

Annual Report 2020



Combating Homelessness | Creating Opportunities | Promoting Change



Dear Friends

At the beginning of the year, I said that I had a feeling that 2020 was going to be a great year. How wrong could I have been! Covid-19 has had an impact on us like no other event in my lifetime.

Yet the work of BHT has gone on, and every service has continued to operate, although in some projects with reduced numbers in order to maintain safety and health.

In this report you will read about the work of our services, how they have adapted and used this exceptional time to enhance how we work. For example, we have seen improved engagement with young people in our Be OK service in Mid Sussex. Clients in other services have preferred to engage through Zoom, and members of the wonderful Choir With No Name Brighton, run in partnership with the national charity of that name, have been singing their hearts out during their weekly online rehearsals.

A highlight of the year has been our merger with Sussex Oakleaf, a fantastic charity that provides a range of first rate services in Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Crawley and other towns in

north West Sussex, as well as in Brighton and Hove. This merger has achieved many efficiencies and increased the reach of our services from these areas and through to Lewes, Eastbourne and Hastings.

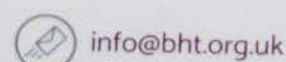
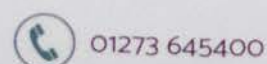
Our services have continued to change lives across Sussex. Our three advice centres in Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings ensured that 927 households last year did not lose their homes. We have helped people to secure safe accommodation, overcome barriers to work and learning, and addressed issues such as addiction, poverty and mental ill-health.

We are often asked what the best way is to end homelessness and rough sleeping. The best way is to **#EndItBeforeItBegins**, which is why the preventative work we do is so valuable, not just in our advice centres, but across the organisation.

On behalf of everyone at BHT, thank you for your support.

Joan Mortimer

Chair of the Board of Management

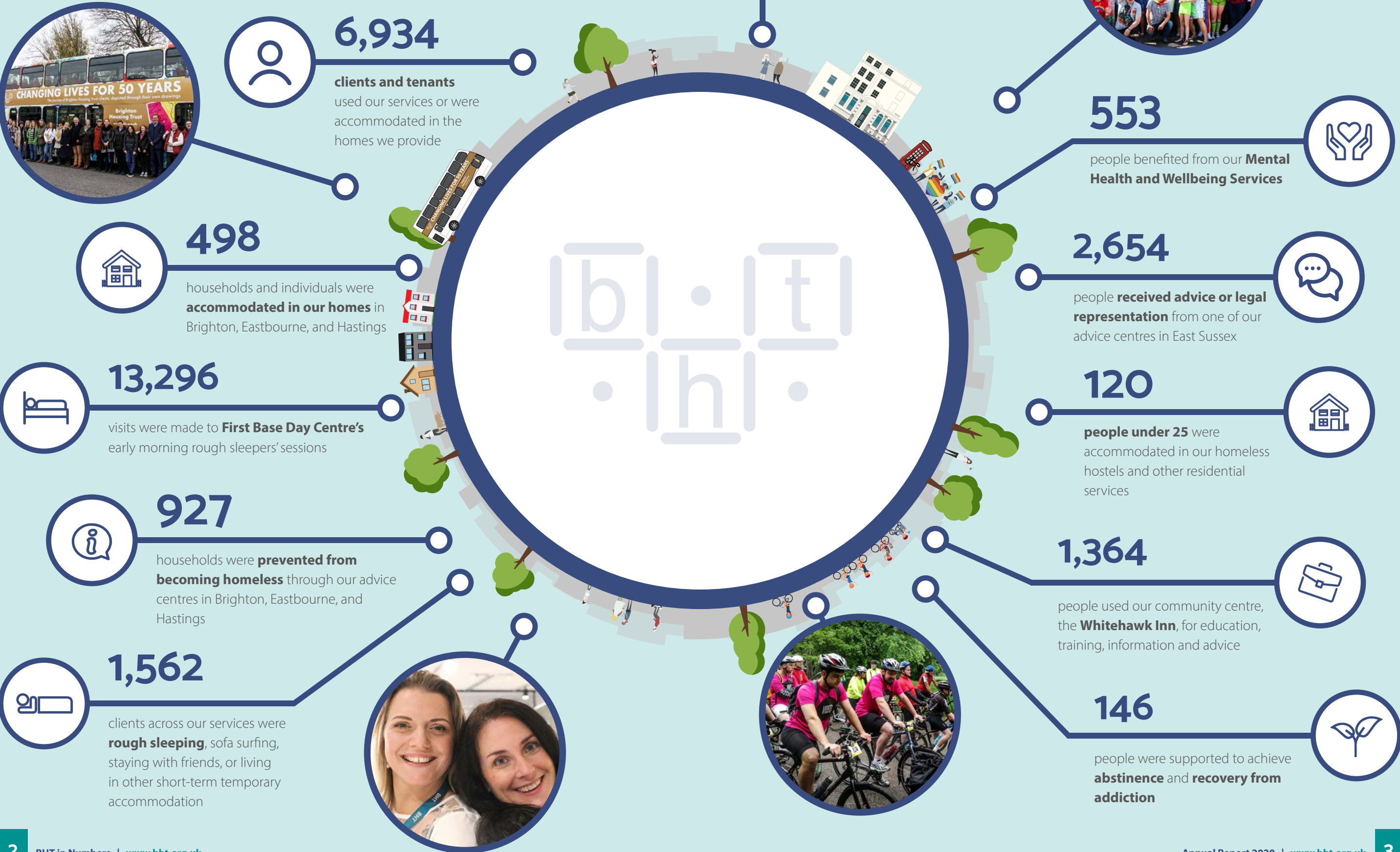


Brighton Housing Trust
Registered Charity No. 284839 | Regulator for Social Housing No. H1696 | Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England, No. 1618610, Registered Office: 144 London Road, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 4PH



BHT in Numbers

Every year, BHT supports thousands of people to regain control and change their lives for the better. Last year:





Merger with Sussex Oakleaf

After many months of negotiations, on 1 April 2020, BHT and Sussex Oakleaf successfully completed our merger.

