



**Winter Night Shelter  
Report 2016**



Our thanks to all who have supported FirmFoundation's Winter Night Shelter

Trinity Church Harrow	The Goldsmith's Company Charity
All Saints Queensbury	The Hatch End Singers
Pinner Methodist Church	The North West London Community
Harrow International Christian Centre	The Star
Wealdstone Methodist Church	Wesley Guild of Wealdstone
C of E 6 Crown Street Endowment Fund	Wealdstone Baptist Church
Marsh Christian Trust	Persula Foundation
All Saint's Church Harrow Weald	Rayners Lane Baptist Church
The Pinner Association of Churches	Elmfield Church
Pinner Free Church (Baptist)	St Paul's PCC
Headcount FM	St Michael's & All Angels Harrow Weald
Leathersellers Company	Waitrose Ltd
Cannon Lane Methodist Church	Benevity - Google
CCR Foundation – 'Found'	Rotary Club of Northwick Park
Harrow Baptist Church	King's Church Harrow
Harrow Christmas Care	Agape Prayer Fellowship
St Lawrence Church Whitchurch PCC	Harrow School –The Shaftsbury Enterprise
The 29 <sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust	To those individuals who have given so generously
The Beatrice Laing Trust	

# FirmFoundation

## Winter Night Shelter 2016 Report

FirmFoundation have been pleased to appoint a full-time 'Night Shelter Manager' for this twelve week project. This year the Charities Manager worked for the Night Shelter providing the extra support work needed for those guests accessing this service.

The appointment of the Night Shelter Manager was to ensure the smooth running of the shelter, provided high quality support work and encourage volunteer engagement across the twelve weeks.



FirmFoundation's Winter Night Shelter opened its doors for the sixth consecutive year on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2016. The all-male shelter ran at the same venue as previous years for seven nights per week until and including the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2016. Harrow International Christian Centre (HICC) once again offered the use of their magnificent building to help us overcome the difficulty of the unavailability of the Community Centre until after 9:00pm on Mondays.

**Referral's up by 26% on 2015**

**Volunteers at the Shelter**



**Thank you to over 130 volunteers**

The aim of the shelter is to provide a warm and friendly atmosphere and safe dormitory style overnight accommodation for up to 10 male guests per night. We were also able to offer extended Support Worker engagement to assist guests in accessing relevant services. The shelter was also made possible by the help of our fantastic volunteers who gave their time, energy and skills to make sure that guests were well fed and well looked after. In all volunteers contributed over 1,600 hours to the Night Shelter, their commitment has positively affected the guest's lives and outlooks. They offered sumptuous meals every evening which left the guests feeling loved and cared for. A cooked breakfast was also provided Monday to Friday at Trinity Church Hinds Road which is located close by. The guests ate their Saturday and Sunday breakfast at the shelter.

**After four weeks the shelter increased its bed spaces from 10 to 12 due to longer waiting lists of rough sleepers.**

Hot shower facilities and necessary toiletries were also available on site.

**Guests accessing bed spaces up by 50% on 2015**

### Whitefriars School

Whitefriars year 4 school children designed and decorated these biscuits with message of hope for our guests. This was part of a larger project which the Whitefriars School children undertook around issues of homelessness.



### St Peter's Medical Centre

GP's and Nurses from St Peter's Medical Centre ran surgeries for our guests after breakfast at Trinity Church. These health checks are invaluable as rough sleeping often brings complex health issues.

Referral's to the Night Shelter

**868 bed spaces filled**

The wider work of FirmFoundation and the referral routes into the Night Shelter worked well, receiving referral's from a range of agencies. The guests were referred to us by Harrow Street Pastors (HSP), Harrow Council (Housing Advice Team), FirmFoundation's Single Homeless Advice Drop-in, St Paul's South Harrow, Prison's, CAB and other services.

The shelter received 59 referrals this year, of which the Night Shelter offered bed spaces to 30 males.

