

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE BLAKEHAY ON  
MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7:01 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.49 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors James Clayton (Chair), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, John Carson, Owen James, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk) Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Rebecca Saunders (Civic & Committee Officer), Wayne Hughes & Chrissie Simpson (CR), Ali Waller (YMCA), Josh Bell, Christina Chell and Peter Elston (Donate for Defib).

The Chair invited members of the public to address the committee.

Josh Bell from Donate for Difib presented a slide show outlining the organisations aims and objectives which included a map of the local area with the current defibrillator located. Research had shown that ideally, there should be an accessible defibrillator within 3 minutes' walk of any given location in the town and so much work was needed to achieve this. Donate for Defib had been running since September 2023 and had already installed 7 defibrillators within the town with another 3 on order. Infrastructure had been secured from local businesses such as electricians to fit and maintain the defibrillator for free. The scheme had the backing of Professor Graham Stuart, leading heart surgeon from the BRI and the air ambulance whose staff volunteered on non-working days to give tutoring on the use of defibrillators.

<b>291</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz.
<b>292</b>	<b>To receive Declarations of Interest</b>  There were no declarations of interest received.
<b>293</b>	<b>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>  The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated at the meeting.  <b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Skeen  A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b> .  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.
<b>294</b>	<b>References from other Committees:</b>  There were none received.

<p><b>295</b></p>	<p><b>North Somerset Council CCTV Reports</b></p> <p>Regular CCTV reports had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That CCTV the reports be noted.</p>
<p><b>296</b></p>	<p><b>To receive the report of the report from the Community Response Officers</b></p> <p>The report of the Community Response Officers had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Chrissie Simpson reported recent Antisocial Behavior (ASB) in the Worle area by youths known to the police but however the Dartmouth Close play area had not received any reports in the last 5 months and work had been carried out to tidy up this area.</p> <p>A member enquired as to why it was taking so long to deal with repeat offenders of ASB.</p> <p>Wayne Hughes informed that the police were doing their jobs and arresting the youths causing the problems but the youth criminal justice system worked slowly with some panels reluctant to prosecute under 16's. There was a need for things to change nationally to really make an impact.</p> <p>He further reported that The Italian Gardens had continued to be a focal point for youth gatherings along with the High street which often led to ASB and crime such as theft. Street Wardens had been working hard alongside CR to prevent and disburse these gatherings, some PSPO (Public Space Protection Orders) had been issued but this process was now under review by North Somerset Council and Avon &amp; Somerset Police Force.</p> <p>A member voiced the importance of only moving on youths that are causing problems not innocent youths causing no harm.</p> <p>Wayne Hughes continued that they are aware of the groups that caused problems later in the day after initially meeting. If Street Wardens and CR were unsuccessful in moving these individuals on, then the Police needed to be called to assist. However, the Police were over stretched and did not always have the resources to attend.</p> <p>CR had been working with youth offending services and the YMCA to engage with these</p>

youths and encourage better use of their time which had proven successful.

A member highlighted that carparks had continued to be problematic for ASB.

Wayne Hughes reported that premises with stair wells were often used for youths to hang and use drugs but increased CR visibility was being used to control this.

The Assistant Town Clerk reported vandalism at The Waterpark, especially around the secluded fort. There were plans to update these areas, taking ASB into account.

On a positive note Wayne Hughes reported that ASB in the Waterloo Street & Boulevard areas had subsided and was working with local businesses on this and the entrance ways were looking much more inviting to visitors. There was an active volunteer at Prince Consort Gardens and no incidents had occurred apart from reports of benches smelling of urine.

Rough sleeping had continued at in Grove Park with four tents at the top end, all of which had been disposed of following the correct procedures. The persistent rough sleeper at Ellenborough Park had proven difficult to move on, despite being offered accommodation. Although they had not caused any ASB and were discouraging digging from metal detectors which was not allowed at this site and it was hoped with continued engagement, this could be resolved.

A new fixed CCTV camera was now in place which covered the majority of the Jill's Garden area in Grove Park.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**297 Service Area reports:**

**.1 Youth Services**

The report of the Operations Manager – YMCA had been previously circulated.

Alli reported that talking to young people had been a priority and feedback had proven that all service users felt safe and welcome at all service offerings. The youth Café had been renamed The Youth Hub and was due to relaunch on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and would open twice weekly initially, with the hope this could be increased if staffing levels allowed.

Satellite services had continued to do well, in particular the Southward 16-21year session with up to 15 attendees in each session, resulting in 4 individuals gaining employment.

Engagement with schools to get more uptake in the after-school club had continued and funding from Milton Baptist Church allowed a Christmas Dinner session to be held in December with older members cooking a full Christmas Dinner for younger members, which had been well received.

Work on community projects alongside Culture Weston was giving youths a sense of community and purpose which was hoped to avoid them getting into future trouble.

Community engagement with the CR had proven successful with the overall response being that youths felt they lacked anywhere to go.

The Youth Council was now in a stronger position with 8 active members and all roles such as Chair and Vice Chair now filled.

A member enquired into more detail on the after-school club offering to which Alli informed that this ran on the Bourneville 3.30-5.30pm where youths could come and have some food and assistance with Homework. It had proven very popular with new friendships being created and peers helping others with their school work. It was hoped these sessions could grow once more staffing had been secured as this could only run at a 1:10 staff: youth ratio. It was noted that with the current staff levels, more satellite facilities would not be possible and that service provision had been taken back to basics after the loss of some staff members who were worried about job security following the recent SLA changes.

The Chair informed that he felt the YMCA had been let down by the Town Council when the correct information the YMCA had provided regarding the SLA, was not presented to the Community Services Committee due to officer error. Which resulted in a deferral to Full Town Council who resolved that the SLA be renewed for 1 year rather than the usual 5-year agreement. He felt that the members with the objections were not members of Community Services Committee and therefore did not have all the information or knowledge to make the decision.

A discussion ensued regarding the need to support local youths especially in light of the Police & CR reports of youth ASB problems.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the working group could be restarted with a view to secure the YMCA 's more longer-term funding and enabling them to recruit and secure growth of the service.

All members expressed a desire to move forward in a positive way to support the YMCA and reform the working group with members from all parties involved. Councilors James Clayton, Caroline Reynolds, Owen James & John Stansfield requested to sit on the group.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and the YMCA working group be reformed with the above members, to bring a report to the March Committee meeting.

**.2 Grounds Management Report**

The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated.

The Assistant Town Clerk highlighted on the toilet vandalism at Worle and fire damage which resulted in their closure and a meeting with North Somerset Council was to take place in the coming week, regarding the planned new facilities at Grove Park.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and that the Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services send a Grove Park facility update via email before the next meeting.

**.3 Community Events**

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational services reported that the Well-being Officer was working on a programme of Summer events at Ellenborough Park West which would be reported to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal report be noted.