Both organisations have long histories of providing effective front-line services to those who need it most, and by joining together we can support more people and have a greater impact.

We now provide services across an

area that reaches from Crawley and Horsham in the north of Sussex, down to Brighton in the south and across the coast as far as Hastings in the east. The merger created an organisation employing **249 staff**, working with **7,721 clients** and **accommodating around 1,000**

people each night in our housing and supported accommodation services.

▼ Below - Sussex Oakleaf in Numbers... Just a few of the people supported during 2019/20.

The services joining BHT from Sussex Oakleaf

Pathfinder West Sussex

Free and confidential support for adults experiencing mental health difficulties and living in Mid Sussex or Crawley.

Be OK: Youth Mental Health Support

Support for people aged 16-25 who are struggling with their mental health and are living in Mid Sussex, Crawley or Horsham.

Community Recovery Service

One to one support for people with enduring or severe mental health needs, in their homes and in the community.

Peer Support

Peer Mentors use their lived experiences to create a supportive environment in which clients can achieve their aspirations.

Residential and Housing

A range of residential and housing options for people with mental health difficulties. Short, medium and long term.





Focus on: Our Covid-19 response



Did you know?

There are thousands of care homes in the UK. Of those run by charities, just 82 have secured 'Outstanding' ratings from the Care Quality Commission. Two of those are run by BHT.

Resilience and Adaptation

Staff, volunteers, clients, and tenants have rapidly adapted to the new ways of working we have introduced across our services since the Covid-19 pandemic began.

We have found creative ways to maximise the support we can offer, from moving some services online to meeting clients and colleagues in gardens, parks, beaches and doorsteps to enable social distancing. At a time when many others have withdrawn their services, our clients have told us how much they value the continued and reliable support we have given. The following are some examples of the ways we have adapted our work.

In our **care homes and residential settings**, at a very early stage in the crisis, we introduced safety measures such as personal protective equipment (PPE) for all, rigorous cleaning, a moratorium on visitors, and clearly communicated risk assessments and continuity plans.



I think the whole of BHT can be very proud of the fact that there have been no Covid-19 outbreaks in any of the services which is frankly amazing, and probably has a lot to do with introducing safety measures above and beyond what the government initially outlined, putting the safety of the staff and clients first.

Ian Wilson, Operation Manager at **Archway**, a BHT care home for people with mental health support needs, rated 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).



Fulfilling Lives: Our COVID-19 response



Fulfilling Lives South East

Fulfilling Lives South East is one of twelve interlinked projects across England funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

The South East Project is led by BHT and operates in Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne and Hastings, with partner organisations Equinox and Oasis Project.

Its aims are:

- to provide intensive support for people experiencing multiple disadvantage
- to involve people with lived experience of multiple disadvantage at all levels
- to make systems and services work better for people facing multiple disadvantage

Find out more:

www.bht.org.uk/fulfilling-lives

Our **Detox Support Project** provides accommodation and a programme of support to those undergoing a drug detox. While not a care home, it also has an 'Outstanding' rating from the CQC. During the national lockdown, the project relocated to another site to enable appropriate social distancing, ensuring clients and staff could communicate safely in groups and keywork.



Staff are always there for you no matter what - putting your mind at rest and making you feel safe. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else at this time.

Client of the **Detox Support Project** during lockdown



Our **homelessness prevention** work has continued, part of the work of our advice centres in Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings. These centres provide specialist advice on a range of housing, immigration and welfare benefits related issues. While our centres are not currently able to offer a drop-in service to members of the public, we are providing support to those who need advice and representation by telephone, email and other media.

The number of people seeking help with debt, benefits and employment has increased dramatically since the start of the pandemic. Many are facing new financial pressures, and our advisers are seeing more people who are completely new to the welfare benefits system and sometimes unaware of the support they are entitled to.

Last year the three advice centres prevented 927 households from becoming homeless.



Need advice?

Please contact one of our advice centres for support.

Brighton

☎ 01273 645455
✉ advice@bht.org.uk

Eastbourne

☎ 01323 642615
✉ eastbourneadvice@bht.org.uk

Hastings

☎ 01424 452618
✉ hastingsadvice@bht.org.uk

Some of the people we work with are particularly vulnerable and isolated. **Fulfilling Lives South East** provides intensive support to those facing multiple disadvantage, many of whom have experienced a combination of homelessness, addiction, prison stays and mental ill health. At the beginning of lockdown staff were worried they would not be able to provide all the support their clients needed, especially as others were withdrawing their services.