Although the number of people accessing FirmFoundation's Night Shelter increased in 2016, we are pleased that no one was permanently excluded.

## Visitors to the 2016 Night Shelter



Julian Saunders (Charity Manager) 3rd from the right, Bob Blackman MP (Harrow East) centre and Fernando de Paula (Shelter Manager) 1<sup>st</sup> from the right with guests and volunteers



Pret Foundation Trust's manager Giovanna Pasini drop's in to see the Night Shelter in action.

### Harrow School

Boys from the prestigious Harrow School visit the Shelter with Natalya Silcott one of the schools teachers. The boys volunteer for another FirmFoundation project and were at the Shelter to write an article for their school magazine.



### Case Study 1:

We were pleased to be able to offer a bed space and case work to a young male guest aged 24. The Night Shelter offered a safe place to sleep and eat, FirmFoundation worked with Harrow Council and the YMCA to resolve his situation. In just over two weeks this gentleman gained accommodation with the YMCA. FirmFoundation wish him all the best as he begins his future afresh.

### Case Study 2:

A bed space was offered to a gentleman reported rough sleeping in Harrow, he was 61 years old with a history of alcohol abuse. He was able to reduce his intake sufficiently to access and maintain a bed space at FirmFoundation's Night Shelter. He was then offered Hope Place, FirmFoundation's supported accommodation. He was connected with the local drug and alcohol service and is doing well. We are supporting him to remain stable, in time, the final stage will be an application to an over sixties scheme with a housing association.