**.4 Community Resilience Update**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that members welcome to the upcoming community meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**298 Street Art Trail 2021 'Weston Walls'**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the project was ongoing subject to budget and additional funding was being sought, however all was on track and any updates would be brought back to a future meeting.

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the verbal report be noted.</p>
<p><b>299</b></p>	<p><b>To Note Street Naming</b></p> <p><b>9.1 Allocation of Street Names of Addresses to Sixty New Dwellings at a Site in Uphill, Weston-super-Mare</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk gave a brief outline on the historical meanings of the street names.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the allocation of Street Names of Addresses to Sixty New Dwellings at a Site in Uphill, Weston-super-Mare SNN4939</p> <p><b>9.2 SNN4981 Allocation of Street Names to land at the Former Weston-super-Mare Airfield.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the allocation of Street Names to land at the Former Weston-super-Mare Airfield SNN4981</p>
<p><b>300</b></p>	<p><b>Grant applications</b></p> <p>The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for small and voluntary grants was £12,500 with £2,500 already being approved in 23/24 with a <b>£10,000 balance remaining</b>.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for Community Event Grants is £60,000 with £44,000 already being approved in 23/24 with a <b>£16,000 balance remaining</b>.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for Youth Grants is £3,000 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a <b>£3,000 balance remaining</b>.</p> <p><b>.1 Donate For Defib – working in partnership with Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC)</b>  <b>Grant Applied for £1000</b>  <b>Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</b></p> <p>Donate for Defib were a new project established in September 2023. The main purpose of Donate for Defib was to ensure that Public Access Defibrillators were available 24/7 and registered with the Circuit which was connected to both the local and national ambulances. They were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to help towards the objectives of the project which was to provide defibrillators in every pub, club, school, college, public place and doctors surgeries. It was noted that Donate for Defib did not have a bank account due to it being a new project and all donations were looked after by Great Weston Air Ambulance (GWAAC). The cost of each Defibrillator was £1705.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk reported that all requests from the previous meeting had now been fulfilled.</p> <p>A member enquired if members could have input as to where the funded Defibrillator could be located.</p> <p>Josh Bell informed the committee that input on Defibrillator location by Weston Town Council</p>

would be possible.

A member suggested a location in or close to The Weston Museum would be suitable.

A member enquired if the committee had the authority to award more than the requested £1000, to which the Deputy Town Clerk advised that a recommendation to the Policy & Finance Committee would be required.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Robert Skeen

A vote was taken and was **carried:**

**RESOLVED:** That a £1000 grant be awarded from the small and voluntary grants budget,

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Robert Skeen

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Joe Bambridge

A vote was taken and was **carried:**

**RESOLVED:** To make a request to the Policy & Finance Committee to award the outstanding money to fully fund one Defibrillator.

#### **.1 North Somerset LGBT+ Forum**

##### **Grant Applied for £1000**

##### **Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

North Somerset LGBT+ Forum was a voluntary organisation whose aims were to provide a voice for the LGBT+ community of North Somerset. They were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to help with the costs of the increase to their rent costs from December 2023. The rent for their HQ was being increased by 40% which equated to a total increase of £4560. They had also applied for grants from Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead Town Councils.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the additional information requested from the previous committee meeting had now been received and other parishes were supportive.

The committee felt that the financial issues would be ongoing for the organisation and didn't feel it was appropriate for continued support via the Grant scheme.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Owen James

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Joe Bambridge

A vote was taken and was **carried: 8 for 1 against**

**RESOLVED:** That a £1000 grant be awarded from the small and voluntary grants budget,

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.49 pm.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

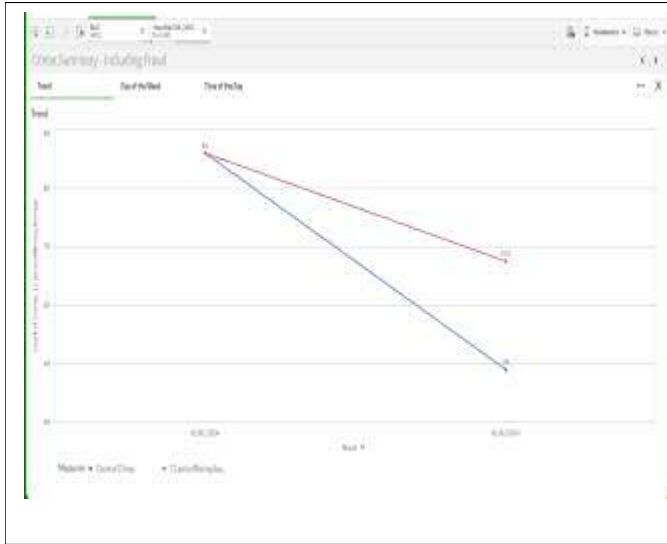
**Chair of the Community Services Committee**

**Community Response Report January 2024**

Written by Wayne Hughes and Christine Simpson for  
Community Services Committee 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**reports AN011 Bournville 01.01.2024 - 20.02.2024**

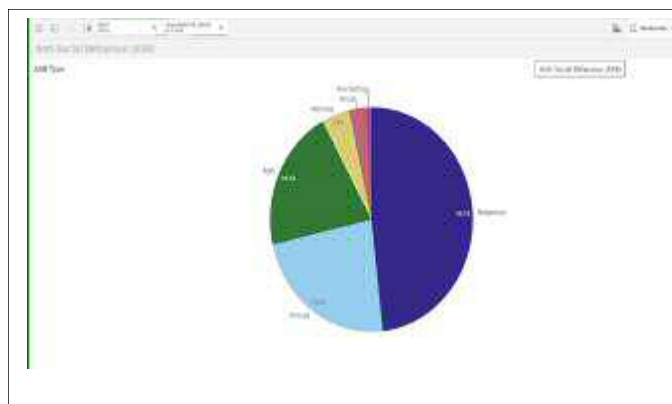
**Summary:**



134 reported crimes

60	Violence against the person
18	Arson and criminal damage
9	Burglary
0	Robbery
2	Possession of weapons
16	Public order
12	Theft
3	Miscellaneous against society
5	Sexual offences
2	Drugs
0	Fraud
7	Vehicle offences





112 reported incidents of ASB;

1	ASB Fire setting
26	ASB Groups
0	ASB Nuisance
54	ASB neighbours
23	ASB general
5	ASB vehicles

3	ASB street
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ASB nuisance - PSPs relating to the riding of off-road bikes around the estate and targeting by youths of retail units March fields Way causing general nuisance within the stores appear to be having a positive impact.

ASB personal – reports of neighbour disputes, shouting, swearing, goading remains an issue.

I have been visiting all the community hubs in the southward area and having good feedback from the residents that attend, they have regular annual trips that are filling up quickly and they are looking at more ways to promote the local events that they hold.

### **Castle Batch**

I have patrolled the park and play areas over the last couple of months, and spoken to the staff at the Centre, there haven't been any problems to report.

There was a post on social media about a youth being assaulted at the part, however after speaking to the police no reports of this was made.

The Campus Locking castle.