Despite their concerns, the team found practical and creative ways to maintain contact and keep people safe. They ensured

clients had phones with credit and, where possible, data, and offered meetings on doorsteps for those less able to use phones or technology. They connected clients with recovery podcasts and online support groups. Clients were also encouraged to create and share artwork and photos through WhatsApp to boost self-esteem and distract from isolation.

The team actually found that the increase in telephone and video call appointments reduced barriers that had previously prevented some people from attending in-person appointments.



I can't honestly describe the pressure I was under that day and what you did was massive, I was lost! It may not seem a big deal and I know it's your daily grind but it's been invaluable to me getting settled and getting the kids what they need.

Client who secured Universal Credit payments after talking to one of our advisers



Focus on: Our Covid-19 response

First Base, our resource centre for rough sleepers in Brighton and Hove, has stayed open, but with reduced numbers to keep everybody safe. When the government launched its 'Everyone In' initiative, which aimed to get all rough sleepers off the streets during the pandemic, First Base supported **Brighton and Hove City Council** in its efforts to accommodate rough sleepers, becoming the main hub in the city for the completion of Covid-19 related referrals to Emergency Accommodation.



Many clients who had previously been resistant have accepted accommodation referrals.

156

*Between April and June 2020, 156 clients who used the services offered by **First Base** were placed in accommodation.*

Michael's Story

Michael is seventy-five years old and has been supported by First Base for two and a half years, after becoming homeless nearly three years ago.

He was born in Brighton and lived in the city for much of his life, apart from occasions when he travelled and lived abroad. When Michael first came to First Base, he was sleeping rough in Brighton and moving around different sleep sites in the surrounding area.

Michael has always been independent and during his visits to First Base often showed resistance to the idea of accessing accommodation, saying that his priority was to travel and spend time in places where the weather was warmer.

After a period abroad, Michael was repatriated to the UK due to Covid-19 and arrived in the midst of the pandemic with no money, struggling to adjust to all the new regulations. He went again to First Base. The staff there let him know that the Local Authority had provided a considerable amount of emergency accommodation during the pandemic and that they could make a simple referral with a strong chance of him being offered somewhere to stay. Michael was

still apprehensive and spoke of trying to travel again when he received his pension.

A month later Michael was admitted to hospital following an accident. Staff at First Base took the opportunity to ask him again about accepting a referral to accommodation and this time he accepted. Michael said that he really appreciated the persistence of staff at First Base in trying to get him accommodated, particularly as he realised that travel would not be easy following his accident. After he was accommodated, staff at First Base continued to support him, helping him to set up an e-mail account, get a mobile phone and apply for benefits. They also supported him to apply for an Older Person's free bus pass, so that he could retain his independence.

Michael's case is an example of how the Covid-19 pandemic presented a window of opportunity to help someone who had been long-term homeless to access life-changing accommodation and support.



I still visit First Base for a coffee and a chat with the staff

Michael, **First Base** client



Focus on:
Our Covid-19 response

Digital Inclusion and Online Innovation

One positive thing to emerge from the restrictions associated with the pandemic was a recognition of the importance of digital inclusion and a push to get more people online.

Our projects had a renewed enthusiasm for new technologies, bringing services online where possible and supporting clients to access them.

felt uncomfortable expressing their mental health concerns over the telephone another platform where they could find support.

Launching a new online mental health platform

A great example of this was in our launch of a new online mental health support platform soon after lockdown measures were introduced. Unable to provide the face to face community support they were used to, Recovery Workers within the **Pathfinder West Sussex** service that we are a delivery partner of turned to technology to ensure that clients continued to receive the support they needed.

An online chat function was added to one of our websites, so that visitors were able to speak directly with a Recovery Worker and address any concerns they had about their mental health or that of a loved one. This gave those who

In one instance the platform allowed an individual to speak freely to a staff member while trapped in an abusive environment. Being able to speak without alerting her partner allowed staff to arrange the right support for the individual.

Recovery Workers quickly moved their existing programme of community activities online, with several groups and classes developing, including French classes, relaxation groups and art groups. These proved popular with clients who enjoyed the therapeutic benefits of a structured social environment while being able to remain safe. In fact, when clients were surveyed about the changes to service delivery, 47% wanted the new online video groups to continue even after in-person groups became a possibility again.

Did you know?

Long before the pandemic, **BHT** offered free WiFi within all of its residential services.

Residents also have access to equipment and support to get them online.

Even some of our housing, such as Richardson's Yard (our shipping container homes) has free WiFi for its residents.





Focus on: Our Covid-19 response

Facebook and WhatsApp groups were set up which provided clients with a safe space where they could offer each other support while in lockdown. The groups also allowed them to continue to pursue some of the activities they had previously engaged with in person.

One to one support continued throughout lockdown with Recovery Workers turning to telephone and video calls to offer support to clients. These calls proved a lifeline for many people and allowed them to work on building their own resilience and continuing in their mental health recovery. 54% of clients surveyed were keen for phone support to continue to be an option even after restrictions on meeting in person were lifted.

“ For me, phone consultations have worked really well as it takes away some of the anxiety of discussing personal matters in a public place.

- **Pathfinder West Sussex**
client

Setting aside Covid-related restrictions, some people who are struggling with their mental health find it very difficult to leave their homes, and these new forms of support have made the service more accessible to them. The pandemic has exacerbated existing mental health difficulties for some, while others have found themselves struggling for the first time. The **Pathfinder West Sussex** helpline saw an increase in enquires as the lockdown progressed and it is expected that the impact on people's mental health will continue for some time yet.

