## News Update April 2024



## "Staying at Bristol Churches Shelter gave me hope for my future. I was homeless but now I've found secure accommodation." Guest

**Impact:** BCS had **26 guests** come through its doors over the 6 months that it blockbooked a centrally located guesthouse from Oct 23 until Mar 24. The guesthouse offered a **safe place to stay** for homeless people with low support needs. Over **100 volunteers** from more than **20 churches** were involved in serving at the guesthouse, praying, cooking hot meals, baking cakes and much more. BCS has also continued to support 6 guests through its 'stay in touch' scheme since the shelter closed.



## 88% guests moved to stable accommodation.

<u>Urgent Need:</u> BCS has been running for **8 years** and is **recognised by Bristol City Council** for its integral and effective part to play in **reducing rough sleeping** in the city and pursuing funding from them to cover the costs of operating BCS from Oct 24 to Mar 25. **This does not** however cover the cost of evaluating and reporting on last winter or the months of preparation ahead of next winter. So **BCS is in need of £22,500** to cover its costs over and above the grant sought from the council. This donated **funding is needed now** since without it the project is at **risk of having to stop completely** and restart later this year which risks not being ready for October and limiting the impact that can be achieved.



BCS is not fully funded by the council grant, nor will it be in the future. In 23-24 BCS carried forward £23.4K and received additional donations totalling £14K – we are so grateful for those contributions towards the overall running costs. As we enter 24-25, we have carried forward £5K but urgently need to top that up in order to retain staff.

**Please support BCS at this critical time**. Donations can be made directly to the account below. Any donation you can give is gratefully received and we are so thankful.

Account Name: inHopeAccount Number: 01408518Sort Code: 40-14-13Payment reference: BCS or Church Shelter

## **Bristol Churches Shelter Contacts**

Project Coordinator: Amanda Munday;

Amanda.Munday@inhope.uk; Mob 07507 735798;



For those who need us most

Project Oversight: <u>inHope</u>, registered charity (no. 298528), *Registered Office:* 32-34 Stapleton Road, Easton, Bristol, BS5 0QY.