**13 guests where helped into accommodation**

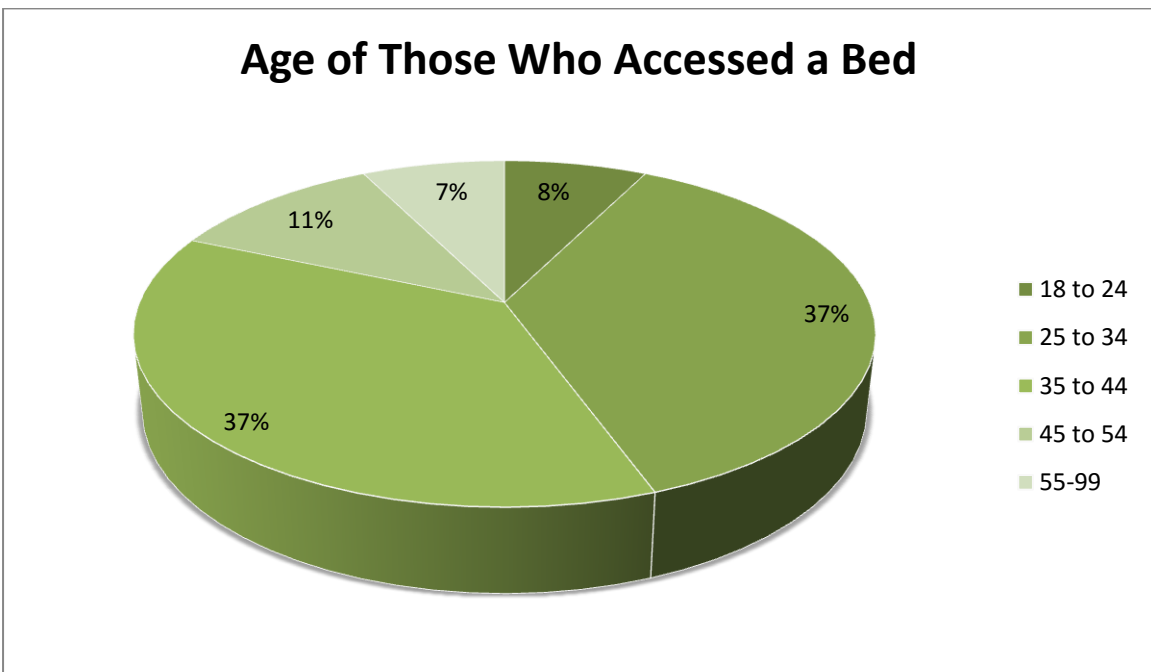
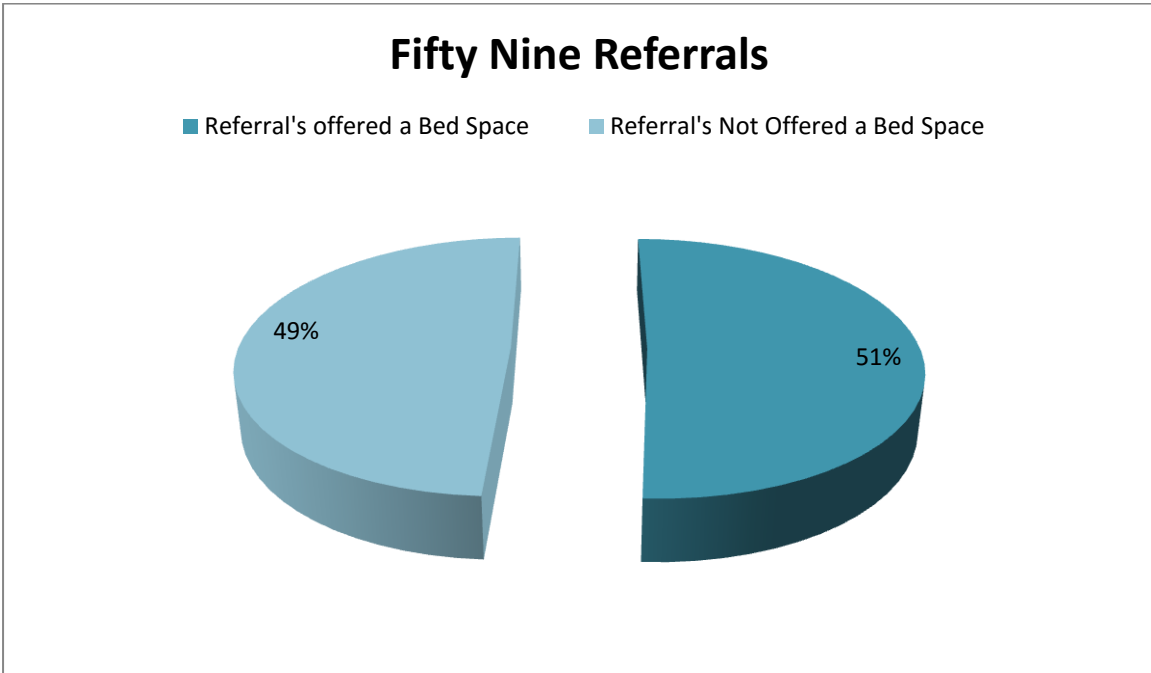
### Feedback