Despite this, the application of new technologies in the delivery of mental health support has proved successful and many clients are keen to see it continue alongside any return to face to face contact.



Thank you for being a brilliant lifeline at such a strange time in the world.


Pathfinder West Sussex client



Want to know more?

Pathfinder West Sussex is an alliance of organisations working together to enable people with mental health support needs, and their carers, to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

You can find out more about the alliance and services offered at:

 www.pathfinderwestsussex.org.uk

Launching a virtual choir for homeless people

Within three weeks of in-person rehearsals having to stop due to Covid-19, the **Choir With No Name Brighton** (CWNN Brighton) had launched a 'virtual choir' online, as part of efforts to make sure its members could stay connected. This choir for people who have experienced homelessness and marginalisation is run in partnership between the national **Choir With No Name** charity and BHT. It is a vital support network for some of the most isolated members of the community.

CWNN Brighton used to meet to sing every Monday at One Church in the city centre, with each rehearsal followed by a hot meal, cooked by a team of volunteers. With this no longer possible, the team behind the choir sought other ways of maintaining connection, which included



The high level of attendance is testament to how much people love the choir, and to the resilience of choir members, many of whom have anxiety issues and are having to get used to new technology.

Alex Procter, **Choir With No Name Brighton** Manager

the creation of a virtual choir where members could continue to sing together in a safe, non-judgemental space.

Choir member Dee described the new online rehearsals as:

“ A fab mix of unmuted anarchy and serious song learning in harmony

She said that the choir team had made the transition online:

“ With energy, commitment and love as usual.

Many of the choir's more isolated members did not have access to the technology necessary to take part, so BHT and CWNN Brighton worked with local community networks to get technology to members, and were delighted to receive internet dongles, SIM cards and tablets from **CANCOM UK** and **Digital Brighton and Hove**. These donations have allowed members to attend the weekly choir sessions virtually, and to access a wealth of other online resources and support.



Focus on: Our Covid-19 response

The virtual choir is proving popular with members, as is a new private Facebook group that allows them to stay in touch and support each other. However, the CWNN Brighton team is also conscious of the need to provide 'offline' support options to members. Their team of volunteers has been trained up to make weekly 'check-in' phone calls to members, and they send out a paper newsletter alongside their virtual communications. For more vulnerable members, the weekly phone calls offer a crucial opportunity for some one-to-one support, as well as the sharing of the latest updates on how to keep safe and information about what other local support is available.



The Zoom sessions have given me structure and stability in a time when I am surrounded by lots of personal family crisis.

I am vulnerable to Covid-19 because of various health conditions; therefore my social contact has been stripped back to nothing.

Being able to sing each week and see all the lovely singing faces and the directors encouragement has really kept me going. Thank you all so much for the support.

I am not saying this glibly when I say the Zoom sessions and the chats with volunteers have been a life saver.

Choir With No Name Brighton member

Want to know more?

The **Choir with No Name** runs choirs for homeless and marginalised people. They were founded on the premise that singing makes you feel good; it distracts you from all the nonsense in life and helps you to build confidence, skills and genuine, long lasting friendships. You can find out more at:

 www.choirwithnoname.org





Focus on:
Our Covid-19 response

New Opportunities for Tenants & Clients

Despite all the challenges of the pandemic, there have also been positives to emerge from the crisis.

In the **Move On** project, which provides supported accommodation for people in recovery from addiction, clients have been volunteering in the hotels that are temporarily accommodating homeless people, offering peer support. They have also been delivering food from local food banks to local elderly people.

Clients and staff in this project have come up with fun ways to continue to connect with each other, for example, by all the houses across the project taking part in a 'cook-off' during lockdown. Staff delivered ingredients and recipes to all the houses then clients got to work creating the dishes, comparing the finished results over text message and WhatsApp. They said it was a wonderful way of bringing everyone together and enjoying camaraderie in difficult times.

We also found many local businesses and community groups were eager to step up and offer their support. A remarkable example was when Brewers Home donated approximately £20,000 worth of brand-new furniture

to clients living in our **Route One** project. This project offers supported accommodation for people with complex mental health needs. Clients received armchairs for their rooms, and communal areas were improved with items like sofas, sideboards, and dining sets. Volunteers from St Peter's Church in Brighton distributed the furniture across Route One's eight different properties, which together house sixty people.

St Peter's Church volunteers also worked with local restaurants such as The Ivy, Brighton and Bill's Restaurants (that had to close over lockdown) to create and distribute food parcels to clients at Route One and other projects. Over a fifteen-week period from the beginning of lockdown, they delivered weekly parcels to some of our most vulnerable clients, containing food, toiletries, and treats. This made a huge difference to our clients, many of whom have been isolating or are on low incomes. They described the support as making them feel loved and part of a community.



Focus on: Our Covid-19 response

At BHT we are lucky to have many brilliant and dedicated volunteers, many of whom went to even greater lengths to support our clients as the pandemic began. We were delighted when two of our long-term volunteers, Sheila Nuttall and Peter Taylor, won the Mayor of Brighton and Hove's Covid-19 Community Champion Awards. This was in recognition of the work they do to support clients at the **Archway Project**, our mental health care homes in Hove.