The campus had a very successful February half term as they had the Transend skate company using their sports hall, so the campus was extremely busy.

They have had a couple of incidents with some known youths who entered the premises and caused some minor disturbances by vaping in the library, however the staff removed them very quickly and successfully with no problems.

Queensway estate.

There have been a significant amount of shoplifting happening over the last couple of months in the area, including several thefts of air fryers from the home bargains store, and continued thefts of mainly alcohol in Sainsburys, I have spoken with the managers who are looking into ways to try and prevent this. I am also in the process of arranging another engagement day there.

There is also reports of a woman who is approaching people outside the shops and following them to their cars and persistently asking for money to buy goods, myself and the police are yet to come across her, but will continue to keep looking when we are in the area on patrol.

The local neighborhood beat team have sent me some figures which include 42 reports of ASB and several neighbor disputes which I have been assisting with.

### **Dartmouth Close Play Area**

There haven't been any ASB incidents at Dartmouth close, and the Hub at Worle have had their defib purchased and they are in the process of awaiting a quote from CCTV, so providing this is accepted then a camera will be put up to monitor the de fib The hub are planning an open day to celebrate the de fib being installed on Saturday March the 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Italian Gardens Weston Super Mare**

Since January 2024, The High Street and Italian Gardens have had 143 incidents recorded by the CCTV control room. These range from first aid situations to theft and disorder. At the time, information is relayed to Street wardens and community response officers who assist and deal with many of the situations.

Once again, the weather has helped to deter the street community from massing at the location and street drinking. With the spring and summer months ahead of us, and the likelihood that instances of street drinking increasing, we will monitor this and deal accordingly.

### **Waterloo Street/ Boulevard Weston Super Mare**

Since January 2024, there have been 40 incidents reported via the CCTV control room. These range from calls for help from the public, to requests for police assistance for criminal offences. The streets are patrolled regularly with visits made to the majority of retail premises. This allows for the exchange of information.

Recently there has been evidence of rough sleepers using the front of the United Reformed Church. Waste has been cleared from this area. Efforts are being made to identify these persons.

### **Waterpark, Knight stone Road, Weston Super Mare.**

This area remains quiet.

### **Prince Consort Gardens**

We continue to do regular patrols of the Gardens. Nothing to report at this time.

### **Milton Cemetery**

Recently information was received that a tent had appeared in the cemetery over the previous weekend. Community response officers attended and spoke to the occupants. They were wanted by the police. Both persons were later spoken to by officers

### **Grove Park**

Since January 2024 there have been 9 reported incidents recorded by the CCTV control room. These range from drinking in the park to a reported fight. The events were recorded, and as a result of CCTV monitoring and resultant enquiries, individuals have been dealt with for anti-social behavior breaches.

The glow event took place week commencing Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The event was well attended by members of the public, but passed off peacefully with little or no trouble.

The CCTV cameras covering Jill's garden are working well at present.

### **Ellenborough Park**

Since January 2024 there have been two recorded incidents about the Park. Both reports were dealt with by police.

We have had a maximum of two or three people who erect their tents within the Park over recent weeks. These tents are occupied by members of the street community. We do regular patrols of the park and deal with occupants of the tents by way of issuing 24-hour notices, requesting they leave the park within this period. Once these notices are served, a second visit is made 24 hours later. If the tents remain and are found to be abandoned. The item will be treated as waste.

## Weston-Super-Mare YMCA and Town Council Partnership

Report for Community Services - written by Alli Waller, Youth & Community- Programmes Manager at YMCA Dulverton Group

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### 1. Purpose of report

This report covers services and work delivered and supported by YMCA in the Weston-super-Mare areas, from the beginning of January 2024 to the end of February 2024. This includes the development and progress of programmes and services for young people and the community at YMCA Weston-super-Mare, 2 Bristol Road Lower and Weston Youth and Community Centre, Coleridge Road.

### 2. Work with Young People – Youth & Community Café

#### a) Open Access:

The Youth & Community Cafe provides a youth focused, free, well-appointed space for young people after school with additional opening during school holidays.

Through this service we aim to ensure that every young person should:

- Feel safe and welcome.
- Have someone they can talk to and access to support.
- Have the opportunity to make friends, socialise and be active.
- Feel more connected with their community.
- Have the chance to achieve and challenge themselves to reach their full potential.
- Have fun.

The Youth team have been working on getting the Youth & community hub ready for our launch on 4<sup>th</sup> March. We will be bringing in the first two new sessions for young people to access at the youth café, which we will be renaming the YMCA Youth Hub. The sessions will be on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 3.30pm – 6.30pm. The sessions will be named youth drop instead of after school clubs so young people that are not in education can also access the service. The idea will be to create a safe space for young people to access support and advice as well as help with homework or issued based problems. We will then look to offer more sessions as the need grows.

#### b) Targeted Work:

We recognise that for some individuals or groups what we consistently offer may not be easily accessible to them. So, we look at targeted work to support people to access our facilities and services who might not otherwise be able to. This work is predominantly carried out in partnership, and we currently work with:

- Home Education Network - youth project, Every Friday.
- Young people with disabilities – Meet once every term.
- Ups & Downs Southwest Youth Project- Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month
- Mental health support group for young men – Every Monday.
- College Neet support group – Every Wednesday
- Church Community coffee morning – Every Friday
- YMCA Residents engagement sessions- Every Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday afternoon
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### 3. Work with Young People – Satellites and Outreach.

#### South Ward

**Bournville youth club** now has over 50 members and is currently consistently above 30 at each session. The young people have enjoyed activities such as cooking, sports and crafts.

Since the beginning of the Spring term, we have seen a steady increase in attendance at our

Friday sessions. In the light of the responses our service users gave in a recent survey , we have created a programme for this term with a greater focus on the issues they would like to discuss. Such as knife crime, drug and alcohol misuse, relationships, and life skills.

This term we are seeing an increase in the use of vapes, and in some cases cigarettes. This is something all members of the team will engage in discussions about with the young people. However, in many cases even for young people as young as 13, the vapes are bought for them by older siblings and parents. We will be continuing with the conversations and education around the topic, in order to ensure the young people, have a robust understanding of the risks of vaping and smoking.

We have also seen a rise in the number of young people experiencing mental health issues, and in some more extreme cases have seen evidence of young people inflicting harm on themselves. In response to this we have invited a mental health charity to come in and run some sessions to help the young people develop an understanding of mental health coping strategies. Our aim is for the young people to feel equipped to better cope with their own mental health issues and be in a position to also support their friends through difficult periods.

**Senior group** now has over 25 members . During the last two months the young people that attend the group have benefited from learning about sexual health and many are now signed up to the c-card system. This is aimed at reducing unwanted pregnancies and highlighting the risk of unhealthy relationships and STI's.

The young people also met with a local carpenter and talked about his work. He will be running a monthly workshop with them so they can make a wooden project. The aim of this is to highlight some of the skilled jobs that young people could access through the college. By giving them taster sessions, young people can find something that they enjoy whilst learning and completing Maths & English studies.

