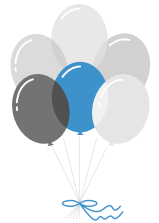


Safe Haven Sussex Bulletin

5th Anniversary Edition!



Safe Haven Sussex is 5 years old! This edition of our newsletter will feature development, achievements, and successes over the last five years.

SAFE HAVEN SUSSEX'S JOURNEY

Safe Haven Sussex was established in 2017, starting with just one house of four residents and a tiny team of us, we started to grow one house at a time. Now 5 years later, we have 34 houses with space for 159 residents. As the Head of Service, I have been with the organisation since the beginning, I have watched the service grow and have seen the journey of so many people making steps to independence. I am proud to be part of this amazing organisation and hope that we can continue to develop and make changes to so many lives.

Sophia Papanicolaou, Head of Service

SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the last 5 years we have seen many people grow, develop, and achieve, not just regarding moving on independently, but achievements in education, employment, and general wellbeing. We have featured a small handful of the many successes and achievements from residents in this month's bulletin. We have removed the individual's names for confidentiality reasons.

(If you would like your own achievements or successes published in our next bulletin, please let your Support Coordinator know.)

RESIDENT'S SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

"I thank everyone in Safe Haven who helped me, especially Nia and Beth. They helped me with my studies and today I am at a university level, this is unbelievable."

C managed to secure her dream job and is currently working as a Creative Executive for 'Gayandlesbianweddings.com'

Since living in Safe Haven Sussex, M has got involved with lots of external services and now attends Yoga and Creative Writing classes, Recovery College, and the Women's Centre. Her confidence has grown a lot in the past few months particularly. She is now looking into her move on options so that she can work in the future.

MR has been successful with a loan application to set up his Epoxy Resin business. His business plan has been approved by manufactures. MR is currently waiting for advertising opportunities with outlets to be able to sell his products. He is extremely pleased with this as he thought he would never be able to be self-employed.

IE has become a British Citizen and thought this would not be possible due to his circumstances. With support from his GP and SHS this has been achieved. IE has struggled with learning as a child and as an adult. He has recently returned to ESOL at MET College and is excelling. IE thought that he would not be able to learn due to his past difficulties but is pleased that he is able to learn and has said he feels positive about his future.

For more than thirty years, J worked as a journalist for national newspapers and magazines, specialising in interviews with people from the world of music, cinema, politics, and sport. J came to Safe Haven in 2018 after two years spent living in a tent in the woods. Undecided about what to do next, he was encouraged by his Safe Haven support worker to train with CGL to become a mentor to people on the homeless pathway. J now divides his time between teaching mindfulness, mentoring and his weekend job as a recovery worker for St. Thomas Fund.

J says he is grateful to Safe Haven for, 'putting a roof over my head, supporting me, and encouraging me to step out of my comfort zone and try new things.'

JM has managed to secure a tenancy and plans to move out of Safe Haven within the next few weeks. He's been working with Just Eat for a while and has now decided it's time to leave the service and live independently

TEAM UPDATES

You may have noticed some changes within the staffing team lately, as the service grows so does our team, we will be welcoming some new team members very soon!

In addition to supporting our residents, Safe Haven Sussex works hard in supporting and empowering our staff to achieve and develop, we would like to congratulate the following team members for their recent promotions:

Laith has been promoted to Team Leader! He has worked within the organisation for over 2 years now as a Support Coordinator, supporting many residents to become more independent and is an integral part in supporting the team too.

Chloe has been promoted to Assistant Property Manager, she initially joined the Property and Maintenance Team last year, working as an administrator, she has built and developed her skills and experience and is now assisting in the management of the Property department.

Lewis has taken over Sophia's role as the Service Manager and Sophia is now the Head of Service.

This month Beth, one of our Team Leader's, is leaving. Beth has been a fundamental part in the development of Safe Haven Sussex. She helped support many of our residents to become more independent. Beth has brought so much joy and happiness to the residents and staff. She will be missed but we wish her all the best in her future endeavours!





WORKSHOPS

Now that the Covid-19 restrictions have lifted we can bring back regular in-person workshops. We have already had some great ones this year so far, I think our favourite was the pancake one!

Please look out for posters on the noticeboards for upcoming workshops, there will be at least one every month. Our next workshop is Thursday 31st March 2022, where we will be announcing winners of the Photography Competition

(There is a full-size poster on your noticeboard)



Safe Haven Spring Photography Competition

Entry deadline: Wednesday 30th March

Submit your photo to: info@safehavensussex.org.uk

Winners Reveal Party

Thursday 31st March 2pm

191 Freshfield Road, Brighton, BN2 9YE

Snacks and refreshments will be provided!

Prizes
1st, 2nd
& 3rd



SAFE HAVEN IN BLOOM

Well done to those of you who joined in with last year's Safe Haven in Bloom! If you would like to take part this year, please inform your Support Coordinator.

We arrange for a gardener to attend each garden periodically in the summer to help with the maintenance and upkeep of the lawns and hedges, but if you enjoy gardening, you can also request gardening equipment such as a lawn mower, please speak with your Support Coordinator to arrange this.



SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY:

- **Making It Out:** Providing creative alternatives to reoffending, "a productive design and manufacture business and a support service for those in need of a more constructive use of their time" Admin@makingitout.co.uk
- **EVOLVE:** Supports adults in the homeless pathway into work, volunteering, and education. Evolve@brightonymca.co.uk Tel: 01273 093000
- **St Mungo's Employment Support:** If you are thinking of employment please inform your Support Coordinator, they can refer you to St Mungo's Employment Support service, "We help people through their whole journey from learning basic skills, through to full employment."
- **Change Grow Live (CGL):** Offer recovery-focused drug and alcohol support, "We believe everyone has the ability to change". Phone number: 07810 522 923 Email: BTN.referrals@cgl.org.uk
- **Justlife's Social Connection project:** Pairs someone moving away from homelessness with a volunteer who supports them in overcoming social barriers, isolation, and loneliness. scp@justlife.org.uk