For many years they have worked alongside Archway's key workers to encourage residents to get involved in activities to help their recovery. The activities are varied and can include walking, gardening, cooking, online learning, playing Scrabble, or simply having a chat and a cup of tea. With the new challenges posed by the pandemic, which include a withdrawal of other support services, they have increased their time at the project as well as thinking creatively about how to adapt activities to keep everyone safe.

Another volunteer, Adi, who works for the **Fulfilling Lives South East** project and is in recovery



The best thing about volunteering at Archway is developing a relationship with a resident; seeing their trust in you develop and their social confidence develop.

The staff team are great to work alongside, supportive of what you do and good at enabling it.

Sheila Nuttall BHT volunteer

herself, started just as the crisis began to escalate in March 2020. The weekly Action Groups for volunteers were moved online and, while she initially had reservations about

how she would participate effectively at a distance, she actually found it worked well, and that removing the travel barrier was really helpful.

She has been able to take part in a wide range of meetings that bring together volunteers, frontline staff and project consultants to discuss topics central to the project such as domestic abuse or health inequalities, deepening

her interest and engagement in these areas. The project works in three locations - Brighton and Hove, Eastbourne and Hastings. Both staff and volunteers have noted the positive impact of having more contact across the three project localities due to the digital upscaling and shift to online meetings.

"The support and engagement opportunities from the staff at Fulfilling Lives have been absolutely phenomenal."

- Adi, BHT volunteer



The food parcels were such a help for our most vulnerable clients during the lockdown.

Not only were they providing practical support, but the presentation brought home the personal touch and helped our clients feel that others were thinking of them, which really lessened the sense of isolation so many were struggling with.

Richard Mayes, Support Worker at Route One

The **Hastings Young People's Service**, our supported housing project for homeless young people, also found that, even amongst the challenges, the lockdown created new opportunities to engage with clients. Some of the young people who have previously been harder to reach, have started to form more positive relationships with staff as the lockdown period restricted their ability to meet peer groups outside of the service. Some staff have said that engagement in keywork sessions has increased and more clients are sticking to appointments. The temporary increase to Universal Credit payments has also helped this client group, and staff have worked with the Department of Work and Pensions to minimise the risks of clients receiving sanctions, buying time to help them improve their situations.



Focus on: Our Covid-19 response



Flexible Funding Boost

The Land Aid Trust provided £8,660 to help improve the quality of life in lockdown for clients living in our residential projects.

The funding was provided to projects including the **Hastings Young People's Service** which supports young homeless people, and **Shore House** and **Route One**, which provide supported accommodation for those with mental health support needs.

The flexible nature of the funding meant that we could ask clients exactly what they would like to make lockdown more bearable. People chose a wide range of items, from 3D jigsaws to art materials, toiletries, bedding, clothes, mobiles phones and even a mini greenhouse! Some projects bought kitchen and baking equipment, then ran cookery groups. **Route One**

was able to use the funds to buy garden furniture in a number of their shared properties, which really brought clients together as it meant they could socialise together safely outside, at a time when they were very isolated and could not see anyone else.

Richard, House Lead at Aymer Rd, **Route One** said:

"The garden furniture looks fantastic and is perfect for our clients who will make good use of it this summer... It makes the garden look so much better so this will really encourage our clients to make use of the garden as a tranquil outdoor space."



Life's better, I can now communicate with my friends, my nurse and the money advice service and people can ring me.

Shore House client who received a mobile phone



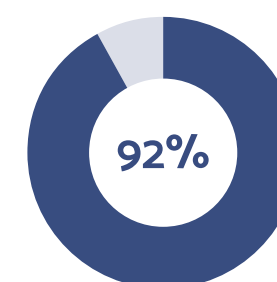
Supporting our Staff

Supporting the health and wellbeing of our staff is a key priority for BHT, and a Covid-19 Task Team was formed right at the start of the crisis to plan our response and communicate regularly to all staff.

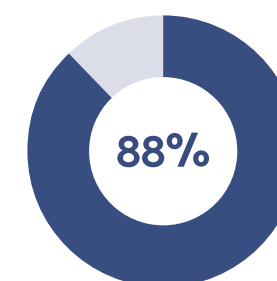
A staff survey conducted in August 2020 showed that 92% of employees felt they were being kept well informed about BHT's response to Covid-19. 88% of those surveyed said they had confidence in BHT's leadership to make the right decisions for employees in the current environment. 91% felt their line manager was being supportive and helping them manage the changes resulting from the pandemic.

Many of our staff are key workers,

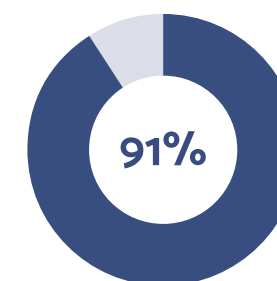
working under tremendous pressure to keep our services running for vulnerable people facing homelessness, addiction and mental ill health. Teams are often close-knit and used to being able to support each other through difficult moments and have struggled when that in-person support had to stop. To counter this, people across the organisation have set up initiatives such as 'Wellbeing Wednesdays', online 'kitchen chats' and weekly quizzes to keep connections alive.



felt **well informed**



have **confidence** in BHT's leadership



felt **supported** by their line manager



The team and management are the best I have ever worked with in 38 years of working within the community, they are supportive and always willing to listen.

