

FIRMFOUNDATION

# SHELTER REPORT

## 2025

FirmFoundation's Annual  
Winter Night Shelter



## Executive Summary

I was honoured to be a part of the Winter Night Shelter 2025. Having volunteered last year in a sleep-over capacity versus steering the ship this year, it has been an amazing experience. We went live this year on January 1st, 2025, at 19:00, with 50% of the shelter occupied on the first night. Throughout the commencing weeks, we steadily rose in guests using the Night Shelter, reaching our capacity and adding an additional bed in February.

Clearly, I have not been alone on this journey and absolute praise goes out to all of the FirmFoundation Staff, Catering Teams, Trinity Church and sleep-over volunteers. None of this would have been achievable without all your hard work, and support.



As well as receiving a welcome pack upon arrival at the Shelter we also had on-site shower and laundry facilities.

This enabled each person to freshen up prior to dinner which was well received. Board games including Jenga,

Dominos, and Card games were thoroughly enjoyed through the evening. Guests, volunteers and staff enjoyed playing together.

Music in the evening also created a relaxing atmosphere. Many of our guests, could be seen singing along, nodding their heads, or tapping their feet. This was where bonds were made and families were born.

We bought in a professional barber for our guests, who provided haircuts and beard trimming. Our guests were able to take part in and share some of their stories with interviews during the session.



## MP for Harrow West Gareth Thomas



**“FirmFoundation, Harrow Charity a great organisation helping people just at a point in their lives when they most need help”**

MP Gareth Thomas came to the Night Shelter and spent some time speaking with our guests. Gareth continues to be a great supporter of FirmFoundation.

## Meeting the Decorating Challenges

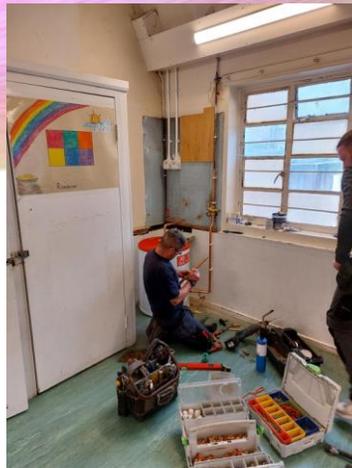
Our new premises, needed a lot of love including plumbers, electricians, and painters. Some of the work was completed by our guests with some help from me. This was both challenging and fun as we had to complete everything in time to open. We will be continuing to update the New Hub.



Many thanks to United Living for painting the Hub



Many thanks to Build Trust for the shower installation



Many thanks to Trinity Church for the boiler installation

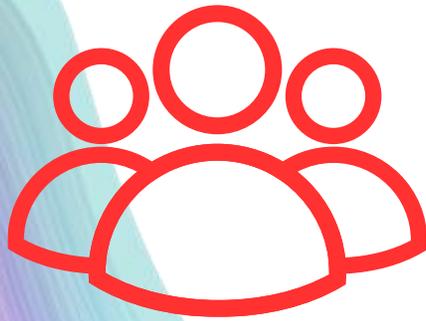
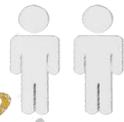


Referrals received

30



REFERRALS



19 Guests

8 guests successfully housed averaging 1 person every two weeks



Mental health

difficulties **11** guests  
**52%**



Substance misuse

**9** guests  
**43%**





**13 Individual sleepover  
volunteers**



**High Occupancy Rate: 80% occupancy  
rate on bed space, demonstrating the vital  
need for our services.**



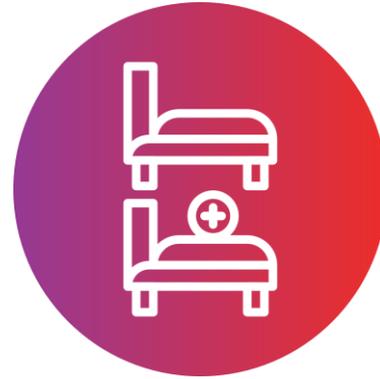
**Over 1,200 meals  
served**



**CATERING  
service**

**Community  
Engagement: 16  
Catering Teams.**

- Sun
- Mon
- Tue
- Wed
- Thu
- Fri
- Sat



Overall occupancy rate: **80%**

**Winter Night Shelter operational  
over 90 days (13 weeks)**

**Total bed spaces filled: 866**



**Increased Occupancy from  
February 3rd onwards**

**88%**

## Success Stories



Ifran – “Overall brilliant and really helped”. “Feel more emotionally stable”.  
“I feel nutritionally healthier since my stay at the shelter”.

Ifran stayed at the Shelter for 40 days. He then gained accommodation.



Haytham stayed with us for 75 days and was successfully housed in FirmFoundation supported accommodation.



Mukesh stayed at the shelter for 47 days and was successfully housed.

Paul – “Got a good night sleep”. “My emotional health has improved as a result of staying at the shelter”.

Paul had been with us from the very first night. Staff from FirmFoundation worked relentlessly on behalf of Paul to find him appropriate accommodation.

Paul was with us at the shelter for 98 days.



James stayed at the shelter for 31 days and was successfully housed in FirmFoundation’s supported accommodation.



Vladimir – “Doing the best already”. “My physical health has improved as a result of staying at the shelter”.  
“My concentration has improved, and I feel more alert”.

We had the pleasure of hosting Vladimir for 12 days.

Vladimir was successfully housed.



## Conclusion

The closure of the Winter Night Shelter marks the end of a season, but not the end of our work. In fact, our mission continues with even greater urgency. We remain committed to supporting the same individuals and many more who still need our help, compassion, and resources.

That's why we continue to rely on your support, whether through hands on involvement or work behind the scenes. FirmFoundation, and the Winter Night Shelter play a vital role in the Harrow community and beyond, providing hope, dignity, and community.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey. Your contribution make a lasting differences, and we hope our community continues to grow, together.

Report prepared by: Leon-Ross Bogle

Date: April 2025

FirmFoundation is committed to relieve the immediate suffering of the homeless, while working to find a practical and sustainable solution to their needs.

## Acknowledgments

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of Night Shelter

Hatch End Singers

Exercise Group of the Elliott Hall Medical Centre Patient's Association

The Hedley Foundation

Souter Charitable Trust

The Albert Hunt Trust

The Vandrvell Foundation

The Sackler Trust

The Beatrice Laing Trust

Ishver and Team

Paula & Lisa

Harrow International Christian Centre

Harrow Street Pastors

St Marys

International Church Of Christ

Agape

King's Church

St Joseph

St Peters

St Lawrence

Kol Chai

Trinity Church

The Build Trust

United Living

South Harrow Baptist



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[www.firmfoundation.org.uk](http://www.firmfoundation.org.uk)



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