



Bi annual Report

August 2022 - January 2023

Overview

Devizes Opendoors continues to operate successfully out of its premises at Southbroom Centre, Victoria Road, Devizes SN10 1HG. Sessions have now expanded to 5 to include a fortnightly women's group and an extended session on Monday to accommodate a Warm Spaces session. Staff remain 3 part time and volunteer base has expanded to 60. New Chair appointed at AGM in January, Karin Cardiff, previously a trustee.

Guest ratio stable at just under 3:2 men to women. However it appears the local woman's refuge has found us (possibly through the fortnightly women's session) and are beginning to access our services and we are seeing an increase in women guests. We will be monitoring this usage.

Accommodation issues remain the highest reason for seeking support, followed by finance, substance misuse, health issues and crime in that order.

Rough sleeping guests excluding sofa surfing, mobile units, hostel or B&B which some might consider also qualifies as not own home, remains stable at 6-8. There was an expected decline in rough sleepers in December and January when SWEP was activated, but we still had 3-4 rough sleeping guests. As we move into warmer weather, the number of rough sleepers may change.

Key data for 6 month period August - January includes:

- 1,421 meals cooked
- 939 surplus food parcels taken
- 430 clothing items distributed
- 59 average number of individual guests per month
- 349 attendees at sessions
- 217 issue based discussions with volunteer supporters
- 66 bus trips funded for hospital, probation, therapy appointments
- 65 agency phone calls made
- 62 laundry tickets

New Flooring. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the entire floor at the centre needed to be replaced due to health and safety risks. We moved temporarily to St James during works. This was a significant cost item. Funding was secured through the National Lottery.

High Sheriff Visit 23rd January 2023. The Marchioness of Lansdowne came to the Thursday session and much enjoyed her visit.

Upcoming Fund raising Event

Music Charity Concert in aid of Opendoors, Saturday 11 March at The Corn Exchange. Tickets still available online. Excellent raffle prizes on offer to include 4 ball golf at Bowood (courtesy TH White); guided tour of Stonehenge by David Dawson, director of Devizes Museum and £75 hamper from Cobbs Farm Shop among other good prizes donated by local restaurants and businesses.

Karin Cardiff

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