

Message from our Chief Executive Andy Winter

2020 and 2021 have been like no other year. The Covid pandemic changed the way we live and work. At BHT Sussex we continued to run all our services, although there were changes in how we delivered some of them. Most remained face-to-face, some moved online. Our priority was to continue to deliver our vital services to clients and tenants at a time when other services were significantly reduced or closed.

We were only able to continue our work because of your ongoing generosity and the support of our funders.

Our impact last year in numbers



75 people supported to achieve abstinence and recovery from addiction



4,890
clients and tenants supported



2,206 people helped by our advice centres in Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings



104 young people under 25 accommodated in our homeless hostels and other services



5,510 hours of individual client support delivered to people with severe and enduring mental health needs



141 people accommodated in our specialist mental health supported housing



744 people moved away from rough sleeping and
453 prevented from becoming homeless



£3,262,710 raised by our welfare benefits advisers for **512** clients

Tackling homelessness

When the pandemic hit, staff at First Base, our resource centre for rough sleepers in Brighton and Hove, were determined to stay open. We provided the only place in the city where homeless people could get face-to-face support. Throughout the pandemic we have continued to offer practical essentials such as food and drink, showers and clean dry clothes, alongside in-depth advice and support to move people away from homelessness for good.

We have taken a flexible approach meeting new needs as they emerged. For example, we became the main hub in the city for referrals to Covid-19 emergency accommodation, and we delivered 3,000 meals to people living in this accommodation.

Our homelessness prevention work has continued at our advice centres across Sussex. Our Court Duty Scheme also resumed when the courts re-opened, and our advisers were able to intervene and successfully suspend possession orders in 80% of the cases where they represented people facing eviction.



Court Duty Scheme Sarah's story

Our Court Duty Scheme provides free last-minute advice and court representation for people who are facing eviction, when repossession cases are being heard in Brighton, Lewes or Hastings courts. It helps people like Sarah, who was facing eviction after falling behind with her mortgage payments. She was in her fifties and she and her husband had always worked and paid their bills, but suddenly everything changed when her husband suffered a life changing head injury. Sarah had her own business but gave it up to look after him, and used up all their savings to keep paying the mortgage and bills.

When Sarah met with our adviser in court she confided that she was terrified that her husband would be taken into residential care. They had never spent a night apart in over thirty years of marriage. Our adviser used her knowledge of case law to get the possession suspended and an affordable repayment plan for the mortgage arrears arranged. She also identified benefits that Sarah was entitled to that she was unaware of. This meant that Sarah and her husband could stay together and did not lose their home.

Accommodation for Work John's story

For the last ten years our Accommodation for Work project has been helping people who are homeless to get off the streets and into employment, and last year successfully secured a further three years of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund. One of the clients we recently supported was John, who became homeless last year when his relationship broke down. He slept in his car for months before seeking help and moving into the project's shared accommodation. With strong support and a settled place to stay, he was able to maintain his relationship with his daughter and sustain work as a pharmacy delivery driver, helping vulnerable customers to get their medication during lockdown. John made full use of all the support available and within ten months had moved out of the project into his own flat. It had been a long-term dream of his to become a postman and he has now achieved that goal and is loving his new job. He said:

“

My whole way of thinking has changed since moving into the Accommodation for Work project. I always thought I was on my own, but speaking to people I've realised there is a lot of help out there, and that's the important thing to know. Everyone needs help at times.



Responding to increased demand for youth mental health support

Be OK, our free mental health service for 16-25 year olds in West Sussex, supports young people who are struggling, offering one-to-one support from peers and professionals, as well as groups and activities. The service has seen demand double over the last year and has introduced a number of exciting new initiatives, including a peer support group for young people on the autism spectrum and a more formal therapeutic group for those with Borderline Personality Disorder. Be OK is currently looking into setting up an outdoor forest-based support group in partnership with the Woodland Trust, as an innovative way of engaging young people in therapeutic support.



Your support over the last months has been invaluable. You have always respected the measured pace of recovery, setting attainable goals that we both agreed on.

- Be Ok Client

Our Be OK and Pathfinder services in Mid Sussex and Crawley supported 799 people with their mental health, and 84% said they were able to stabilise or improve their mental health after the support.

Did you know?

Our two mental health care homes in Hove and our Detox Support Project are rated 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission. Less than 4% of all the care homes in Brighton and Hove inspected by the CQC have achieved an 'Outstanding' rating. There have been no cases of Covid in any of our care homes.

New developments

Supporting people in their own homes



We are delighted to have been awarded the contract by East Sussex County Council to be the new provider of housing-related floating support services for the county. The service provides short-term housing-related support across the whole of East Sussex for vulnerable people who require support to live independently. It aims to minimise the risk of homelessness and address inappropriate housing.