### Home Education

As a team we recently met with the individual who oversees the EHE team for North Somerset Council and had a productive meeting where we discussed information sharing and advertising our group to the home ed community. Whilst this can be a challenging community to engage directly with, we are keen to continue developing positive relationships with our service users and their families. A recent, positive example of growing engagement with EHE service users has been several of those young people also starting to attend a range of other groups we run. Some of the older ones have begun to regularly attend our senior's group on a Monday, whilst another group of 4/5 have also started regularly attending our Friday afternoon session which takes place after home ed.

To see these young people, develop in their confidence and build a relationship with the other attendees and the team has been very encouraging, especially as those growing relationships have provided them with the confidence to engage with the wider community of young people who attend our provision. This is something that for home educated children can be a challenge.

### Community Partnership work

Over the last eight months many of our young people have worked with SWAN and super culture to make some of the elements for the Glow festival. Welding workshops were held at the youth centre and youth workers from Swan and YMCA helped to facilitate the days. Young people got to learn the process of cutting sheet metal and then welding the images together to create the large spheres that would form part of the spinning balls of fire exhibit at Glow.

During half term they were invited to the festival to see their installations completed and , ready for the public to come and see. Some of them appeared on BBC points west talking about how they

Please see link below for full story.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-68275036>

We continue to expand our work with partners such as Local schools so we can work together to offer young people a support system outside of education.

### Youth Council

The youth council continues to grow with 12 members. In January the New Chair held her first meeting. They met with Sarah Pearse who explained the Grant process to them so they can begin to promote to youth groups.

At the February meeting the members worked on planning their young people's wellbeing day which will be held in June. It was great to see young people from different backgrounds coming together with one purpose, making Weston and better place for young people. Next month the youth forum will be helping to welcome the German exchange students from Hildesheim, something they are really looking forward to.

### Links to Town Council Strategy

The work being undertaken always strives to meet the presented needs of the community, whilst building the quality of provision for young people, and developing the scope of the work that the Town Council supports with young people. We are always keen to look at addressing the needs of young people across the area and are happy to look at establishing any new work, or work in new areas, that there is an identifiable need for.

## Community Service Committee 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Grounds Management Report

#### Report of the Grounds Manager

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##### 7.2.1 Public Toilets

**The Maltings** we have had a very serious arson attack during January at The Maltings toilets in Worle. This is currently with our insurers.

**Grove Park** toilets remain closed due to the service areas being unsafe for the contractors to access, with water leaking close to the electrics, asbestos ceilings coming down, tiles falling from the damp walls.

**Ashcombe Park Upper** toilets are open and working, although some work is required to the drainage/ sewage pipework as it is deemed too small which is causing blockages – this is with John West to schedule in the works.

**Clarence Park** –In a bid to try to prevent future vandalism Healthmatics are now closing the toilets and hour earlier, there have been no complaints regarding the toilets being closed earlier and the vandalism has been less, which is positive news.

**Uphill** Toilets no issues reported.

##### 7.2.2 Cemetery

The team continues to be busy in the Cemetery with internments and burials. The team continue to keep on top of the grass cutting, hedge cutting and general tidying and maintenance of the cemetery to improve the overall appearance and to make it a welcoming space for families and visitors.

As we go into spring we will be weed spraying the footpaths around the cemetery to remove moss and algae build up from the extremely wet winter we have had.

The Chapel is being opened every Wednesday from 08:30 – 15:00pm to members of the public. This is proving to be popular with people visiting the cemetery and has been well received.

The Cemetery Office also continues to be very busy with numerous deed transfers, plots being purchased, interment arrangements, memorial permits and family history requests.

### **7.2.3. Allotments**

Rectors Way fence and Rhyne running adjacent to the fence line requires work which will be carried out using earmarked reserves of £3,500. We will need to work with the secondary school who share the boundary with the allotment before works can proceed.

The team are continuing to look after our conservation areas at our allotment sites.

**Members are requested to note the report.**

Sharon Miles

Grounds Manager

29<sup>th</sup> February 2024



## Community Services Committee 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Christmas Lights Switch on Date and Procurement Timetable

#### Report from the Town Clerk

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#### Overview

The council is no longer in contract for its Christmas lights contract with Gala Lights which concluded in December 2024. A procurement exercise is underway to appoint a new contractor the timescales for which are included in 2.0 below.

The Christmas lights provision from a budget perspective currently sits under Community services, we are therefore bringing this report to this committee for consideration and action with regard to the forthcoming procurement. The need to appoint a contractor early summer also fits in with the Community Services committee meeting dates.

#### 1.0 Community / Design considerations consultation exercise

A Christmas lights survey was undertaken at the switch on event in December and also via our website This will feed into the design and build procurement for contractors to have regard for when proposing the new lighting scheme.

In order to capture the many varying views of all ward councilors an email has been sent out week commencing: 29.02.24 with a link to the survey questions so we can ensure we have regard for these views also. We would actively encourage all members to complete this.

The results data will be updated with councilors views included prior to it being included in the design summary going out within the Tender documents

#### 2.0 Procurement Timetable

Date	Detail	Action
29.02.24 (3 weeks)	Expression of Interest placed on Government Contract Finder	Finance Officer

22.03.24	Expression of Interest Return date	Finance Officer
22.03.24 (12- week design period)	Tender specification created to include survey results -send tender information to contractors	Finance Officer
14.06.24	Tender return date	<b>Finance Officer / Town Councilors (x 3 required)</b>
17.06.24	Tender Analysis & Contractor Interviews	<b>Finance Officer Councilors (x 3 minimum to be appointed – must be available to do all interviews).</b>
24.06.24	Agenda and report / recommendations go out	Finance Officer
01.07.24	Community Services Award Tender	<b>Community Services Committee</b>

Members will need to note the requirement to appoint the following:

- 2.1 14.06.24 – Appoint 3 x members are required to open the tender submission (as per financial regulations) 12.00 noon.
- 2.2 Week Commencing 17.06.24 – Appoint 3 x members to sit on interview panel for shortlisted contractors' presentations.
- 2.3 Note: Contract award will be via Community Services Committee 01.07.24.

### **3.0 Christmas Lights Switch on 2024**

2023 saw a change to previous years with regard to the Christmas Lights Switch on ceremony. Instead of it being a standalone event organised by the Town Council

and the Town Centre Partnership (as our appointed event manager under the SLA). A decision to combine the Switch on Ceremony with the Eat Festival was taken and was thought to be a huge success in November 2023. Indeed, the consultation survey results to date also indicate that members of the public thought a combined event was a good idea. Attendance to the event itself was reflective of this.

Should members wish to consider this as an option for 2024 the Eat Festival organiser have confirmed the Winter Eat Festival will take place on:

- **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024.**

**Members are recommended to:**

1. Appoint members for Tender opening submission 14.06.24 as detailed in 2.1 above
2. Appoint members for Contractor Interviews w/c 17.06.24 as detailed in 2.2 above
3. Agree a date for the Christmas lights switch on 2024 (noting this will form part of the tender specification which contractors must be able to adhere to).