BHT employee



Fundraising Roundup

As a charity, we rely on the support of the local community to keep many of our services running and each year we are incredibly grateful to our many dedicated supporters who take on challenges, give a regular gift or organise fantastic fundraisers for BHT.

Although many of our fundraising events were cancelled because of the impact of Covid-19, we were overwhelmed by the generosity from the local community who contributed to our Covid-19 Emergency Appeal in March, helping us to safeguard the future of our services.

has a long-standing relationship with Brighton and Hove Buses, who have supported the work of First Base Day Centre and offered internships to some of our clients in bus depots.

Game on

The amazing staff team from local passenger communications company 15below organised a brilliant Bake-Off event and a 24-Hour Game-a-thon to raise awareness of World Homeless Day, which takes place on 10 October each year. The team raised **£3,232**, bringing their total fundraised for the year to over **£5,000**.

Highlights from 2019/2020:



A new Brighton and Hove bus hit the streets, decorated to celebrate BHT's 50th anniversary. The artwork for the bus was prepared by clients and tenants at BHT, working to the theme of 'Journey', reflecting their individual journeys as well as the primary business of Brighton and Hove Buses. BHT



Christmas 2019

From bake sales to busking, we were overwhelmed with support last Christmas and had a record-breaking year, raising **£39,026!**

Our Christmas street collections raised a fantastic **£6,528** across the two days and various collection sites.

We would not have been able to do it without the support from our fabulous supporters, volunteers, choirs, supermarkets and cafés so a massive thank you to everyone involved.



2.6 Challenge

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the organisers of the biggest mass participation sports events across the country came together to create a new campaign called the 2.6 Challenge. The challenges chosen by BHT supporters ranged from the brave to the bizarre. Board member Paul Featherstone, and his wife Hilary went as far as creating a cardboard 'boat' in their front garden, adding shock chords to simulate water resistance against the oars, and taking it in turns to row for two hours and six minutes. The total raised through this challenge and our emergency Covid-19 appeal was **£11,942**.



Getting connected

IT Services and Solutions company CANCOM, and cross-sector partnership, Digital Brighton and Hove, donated internet dongles, SIM cards and tablets to various services, supporting our efforts across the organisation to enable our clients to get online and stay connected.



#TeamBHT

We had three amazing runners join #TeamBHT and take part in the Brighton Half Marathon in February. It was a challenging route but our runners Kevin, Greg and Drew braved the rain and wind and raised over **£1,000** for BHT's **First Base Day Centre!**

Banking Superstars

As part of the ongoing partnership between HSBC UK and BHT, a team of HSBC employees visited the Archway Project last December and helped to redecorate areas of the care home. They also cooked a delicious Christmas buffet for residents, volunteers and staff to enjoy together. This followed a donation made by HSBC UK to refurbish the Archway kitchen area so that residents could form positive relationships in a place where meals can be cooked and enjoyed together.



Superhero Challenge

Sadly, we had to cancel our flagship cycling event, **Bike It Brighton**, due to the pandemic but had lots of supporters take on our virtual replacement event **The Superhero Challenge**.

BHT staff member Jitka, who works as part of the Fulfilling Lives project designed, sewed and sold face masks and donated the proceeds to BHT. Nick and Stephen, who made up Team Velo Badger, completed their 60-mile bike ride and raised an incredible **£430!**

Thank you to all our Superheroes!

On the Horizon

We have plenty of events that you can get involved in over the coming year:

December 2020

Like everything in 2020, our annual Christmas street collection is going online! Join us by holding your own Virtual Christmas Collection throughout December.

Sunday 21 March 2021 – Hastings Half Marathon

Join #TeamBHT in this fantastic seaside event. We'll provide you with a running vest, fundraising resources and training tips to get you ready for race day!

Sunday 27 June 2021 – Brighton Half Marathon

We have places up for grabs in this sell out race with a beautiful seafront route, amazing crowd support and flat course!

Sunday 12 September 2021 – Brighton Marathon

Here's your chance to take on an epic challenge and run this fantastic 26.2 mile route!

Sunday 6 June 2021 – Bike It Brighton

This year will be bigger and better than ever before, join us at our flagship cycling event and help us in our mission to combat homelessness across Sussex.

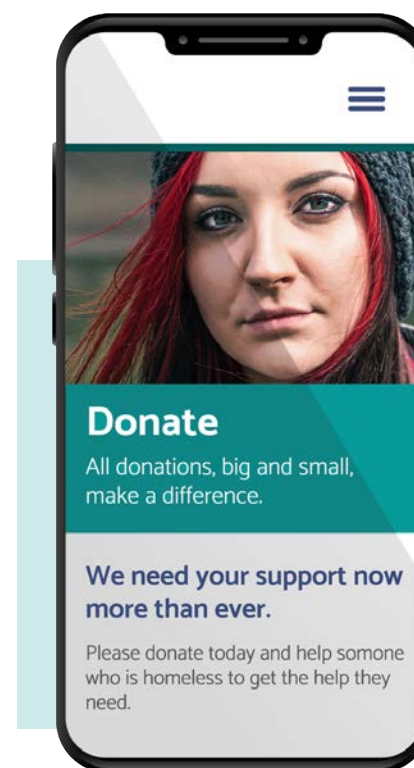
The best way to stop homelessness is to prevent it before it happens. Pledge your support to our #EndItBeforeItBegins campaign today. Find out more at www.bht.org.uk.