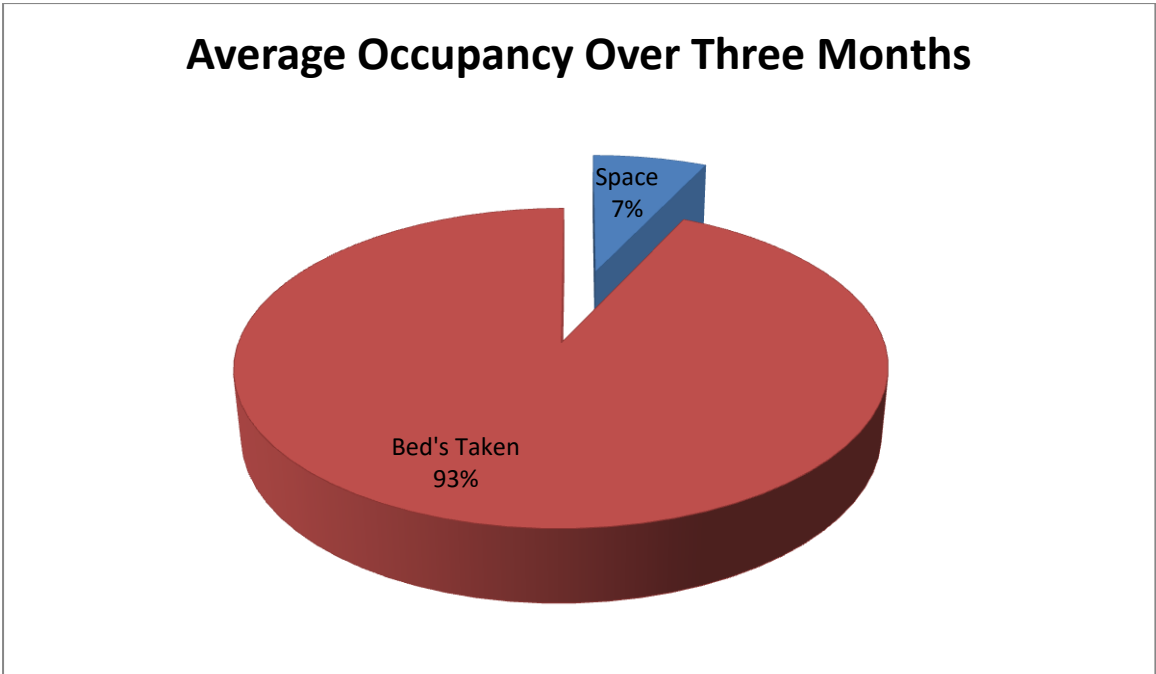
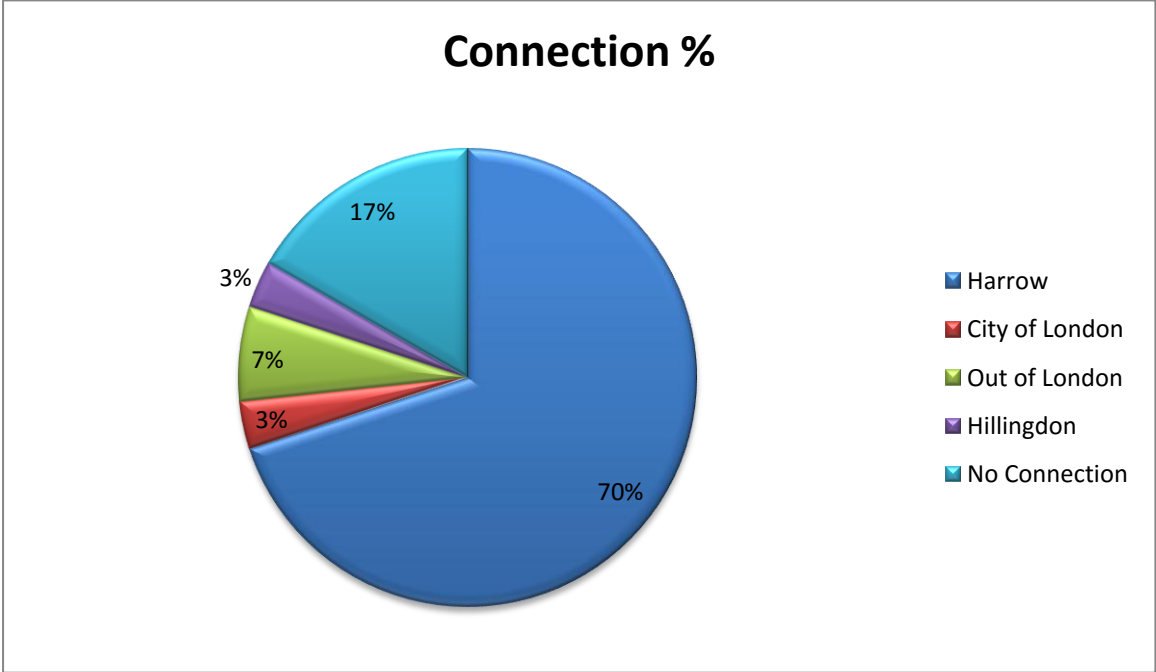
'This was my first time volunteering to cook food for the night shelter and I really enjoyed the experience. I just wish it could remain open all year round.' Maureen (volunteer)