## **Community Services Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

### **Somewhere to Go – to receive the Interim Report**

#### **Report from the Town Clerk**

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#### **1.0 Background**

Over the course of 2023 / 2024 the council had asked for more information with regard to the use of the monies allocated to Somewhere to Go, this had been under the direction of the Expenditure and Governance working party. It was agreed that the first part of the payment £25,000 should be released which was duly done.

#### **2.0 Final Payment 2023 / 2024**

Following discussions with the former Town Clerk and some council members a more detail Interim quarterly report was sent to Councillors directly on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The contents of which were duly forwarded to me by the Community Services Chairman on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

This report is attached for members consideration in appendix 1.

Having now received this report, members will need to approve the final payment due to 31.03.24 of £25,000.

#### **3.0 Future Service Level Agreement for 2024/2025**

It is clear that there is still need to provide clear guidance on how the council wish to proceed with this Service Level Agreement and to agree criteria with regard to KPI's and community outcomes. This will enable much need clarity to Somewhere to Go and is something they would very much welcome.

A meeting will be set up with Somewhere to Go to explain the process and develop the final SLA for the year 2024 2025. This should take place in early April 2025 so the SLA for the year is finalised within the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 / 2025 (by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the outset).

#### **3.1 Grants Sub Committee**

Following recommendation from Policy & Finance a report to Town Council on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 there is intention to have a specific subcommittee for all grant applications and this would also include reviews of all Service Level agreements the council has in place. It thought that this will enable better management in this area.

#### **Members are requested to:**

- Consider the Interim report from Somewhere to go and approve release of the final payment of £25,000 for the year 2023/2024.

**Somewhere To Go**  
**Interim Annual Report**

**21/12/2023**

Author: Dan Heley (Chair of Trustees)

**Background**

Somewhere To Go was established in 1999 as a day centre to help alleviate the pressures the town faced from the homeless/street community and also offered a safe place for vulnerable adults from the local community. Operations have varied in the years since and previous to Covid, STG operated a night assessment centre which provided overnight accommodation to the homeless in the town. As a result of the policy changes that came from central government during the pandemic the night assessment centre ceased to continue as alternative arrangements were made for overnight accommodation provision.

As the pandemic abated, STG undertook an internal review of the services that we provided and received funding from WTC to assist with the work we undertake. In 2022 there was a significant shift in the leadership of the charity at a trustee board level with all members of that time except 1 other, stepping down from their positions for a range of reasons, which coincided with me becoming chair. Since that time I have overhauled the trustee board of the charity, bringing in trustees with specific experience and skill-sets that have enabled us as an organisation to meet the demands that the charity requires.

**Services**

STG is currently comprised of three different entities; Day Centre, Homeless Services Hub, Charity Shop.

Day Centre – Our day centre had previous to the SLA funding, been open Monday to Friday on shorter time opening hours, the funding that we have received from the SLA with WTC enabled us to extend our opening hours from 9am-5pm weekdays and weekends, meaning that we now provide 7 days a week services to clients.

The day centre is currently staffed with 2 x support workers and we have recently recruited a full time senior support worker which is funded from central governments Winter Transformation Fund, the funding is fixed for a period of 15 months and enables us to undertake more in-depth casework with clients. The day centre provides breakfast and lunch to clients and hosts a range of resources for clients to use. It also hosts nurses from Serona Care which is funded by the NHS and provides medical assistance to one of our communities most vulnerable groups. We also provide clothes and foodbank vouchers amongst a range of other provision based services.

Homeless Services Hub – The hub was opened this summer along with our charity shop which we moved from another location. The hub works with a range of agencies to provide support and advice to the homeless in the town. We now undertake all the services that are referral based in the hub as well as the provision of laptops to enable clients access to to the internet. We are continuing to identify and locate further agencies that we can partner with to use our space that will broaden the services we provide.

Charity Shop – The charity shop contributes to the funding of the work we do and was moved this year from a previous location into our own building. The shop is staffed by a manager and a supervisor and has become a firm favourite amongst the local community as we ensure items are priced moderately in comparison to other local charity shops.

## **Finances**

Last years charity accounts can be found on both companies house and the charity commission website. As per the SLA, in the 2021/22 year STG received £50,000 in funding and £50,000 is due for the 2023/24 year. We are also in receipt of a grant from the Winter Transformation Fund which is for the 2023/24 year which is restricted funding. Some of this funding was for the Senior Support Worker role, and the remainder will be used for repairs to the roof, a new stairlift, the knocking through of an internal wall/toilet area to allow for better access to other facilities, new windows, full electric re-wiring and air conditioning/heating in the day centre. The building works is due to begin in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January.

## **SLA**

Attached with this document is a copy of the SLA that STG is in receipt of. However the details of the SLA omit some information that has since been included within it, namely the extended opening hours that the funding we receive enables us to undertake. It was identified by WTC and STG that there were increased levels of ASB occurring in the local area during the hours which STG was closed and it was requested that both the extended opening hours on weekdays and opening at weekends to combat this issue. The feedback that both WTC and STG has received from both the town centre NPT and associated security operatives of NSC is that there has been a positive impact on the town centre, local businesses and the broader local community, as a result of these extended opening hours.

In order to be clear to councillors, the £50,000 funding we received in the 2022/23 year enabled us to operate these extended hours, and if this funding were to be cut or withdrawn, STG would be left with no option than to revert back to the previous operating hours prior to the SLA, as the financial requirements of operating the extended hours would be unable to be met without obtaining funds from alternative sources. We believe this would have a detrimental effect on both service users who rely on us and the local community more broadly.

STG also has a SLA with NSC for SWEP provision which this year has been called once and ran for 5 consecutive days to date.

## **Future Plans**

STG has a range of future plans which are currently at different stages. The recruitment of the Senior Support Worker will now enable us to assist service users more fully. The charities ethos has always been “a hand up, not a hand out” and we believe that we should be a cog in a conveyor belt that for those that are able to, are assisted with helping them undertake training and education with the aim of it leading to employment.

STG is also in advanced discussions with NSC to open a Re-Use Centre which will retail saleable items that will be diverted from the Weston Recycling Centre as well as reducing waste that goes to landfill. We believe in time this will lead to volunteer and job opportunities for service users.



Somewhere to Go Ltd

St John's Church Hall, 4a Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1NA

Somewhere to Go Ltd

KPI Data 01 September 2023 to 18 December 2023

Mission Statement: 'To relieve poverty and distress among the most disadvantaged in the community, by providing a space where people can feel welcome and comfortable and create an environment which will enhance self worth & self esteem. To offer nourishing food, clothing; to facilitate access to medical & welfare services; help with housing and benefits'.

