



Building partnerships Speaking out Giving hope.



Chris Edwards
Chief Operations Officer
Hope Coventry
C/O Coventry Foodbank
Progress Way
Coventry
CV3 2NT

E. chris.edwards@hopecoventry.org.uk

T: 07885 582609

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Dear all,

I am writing on behalf of the trustees of Coventry following their meeting on Thursday 9th July. In considering the immediate future of the Winter Night Shelter for 2020 / 21, we have been in communication with our churches, Trustees and partners including the City Council.

We have taken note of the restrictions placed on everyone regarding support for shared living spaces for rough sleepers in this season. We have taken account of the specific concerns of churches and their leaders to adhere to venue specific requirements.

We are pleased that through their outreach teams and partners, the Council have plans in place to continue to offer and provide accommodation for the homeless in suitable venues which comply to regulations and guidance. We applaud and support the aim to sustain this approach and that the Council are looking to work with agencies and partners including HOPE Coventry to provide sustainable solutions. Therefore, considering the way forward for those connected with Coventry Winter Night Shelter we agreed that:

- The present model of using a shared-space environment for several hours each night cannot be made COVID secure. It has the potential to be a significant means of COVID transmission so we could not guarantee appropriate protection of either guests or volunteers. Therefore, the present model is not appropriate for the current season which is expected to continue into next winter.
- Our present model of CWNS, which requires a shared space in our venues across several churches, is not currently permitted.

Charity Registration No – 1155912

Trustees: David Mayhew - Chair (Westwood Church), Gavin Kibble - secretary (Mosaic Church), Andrew Hillier - treasurer (CLM), Angus Ormes (Streams of Life), Andrew Simpkins (Jubilee Church), Esther Storey (Christian Life Ministries), Ruth Nelson (St Clare's at the Cathedral), David Hammond (St Johns Westwood), , Eniiwaju Etomi (RCCG Holy Ghost Zone) John Scouller (Together for Change)



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With these aspects in mind, the Trustees agreed that:

HOPE Coventry will cease to provide an Emergency Winter Night Shelter in 2020/21.

We have not made any decisions which reach beyond the winter of 2020/21 and have not ruled out running a shelter again in subsequent winters should it be needed, and the risk of COVID-19 be reduced.

We are so grateful for the partnership with churches and volunteers who have enabled the running of the Winter Night Shelter during the past 7 winters. HOPE Coventry would like to thank the City Council for the support of the Night Shelter over the years it has been open and would reiterate the commitment of our partner churches to continue to serve our city.

Should you wish to enquire as to whether churches can help in the future, please contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Edwards'.

Chris Edwards
Chief Operations Officer
Hope Coventry

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