Supporting people at risk of suicide



We ran a pilot scheme to trial an alternative respite service for people in Brighton and Hove who are thinking about suicide. Following its success we secured further NHS funding to expand the pilot into a fourteen-month second phase. The new service is called Respite@Shore, and provides a short term, comfortable, non-clinical and caring space to support those thinking about suicide so that they can regain stability and control over their lives.

Fundraising news

Community fundraising was a challenge given the constraints of the ongoing pandemic, and our income from this was down 40% on previous years. However, our amazing supporters have still been keen to do what they can to help. We were able to run our flagship fundraiser Bike It Brighton in June. The atmosphere on the day was fantastic with around 100 people taking part, and with the help of sponsors JMR Property Maintenance and Infinity Surveying it raised over ten thousand pounds!

We are so grateful to everyone who makes our work possible – too many to list here, but including individuals, companies, grant-making bodies and local authorities. Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has donated, got on their bikes, ran a half marathon, or organised an event to support our work.



BHT Sussex Services at a Glance

Over more than fifty years, BHT Sussex 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

☎ 07584 206153

Works directly with people who have multiple 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 52-bed 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 CGL Brighton and Hove Recovery Service. Our 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

☎ 07850 643232

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

East Sussex Support Service

☎ 01273 645400

Offers short-term housing-related support across the whole of East Sussex for people who require support to live independently.

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 East Sussex Welfare Benefits 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

☎ 07850 642968

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

Leylands Road

☎ 07850 642986

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

Oak House

☎ 07850 642986

Oak House is a 24-hour residential service for adults with mental health support needs. It supports people to move on from residential care or hospital into more independent living situations.

Pathfinder

☎ 07850 643148

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

☎ 01273 929472

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 four shared houses, supporting a total of 22 residents.

Intern Programme

☎ 01273 645444

A six month training programme which increases employability through acquisition of skills and experience. Open to current and ex-clients with a history of homelessness. 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 Sussex services.

Whitehawk Inn

☎ 07780 766371

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.

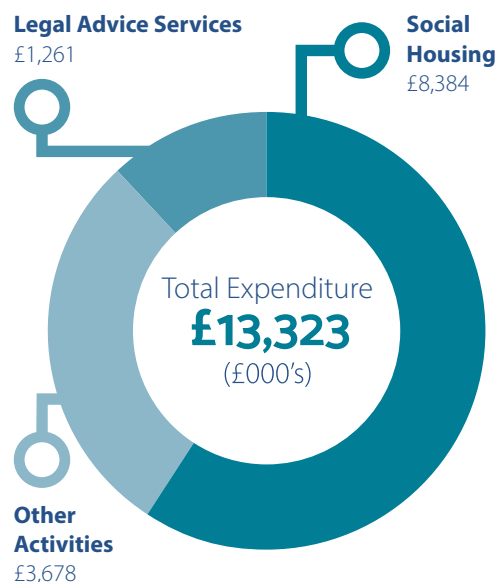
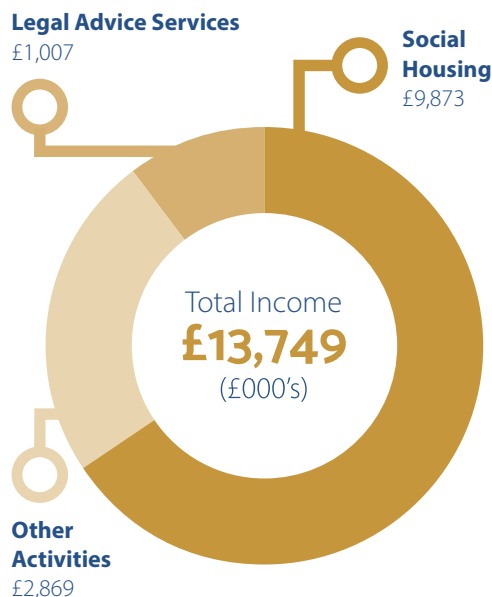
From Brighton Housing Trust to BHT Sussex

We changed our name to BHT Sussex in April to reflect our merger with Sussex Oakleaf and the work that we now do in Mid Sussex, Crawley and elsewhere in West Sussex. From November we have also significantly increased our work in East Sussex through the delivery of the East Sussex Housing Related Floating Support service.

We may have a new name but we continue to provide services than combat homelessness, create opportunities and promote change.

Our finances

The charts below show income and expenditure summary data from the management accounts of BHT Sussex for the year ended 31 March 2021. The full audited financial statements for this period can be found at www.bht.org.uk



Please donate

We rely on your donations to provide our vital services, and every contribution makes a difference. Regular donors are the cornerstone of our ability to reliably deliver services – please consider setting up a monthly gift today at bht.org.uk. You can also make a quick one-off donation by scanning this code.



Find out more

You can phone, email or check our website using the contacts below, or search for **BHT Sussex** on Twitter, facebook or Instagram, and follow us for regular updates on our work.



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