KPI Requested by WTC:

- Number of clients accessing the day service
- Housing circumstances of those clients
- Number of homeless clients already engaging with homeless services (NSC/YMCA)
- Number of clients referred to the Homeless Prevention Team
- Number of placements secured
- Any other indicators collected by STG
- Number of organisations using the space
- Number of service participants accessing the hub

Number of Clients Accessing the Day Centre

01/09/2023	37	01/10/2023	39	01/11/2023	47	01/12/2023	38
02/09/2023	26	02/10/2023	39	02/11/2023	53	02/12/2023	42
03/09/2023	36	03/10/2023	38	03/11/2023	34	03/12/2023	30
04/09/2023	23	04/10/2023	38	04/11/2023	31	04/12/2023	47
05/09/2023	48	05/10/2023	36	05/11/2023	36	05/12/2023	49
06/09/2023	51	06/10/2023	37	06/11/2023	44	06/12/2023	44
07/09/2023	51	07/10/2023	27	07/11/2023	39	07/12/2023	35
08/09/2023	42	08/10/2023	44	08/11/2023	37	08/12/2023	49
09/09/2023	30	09/10/2023	40	09/11/2023	43	09/12/2023	32
10/09/2023	31	10/10/2023	32	10/11/2023	29	10/12/2023	37
11/09/2023	42	11/10/2023	35	11/11/2023	30	11/12/2023	N/A
12/09/2023	39	12/10/2023	51	12/11/2023	46	12/12/2023	36
13/09/2023	50	13/10/2023	44	13/11/2023	45	13/12/2023	51
14/09/2023	42	14/10/2023	40	14/11/2023	37	14/12/2023	65
15/09/2023	52	15/10/2023	34	15/11/2023	31	15/12/2023	48
16/09/2023	27	16/10/2023	51	16/11/2023	42	16/12/2023	49
17/09/2023	42	17/10/2023	42	17/11/2023	49	17/12/2023	44

Charity Registration number 1080963

Company registration number 3928387

Telephone: 01934 641880

Patrons

Lord Cotter of Congresbury

The Reverend A. Ward Jones, Chairman of Bristol Methodist District

The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

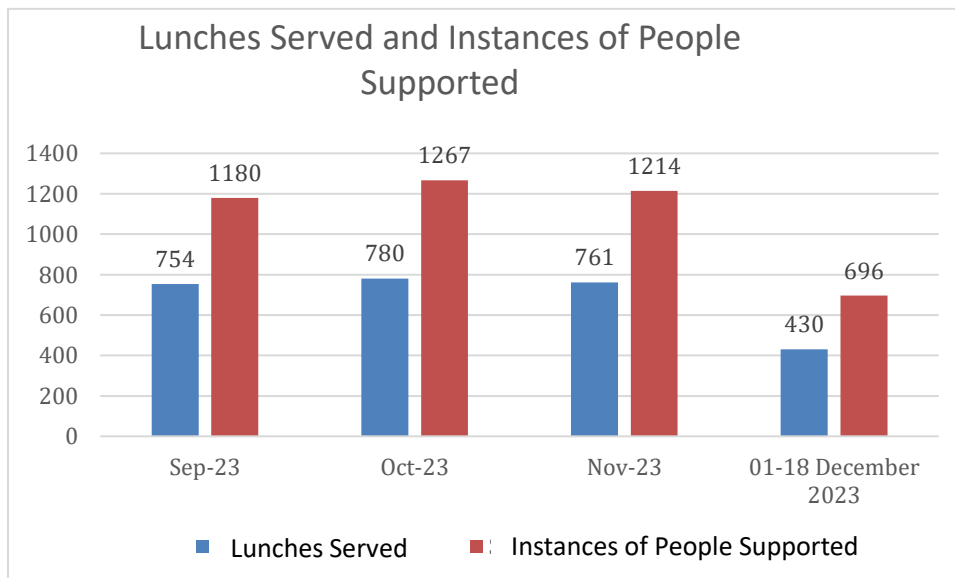


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18/09/2023	40	18/10/2023	49	18/11/2023	35	18/12/2023
19/09/2023	43	19/10/2023	51	19/11/2023	37	
20/09/2023	40	20/10/2023	33	20/11/2023	47	
21/09/2023	47	21/10/2023	40	21/11/2023	49	
22/09/2023	38	22/10/2023	41	22/11/2023	35	
23/09/2023	34	23/10/2023	42	23/11/2023	54	
24/09/2023	36	24/10/2023	40	24/11/2023	45	
25/09/2023	53	25/10/2023	38	25/11/2023	44	
26/09/2023	26	26/10/2023	52	26/11/2023	37	
27/09/2023	28	27/10/2023	47	27/11/2023	42	
28/09/2023	33	28/10/2023	35	28/11/2023	47	
29/09/2023	36	29/10/2023	53	29/11/2023	32	
30/09/2023	31	30/10/2023	44	30/11/2023	37	
		31/10/2023	35			

Month	Lunches Served	Instances of People Supported
September 2023	754	1180
October 2023	780	1267
November 2023	761	1214
01-18 December 2023	430	696
Totals	2725	4357



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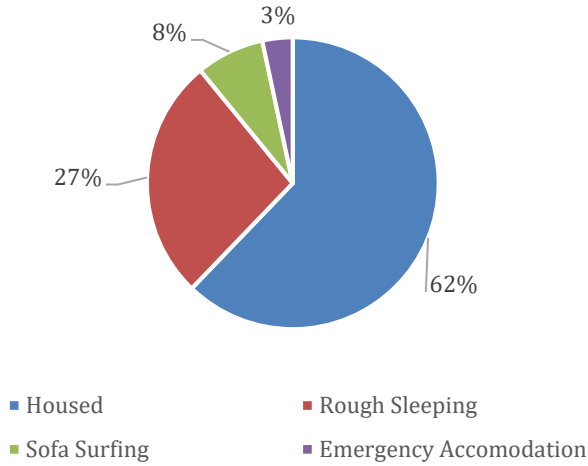


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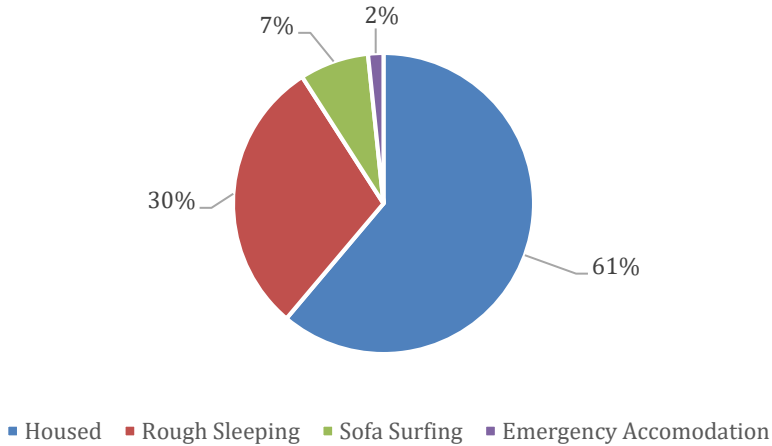
Housing Circumstances of Clients Accessing the Day Centre

