

Torbay End Street Homelessness Campaign

December 2017 Update



'Together we can End Street Homelessness'

No one should have to sleep on the streets of Torbay. Everyone has the right to a home. Sleeping on the streets is not a choice - people end up there due to difficult circumstances.

The campaign will help us understand each person on our streets, what has happened to them and what they need to enable them to have a home.

The campaign will give volunteers from the community and local organisations a chance to make a real difference to peoples lives.

The campaign will work to increase the availability of homes for people who are street homeless.

The Torbay End Street Homelessness Campaign (TESH) is part of a European wide campaign, run by World Habitat. It is a movement of cities such as Barcelona, Valencia, Brussels, Westminster, Glasgow, Cardiff and many others who have pledged to use the campaign principles, and work together to end street homelessness in their city.

The Volunteers

Many of the volunteers who volunteered on the Connections week are still involved and now volunteer at the daily rough sleeper drop in at the Leonard Stocks centre, where people who are street homeless can come for breakfast, and to shower and wash their clothes. Volunteers are also supporting people who have moved from the streets into the community.



**Torbay End Street Homelessness
Campaign**



The logo for TESH (Torbay End Street Homelessness) is located in the top right corner. It consists of the letters 'TESH' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a solid blue square background. Below the text, there is a white silhouette of a city skyline with several buildings of varying heights.

Who's involved in TESH?

One of the aims of the campaign is to bring groups and agencies together who work with people who are street homeless, so that we can work together and focus our efforts. We are really pleased that the following organisations are now working together on the End Street Homelessness Campaign:

Torbay Council
Westward Housing
Shekinah
Devon and Cornwall Police
Friends of Factory Row
PATH Torbay
The Haven
The Street Pastors
The Living Room
TOWNS night shelter

The fact that so many organisations and groups are involved is the real strength of the campaign



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So what have we done so far in Torbay?

Connections week

Our successful Connections week in April 2017 saw 25 volunteers out on the streets surveying people who were street homeless to get in depth information about their situation. The information that we collected about people was passed to the new outreach team (with peoples consent) and the team have been working with the 29 people who were surveyed. As of October 2017, 16 of these people who were surveyed had been housed. 3 are unfortunately in prison, and 10 left the area over the summer months.

These people are, of course, just one part of the outreach teams work. Since the team started in May, they have worked alongside staff from Community Safety in the Council, staff at Leonard Stocks and voluntary groups in Torbay and have supported 80 people off the streets.

The Videos

During our Connections week, we had a film maker in Torbay, getting footage for a video about the European End Street Homelessness Campaign. You can watch the first short video here:

<http://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/heart-wrenching-video-shows-volunteers-787786>

Another video telling the story of 2 of the first people to be housed as a result of the Connections week will soon be available – watch this space!

Local number to 'report' rough sleepers

There is now a number for the Public or any organisation to 'report' a person who is street homeless so that they can receive help. It is 01803 217890. The number is available 24 hours a day and the information will be passed to the outreach team. This number has been available for 3 months, and so far one third of the rough sleepers that the outreach team have helped have come through from people phoning this number to report someone that they are concerned about.

We have created a poster to display this number which has been distributed around Torbay. The number is also displayed on the screens in GP surgeries.



TESH



What's next?

We are planning another Connections week in the week beginning 29th January 2018, where volunteers will once again survey people sleeping on the streets, and then pass their information to the outreach team so that they can be supported off the streets. We are looking for volunteers to join us! Come and see us at the TESH volunteer fayre (details below)

Volunteer Fayre

The TESH partnership is holding a volunteer fayre on December 11th at Endeavour House, Higher Union Street, Torquay from 1.30 – 8pm. All the organisations that are part of TESH will be there to talk to people about volunteering. Please come along if you are interested!

Follow us on Facebook @TESHcampaign, and Twitter TESH@TQcampaign



Get in touch

If you want to get in touch about TESH you can contact:

General Enquiries - Debbie Freeman - Debbie.freeman@torbay.gov.uk
07900 651 444

Enquiries about volunteering – John Hamblin
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