

Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter 17/18

News #5 (Feb, 18)



Wow, phase one (the first 6 weeks) is coming to a close and phase two starts Friday 16th February! For some venues and volunteers it's over, or very nearly over, for some they are half way through and for others it's about to begin!

However, the headlines really should be about the guests. Positive changes are being noticed in the guests demeanour after they've been using the shelter for a few weeks. We hope that this is an indication of them beginning to be able to move out of survival mode to some degree.

A fairly settled cohort of guests are using the shelter including two women; all of them are expressing their gratitude for this shelter provision. A couple of the guests are working and we continue to pray for move-on accommodation opportunities to open up for them all. The venues and volunteers have done really well to make the shelter a positive experience for the guests.

Shelter Venues:

Many thanks to the five venues that have now finished their contribution. Five new venues open up from this weekend onwards (many of whom have not been involved previously). We are working on and pray for smooth transitions for all involved.

- Phase 2: 16th February 2018 to 29th March 2018

Publicity:

We held a press event at the end of January to which ITV News attended. Did you see the report on their regional news bulletin? If not, it's available via their Facebook page (and has had nearly 20,000 views).

<https://www.facebook.com/ITVWestcountry/videos/1827630560602884/>

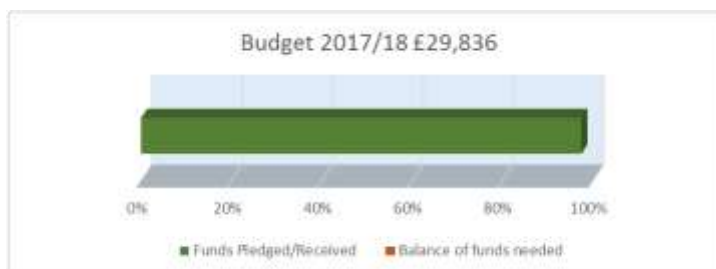
Volunteers:

The project does not need any more volunteers; we and the guests are so grateful for the many volunteers who have committed to this project. We are looking at how we might bring all of the volunteers together after Easter so that we can share our experiences and give feedback on some of the outcomes for the guests. We are not sure what such an event looks like yet but will get information out as soon as we know more. We will extend the invitation to this event to those of you who might be planning or considering your involvement in future years.

Finances:

It is pleasing to report that we have now received sufficient funds to cover the planned budget for this year's shelter project – THANK YOU!

Project expenditure is broadly in line with expectations.



BCWNS Contacts

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