Housing Situation (September 2023)



September 2023	
Housed	74 (61%)
Rough Sleeping	32 (27%)
Sofa Surfing	9 (8%)
Emergency Accommodation	4 (3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>

Housing Situation (October 2023)



October 2023	
Housed	74 (61%)
Rough Sleeping	36 (30%)
Sofa Surfing	9 (7%)
Emergency Accommodation	2 (2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>

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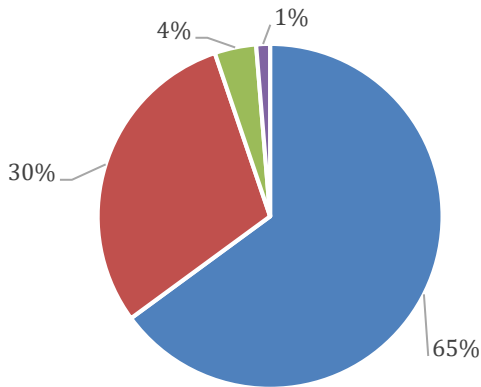
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### Housing Situation (November 2023)

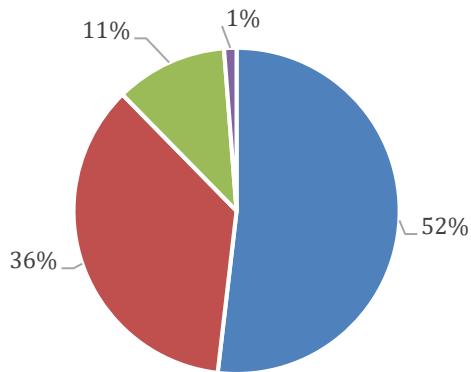


■ Housed ■ Rough Sleeping ■ Sofa Surfing ■ Emergency Accommodation

### November 2023

Housed	50 (65%)
Rough Sleeping	23 (30%)
Sofa Surfing	3 (4%)
Emergency Accommodation	1 (1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>

### Housing Situation (01-18 December 2023)



■ Housed ■ Rough Sleeping ■ Sofa Surfing ■ Emergency Accommodation

### December 2023

Housed	42 (52%)
Rough Sleeping	29 (36%)
Sofa Surfing	9 (11%)
Emergency Accommodation	1 (1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

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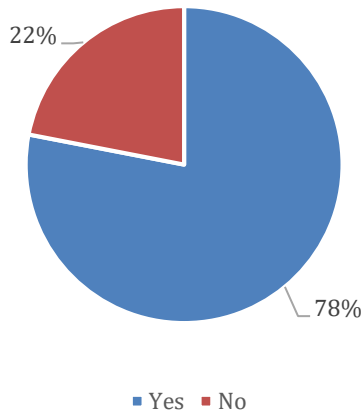


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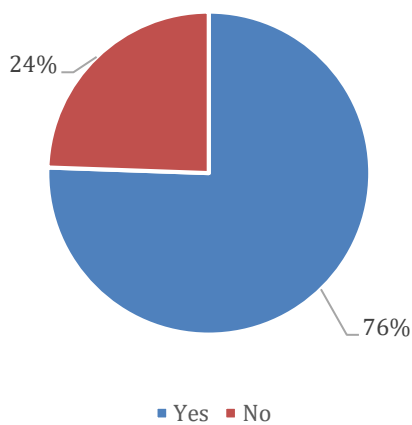
Number of homeless clients already engaging with homeless services (NSC/YMCA)

Number of Homeless Clients Already Engaging with Homeless Services (NSC/YMCA) (September 2023)



September 2023	
Already Engaging with Homeless Services	
Yes	32
No	9
Total	41

Number of Homeless Clients Already Engaging with Homeless Services (NSC/YMCA) (October 2023)



October 2023	
Already Engaging with Homeless Services	
Yes	34
No	11
Total	45

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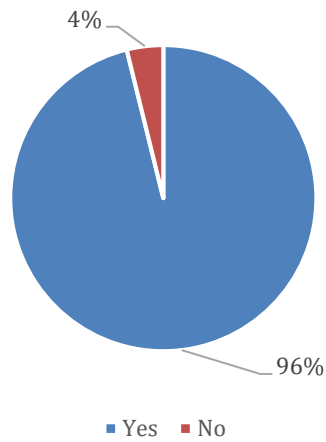
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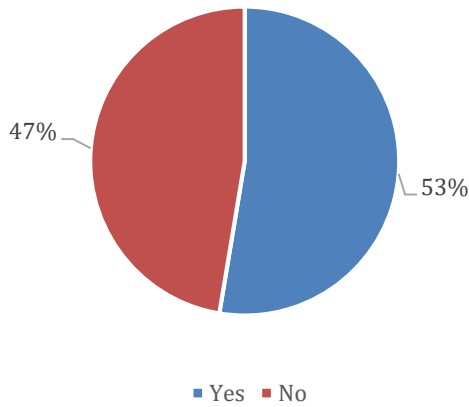
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Number of Homeless Clients Already Engaging with Homeless Services (NSC/YMCA) (November 2023)



November 2023	
Already Engaging with Homeless Services	
Yes	25
No	1
Total	26

Number of Homeless Clients Already Engaging with Homeless Services (NSC/YMCA) (December 2023)



December 2023	
Already Engaging with Homeless Services	
Yes	20
No	18
Total	38

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### The Hub

With the shop move and the hub opening on 07 October 2023 we now see all of our services under one roof. The hub is overseeing the admin side of the charity and taking responsibility for housing applications and referrals, all benefit queries and foodbank requests. This is freeing up our support workers in the day centre to concentrate on their role of supporting our vulnerable people. During the past two months, since the hub has been open, we have seen an increase in the development of support plans that will and are helping our members regain a sense of normality in their lives. We have found an increase in the number of asylum seekers who are approaching our hub for support but who do not feel comfortable attending our day centre so this service has allowed us to reach further marginalised groups.

With the opening of the hub on 07 October 2023, to date, the support staff in the hub have supported 121 clients (23 female and 98 male). We have been able to complete:

- 12 Housing jigsaw referrals have been completed to NSC
- Provided support to 6 people with their housing jigsaw applications e.g. support providing documentation
- 6 referrals have been made to independent housing providers (private renting and dry houses); 3 of these people received accommodation from these referrals and 3 are on waiting lists
- 6 people have been referred to educational courses such as food hygiene and to get their CSCS card and HGV licence
- 7 Safeguarding referrals to Adult Social Care have been made to NSC for vulnerable clients who are experiencing welfare or safeguarding concerns
- 105 Foodbank vouchers issued
- 1 referral to SafeHaven for an individual who was experiencing a mental health crisis
- 1 referral to Start2Finish for an individual with an offending history who required additional support
- 47 people have been referred to the Sirona Outreach Nurses for support around their medical welfare; registering with GPs; and emergency medical care
- 20 vulnerable clients have received their flu vaccinations and COVID vaccinations who may not have been able to access this through their GP due to availability and capacity
- 5 clients were supported with their benefits claims, either the creation of new claims or support with pre-existing claims

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- 5 Applications were made to the Welfare Provision Scheme for clients who have just moved into accommodation or are struggling in their accommodation and need additional support
- 15 Clients have been provided with general advice and guidance or signposted to other services.