To sign up or find out more, email fundraising@bht.org.uk. We would love to hear from you!

Support BHT

Visit our website and set up a regular donation or let us know about your own fundraising event.

www.bht.org.uk



BHT Services at a Glance

Over the past 50 years BHT has developed a diverse menu of services to support people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and people who have complex needs.

Combating homelessness

First Base Day Centre

☎ 01273 326844

A resource centre for people who are homeless or vulnerably housed in Brighton & Hove.

Fulfilling Lives South East Project

☎ 01424 452619

Works directly with people who have complex needs, and works to change systems and improve the way services are commissioned.

Hastings Young People's Service

☎ 01424 435376

Supported accommodation for people aged 16 to 25 from Hastings and St Leonard's.

Phase One

☎ 01273 328285

A high support hostel for single homeless people with complex support needs.

Recovery from addiction

Addiction Services

☎ 01273 604245

Residential housing projects with programmes of support for men and women seeking abstinence and life recovery from drug and/or alcohol addiction.

Detox Support Project

☎ 01273 604245

Supports six residents to detox safely from drug dependence to achieve abstinence, and is clinically supervised by Pavilions Partnership. This service is rated Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission.

Recovery Project

☎ 01273 684741

A comprehensive programme of individual and group support in a therapeutic community for 26 residents who have achieved abstinence from drugs and/or alcohol.

Move On

☎ 01273 645414

Supports residents in their on-going recovery and reintegration into work, education and meaningful activity.

Housing services & housing support

Brighton Community Housing

☎ 01323 340018

236 community homes in the Brighton area managed by BHT Housing Services.

Hastings Community Housing

☎ 01323 340018

83 community homes in the Hastings and St Leonard's area managed by BHT Housing Services.

PRS Leasing

☎ 01323 340018

BHT leases a large number of properties in Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings to provide accommodation for people who have had a history of homelessness and who are not able to access social housing.

Mid Sussex Supported Housing

☎ 01444 870023

We provide a temporary accommodation service in Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath to adults that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Legal & advice

Brighton Advice Centre

☎ 01273 645455

Provides specialist advice on housing, immigration, asylum and welfare benefits, as well as free representation at the Brighton County Court for those facing possession proceedings.

Eastbourne Advice Centre

☎ 01323 642615

Provides specialist housing and welfare benefits advice by telephone and face to face by appointment as well as advising at the Court Duty Scheme at Lewes County Court.

Hastings Advice Centre

☎ 01424 452610

Provides a range of advice services through an appointment-based service, a drop-in session, and a Court Duty Scheme.

Macmillan Welfare Benefits Advice Service

☎ 01323 635989

Comprehensive welfare benefits advice available across East Sussex for anyone affected by cancer and their families, delivered in partnership with Money Advice Plus and funded by Macmillan Cancer Support.

Mental health & wellbeing

Archway Project

☎ 01273 748031

Two residential care homes in Hove, one with five residents, the other with nine, for adults with mental health support needs. Both houses are rated Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission.

Be OK - Youth Mental Health Support

☎ 01444 416391

Support for people aged 16-25 who are struggling with their mental health and are living in Mid Sussex, Crawley or Horsham.

Community Recovery Service

☎ 01444 416391

One to one support for people with enduring or severe mental health needs, in their homes and in the community.

Leylands Road

☎ 01444 870546

A residential care home for six people in Burgess Hill providing care and support for people with enduring mental health needs.

Oak House

☎ 01444 241284

Oak House, in Burgess Hill, offers planned placements with a maximum stay of 18 months for up to 14 people. The service supports people to move on from residential care or hospital into more independent living situations.

Pathfinder West Sussex

☎ 01444 416391

Free and confidential support for adults experiencing mental health difficulties and living in Mid Sussex or Crawley.

Route One

☎ 01273 929470

Supported accommodation for 60 adults with mental health support needs in Brighton and Hove, including a women-only house, a high support house, a mixed shared house and self-contained flats.

Shore House

☎ 01273 929392

Accommodation and intensive support for 20 people with complex mental health needs, including those with a dual diagnosis.

Threshold

☎ 07824 123286

Threshold provides specialist mental health support for all women using or living in BHT services who are struggling with the impact of trauma on their lives.

Work, learning & employment

Accommodation for Work

☎ 01273 645440

Housing and support for homeless people who are actively engaged in work and learning. Accommodation is provided at three shared houses, each for six residents supporting a total of 18 people.

Intern Programme

☎ 01273 645444

A six month training programme which increases employability through acquisition of skills and experience. References are awarded on completion along with career advice.

Tenant & Client Involvement

☎ 01273 645443

Works with tenants, clients, staff and management across Brighton & Hove, West Sussex and East Sussex to create opportunities for tenants and clients to get involved in the design, development and delivery of BHT services.

Whitehawk Inn

☎ 01273 682222

A community learning centre based in East Brighton, providing information and advice about work and learning, a range of support activities for adults and a variety of free drop-in clubs led by volunteers.



BHT Financial Information

The summary financial information contained on these pages contains data from the management accounts of Brighton Housing Trust for the year ended 31 March 2020 and provides an overview of the income and expenditure for the year.

The full financial statements have been audited by **BDO LLP** and received an unqualified opinion. For further information the full audited financial statements, containing the Report of the Directors and the Auditors’ reports, should be consulted.