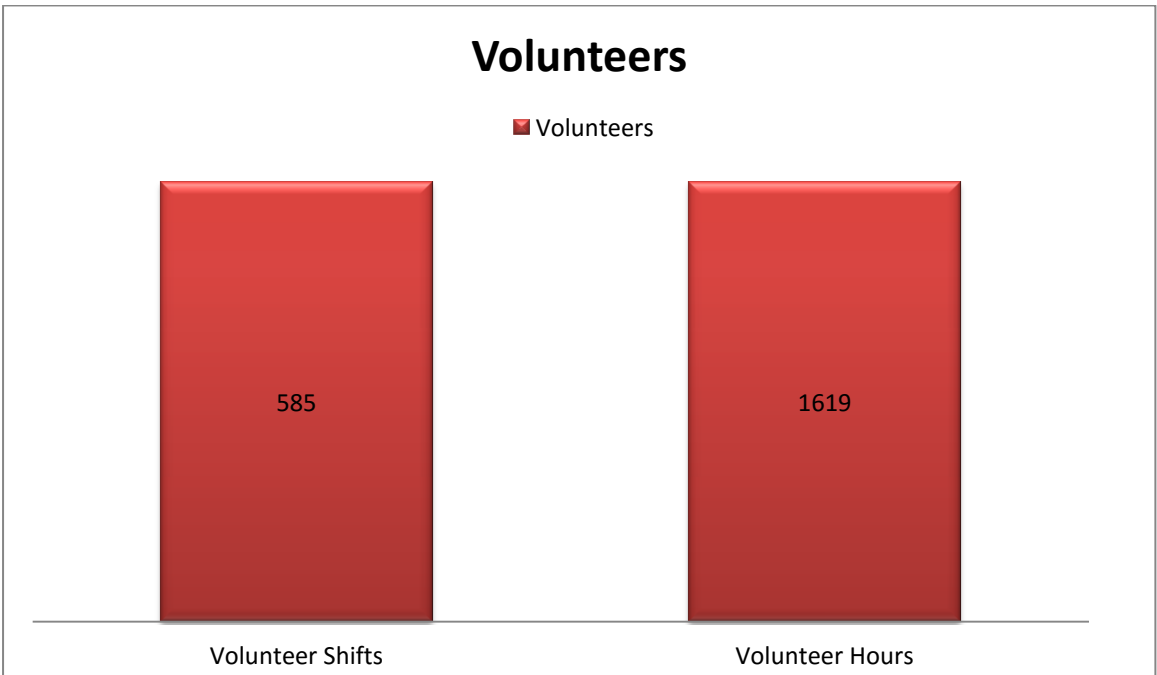
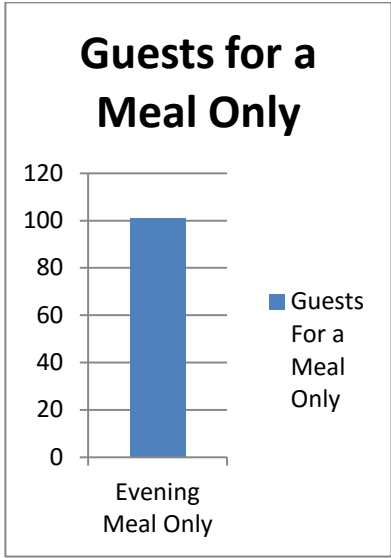
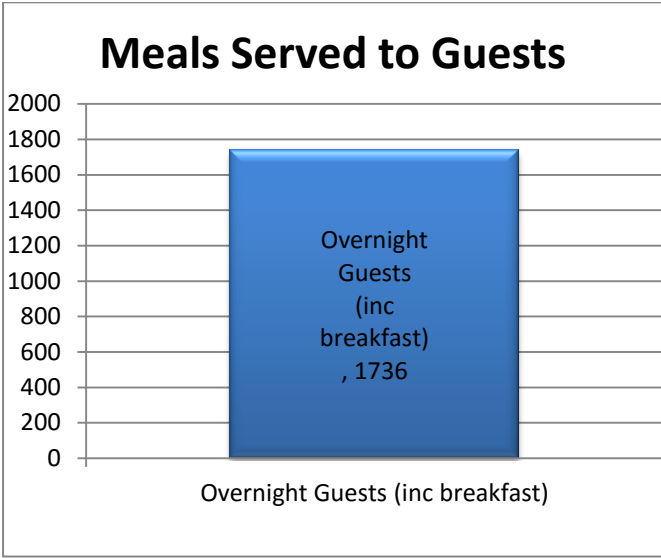