In addition to the services provided by Somewhere to Go, the hub is also being used by other services to facilitate engagement with their clients and provide multi-agency working. Since 07 October 2023:

- Weston Housing AcTion who support clients try and sustain tenancies have supported 48 clients from the Somewhere to Go Hub
- Start2Finish who support clients with offending history have supported 72 clients from the Somewhere To Go Hub
- Curo Housing Association have supported 36 clients from the Somewhere to Go Hub
- We Are With You Drug and Alcohol Support Service, have supported 24 clients from the Somewhere to Go Hub
- YMCA and North Somerset Council have supported 12 clients from the Somewhere to Go Hub.

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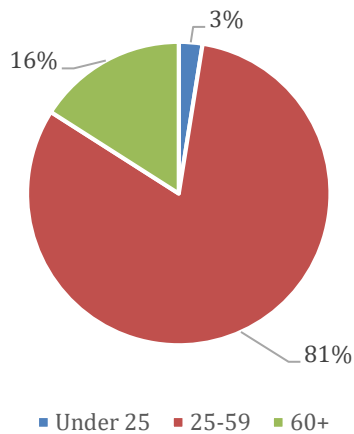
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Day Centre Statistics

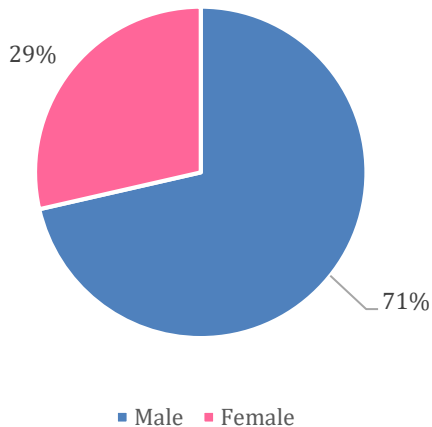
Day Centre – September 2023 Statistics

Client Age Groups (September 2023)



September 2023	
Age	Total
Under 25	3 (3%)
25-59	97 (81%)
60+	19 (16%)
Total	119

Gender Groups (September 2023)



September 2023	
Gender	Total
Male	85 (71%)
Female	34 (29%)
Total	119

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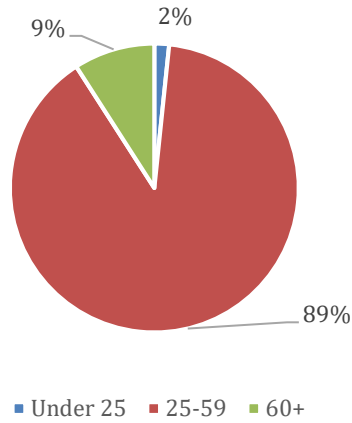


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Day Centre - October 2023 Statistics

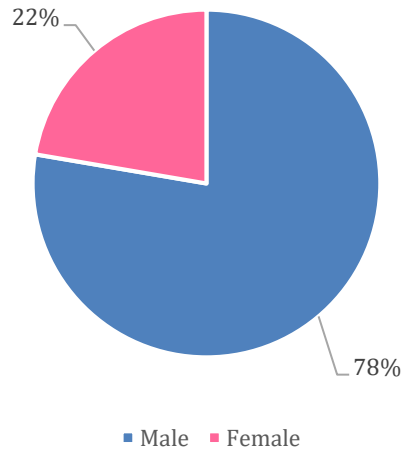
Client Age Groups (October 2023)



October 2023

Age	Total
Under 25	2 (2%)
25-59	108 (89%)
60+	11 (9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>

Gender Groups (October 2023)



October 2023

Male	94 (78%)
Female	27 (22%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>

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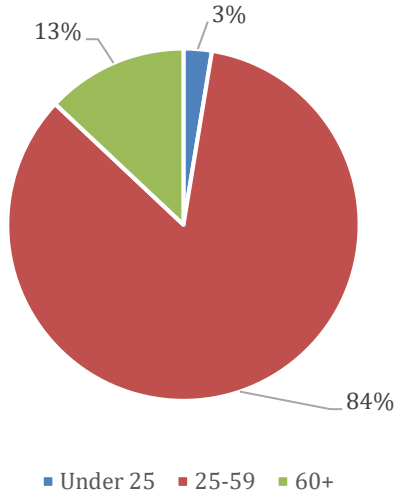


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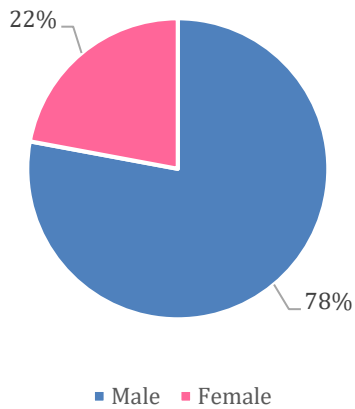
Day Centre - November 2023 Statistics

Client Age Groups (November 2023)



November 2023	
Age	Total
Under 25	2 (3%)
25-59	65 (84%)
60+	10 (13%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>

Gender Groups (November 2023)



November 2023	
Male	60 (78%)
Female	17 (22%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>

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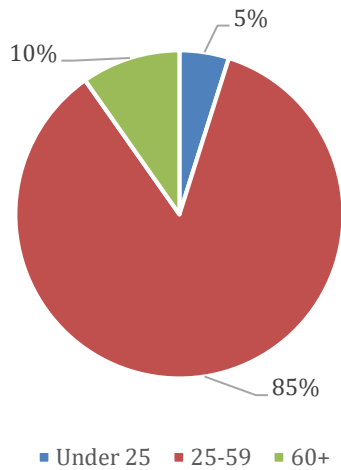


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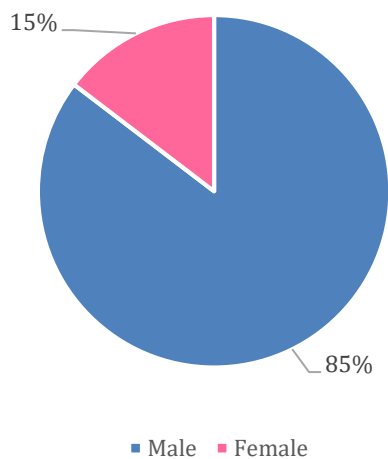
Day Centre - December 2023 Statistics

Client Age Groups (01-18 December 2023)



December 2023	
Age	Total
Under 25	4 (5%)
25-59	70 (85%)
60+	8 (10%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

Gender Groups (01-18 December 2023)



December 2023	
Male	70
Female	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

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