleaning the rooms during the week but as we say, the level of successful move on has meant that the demand for cleaning is higher than they are able to cope with currently, meaning that the staff looking after all other aspects of the service are finding themselves pulled from the support aspects to clean.

We are looking for volunteers who could come for a couple of hours between 2pm and 4pm (if that suits) to clean rooms. All the cleaning materials, clean linen and PPE safety equipment is provided. What we need is people who would feel happy to volunteer, perhaps once a week even or whatever you can do, to turn the rooms around over the closing weeks of operation.

Please feel free to share this in your networks and people can just respond to this email if you are able to help so we can create a rota of people coming in. Thanks!

We are looking forward to normality and to be able to see so many of our volunteers who have had to step down at this time again, but thankful for everyone who has stepped up and for those who have come on board at this time.

God bless

The Care Shelter and Care Van team

Care Shelter

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