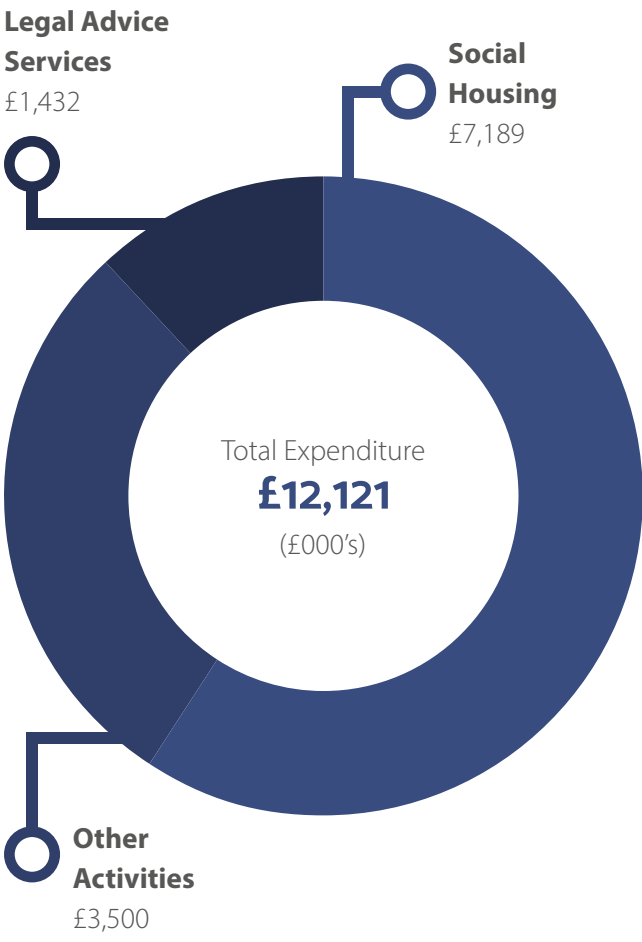
All financial statements for the current and prior years are submitted to the **Charity Commission, Homes England, the Regulator of Social Housing** and **Companies House** within the relevant statutory deadlines.

Income

	£000's
Social Housing	8,060
Other Activities	2,967
Legal Advice Services	1,256
Total Income	12,283

Expenditure

	£000's
Social Housing	7,189
Other Activities	3,500
Legal Advice Services	1,432
Total Expenditure	12,121





Until Next Time

What is it about Brighton Housing Trust that it never fails to surprise and inspire?

In September I celebrated 35 years with BHT. I thought I had seen just everything possible. Yet the Covid-19 pandemic has brought challenges like never before, and everyone – tenants and clients, members of staff, managers and Board members – have rallied to support each other, allowing all our services to continue to run while keeping ourselves and each other safe and well.

During the pandemic the organisation itself didn't do anything particularly extraordinary, but everyone was, in their own way, extraordinary, never hesitating to do what we have always done – providing services that prevent homelessness, tackle addictions and mental health problems, and that change and save lives.

Staff in most services came in each day, notwithstanding the risk posed by that simple act. Others adjusted to working from home which brought its own challenges along with the phrase of the year: "You're on mute!".

Andy Winter
Chief Executive

All services continued to operate, although for safety reasons in some services we had to reduce the number of people with whom we could work. Throughout the pandemic we have continued to see each week at First Base Day Centre up to twelve people new to rough sleeping.

In the middle of the first lockdown we completed the merger with Sussex Oakleaf. I was delighted to welcome, remotely, around fifty new colleagues. The services that they deliver have enriched the range of activities that we undertake.

The post-Covid world will present new challenges, and BHT will be there, prepared to play our part in supporting people who, for years to come, will experience the consequences of the economic, mental health and social fall-out caused by Covid-19.

Thank you for your support. It is your ongoing encouragement and generosity that makes what we do possible.



@AndyWinterBN1



www.andywinterbn1.wordpress.com

A Special Thank You

... to everyone who has supported us over the last year, including:

15below | Avtrade | Barefoot Pilates | BHT regular givers and fundraisers | Brighton & Hove Buses | Brighton and Hove Chamber of Commerce | Brighton Table Tennis Club | CANCOM | Colin Family Foundation | CSS Events | Evans Cycles | Everyone who donated towards our Covid-19 Emergency Appeal | Farmyard, Hastings | Flour Pot Bakery | FUGU | Gartner Inc | HSBC UK | KSD | McLaren | Michael Chowen | Mike Stimpson | Mooncup | New Era Education | ROCC | Santander, London Road branch | SCIP | The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) | TSB | Vero Screening | Waitrose, Burgess Hill and Hove branches | Brighton & Hove City Council | Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group | East Sussex County Council | Eastbourne Borough Council | Hastings Borough Council | Legal Aid Agency | Lewes District Council | London Legal Support Trust | The National Lottery Community Fund | The University of Brighton | The University of Sussex | Wealden, Lewes, Brighton and Hastings Citizens Advice Bureaus | Land Aid Trust | Community Justice Fund | Sussex Health and Care Partnership | Lewes Organisation in Support of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Connect with us:



enquiries@bht.org.uk



01273 645400



www.bht.org.uk



Search **BHT Sussex**

Registered Charity No. 284839 | Regulator for Social Housing No. H1696 | Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England, No. 1618610



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Silver
Until 2020



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



**proud to support
time to change**
let's end mental health discrimination