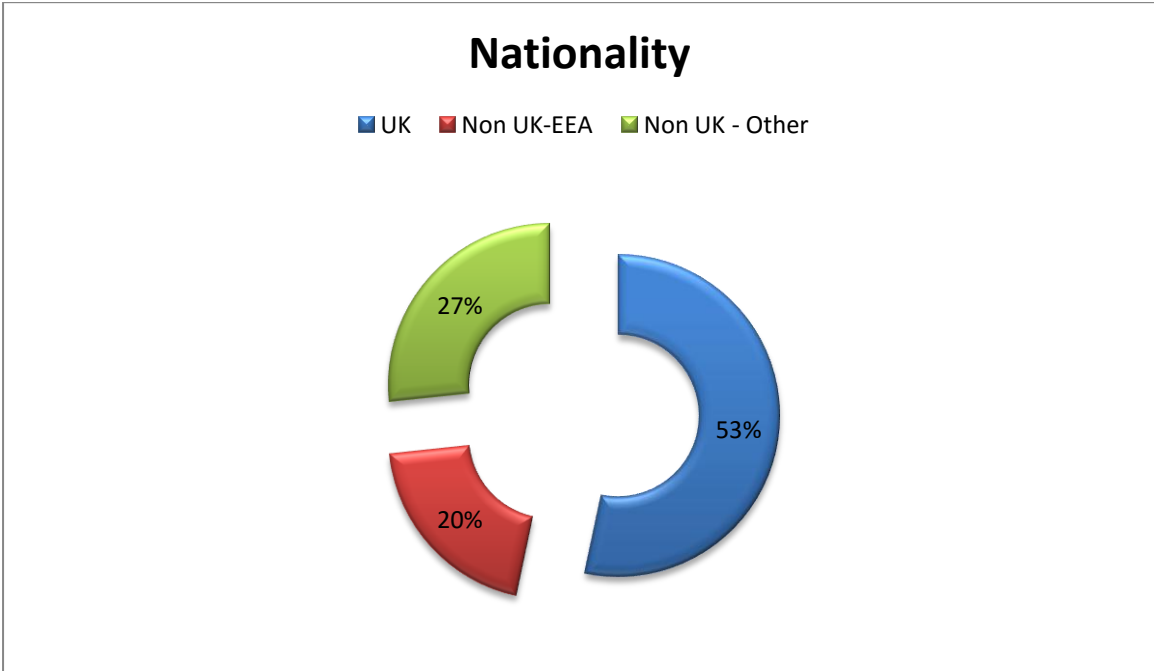
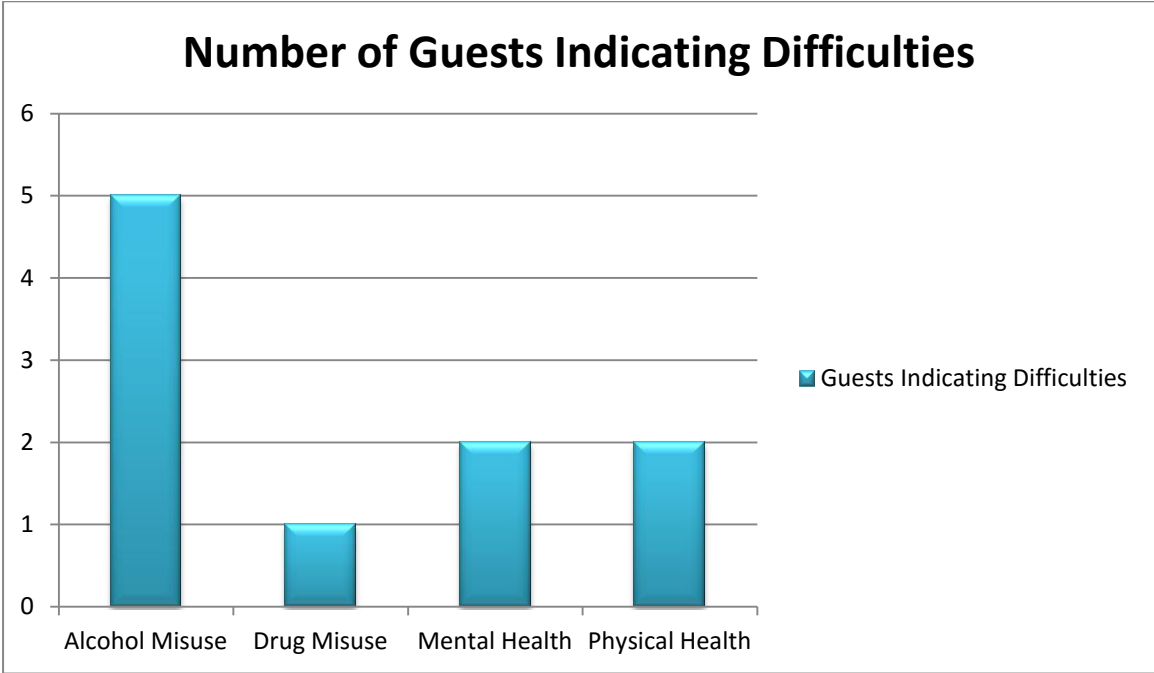
'The volunteers were wonderful...I am looking forward to working on some things and getting my life back together.' Ronald (guest)

## Night Shelter Statistics











## Conclusion

The Night Shelter 2016 has been a well run and managed project with minimal external issues. FirmFoundation's referral routes have again worked very well and it is result of the year round work that the charity does. Fifty nine referrals were received over the twelve weeks, which is an increase of 26% on 2015. The waiting list remained high and the decision was made at the end of the fourth week to increase the capacity from ten to twelve beds. This increased the available bed spaces from 840 to 938. The Shelter's occupancy rate has remained high at 93% over the twelve weeks.

## St Peter's Medical Centre – Health Checks

Our thanks to St Peter's Medical Centre who teamed up with FirmFoundation's Winter Night to provide our guests with much needed health checks. After breakfast a nurse and GP ran surgeries at the project on four occasions. Ten of the Shelter's guests have benefited from these health checks.

FirmFoundation continue to develop links with landlords and letting agents which have enabled guests to access accommodation. Thirteen guests have gained accommodation and now with support have the opportunity to change the direction of their lives and chase their ambitions.

Hope Place, FirmFoundation's supported move-on accommodation received three guests from the Night Shelter.

Our appreciation is extended to those trusts, companies and individuals who help fund this vital service. Behind each statistic is a person with a story, you help FirmFoundation play a part in that story.

Finally, we would like to thank all of those involved with the Night Shelter 2016, we are really proud of our volunteers who give their all during the shelter period and without whom thirty people could not have left the street for even one night.