



SHELTER REPORT

2026

FIRM FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL
WINTER NIGHT SHELTER



020 8426 5515



WWW.FIRMFOUNDATION.ORG.UK



**FIRM FOUNDATION HUB
45 ANGEL ROAD
HARROW
HA1 1JZ**

REGISTERED CHARITY: 1143823



FIRM FOUNDATION

This winter, FirmFoundation opened its doors once again to provide safe, warm shelter to some of Harrow's most vulnerable residents. From 1st January to 31st March 2026 – 90 nights in total – our Night Centre became a genuine home away from home for 28 individuals.

What made this year especially meaningful was the return of familiar faces: clients who had stayed with us before, and volunteer catering teams who came back season after season because they believe deeply in what we do.

The shelter ran as a mixed-gender shelter providing bed spaces for 15 guests per night across 90 days.

Together, we filled 684 bed spaces – every one of them a night of safety, warmth and dignity for someone who needed it most.

FIRM FOUNDATION

Night after night, our volunteer catering teams arrived with enthusiasm, skill, and generosity to cook restaurant-quality meals for our guests. The newly refurbished kitchen — fitted with updated appliances — gave them the tools they deserved, and they rose to the occasion every time.

A professional chef also joined us to cook breakfast each morning — ensuring every guest started their day with a hot, nourishing meal. Guests consistently highlighted the quality of the food as one of the highlights of their stay.



Guests relaxing and enjoying an evening meal together



A guest preparing his own Breakfast



Breakfast Chef cooking a fantastic meal in the mornings

FIRM FOUNDATION

What truly set this year's shelter apart was the spirit in which food was served. Rather than a transactional handout, mealtimes became a centrepiece of the community. Volunteers sat alongside guests at the table, sharing conversation, laughter, and connection.

Guests frequently praised the catering teams directly, and the teams equally delighted in getting to know the guests they were serving.

These small moments of human connection are at the very heart of what FirmFoundation is about.



Catering Team Kol-Chai



Guest clearly enjoying an evening meal



Catering Team St Lawrence cooking and posing



Two of our guests happily engaging together

FIRM FOUNDATION

A roof for the night is vital — but FirmFoundation has always believed that genuine community goes much further. Evenings at the Night Shelter were filled with warmth, fun, and real human connection.

Card games, board games, indoor darts, and spirited Ludo tournaments became nightly fixtures. The atmosphere in the Night Shelter was relaxed and casual — exactly as it should be. The joy on people's faces during a Ludo match or a darts contest was a reminder of what matters: people feeling safe, at ease, and part of something.



Fun and intensive Ludo tournaments with guests and volunteers



Guests having fun with indoor darts

FIRM FOUNDATION

We had visits from two of Harrow's local MP's local MPs- a reflection of the growing recognition of FirmFoundations vital work in the borough.



A visit from
MP Gareth Thomas, who is a great supporter of
FirmFoundation



MP Bob Blackman continues to support FirmFoundation &
homelessness through out the borough

FIRM FOUNDATION

This year, 28 individuals found warmth, safety, and community through the Winter Night Shelter. Some were familiar faces returning from previous seasons; others were coming through our doors for the first time.

One of the most powerful moments of the 2026 shelter was captured in a photograph: a client holding up the keys to his new home. After months of uncertainty and nights on the street, that image — a huge smile, keys held high — says everything about what FirmFoundation exists to do.

Our guests also benefited from access to their own secure mobile phone locker, a warm breakfast cooked fresh each morning, evening meals prepared with care, and an environment that respected their dignity at every step.



One of our guests who spent time at our Winter Shelter



Guest happily received keys to a new Property

FIRM FOUNDATION

Across 90 consecutive nights, FirmFoundation provided a safe, warm space for people experiencing homelessness in the Borough of Harrow. Guests sheltered each night on a mixed-gender basis, every one of the 684 bed spaces filled represents a person kept safe from the cold.

These numbers represent real lives — people who were cold, who needed help, and who found it here. Behind every statistic is a person who deserves warmth, dignity, and care.



90 CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS

15 Guests housed ensuring positive outcomes

Safewarmspace for homeless people.



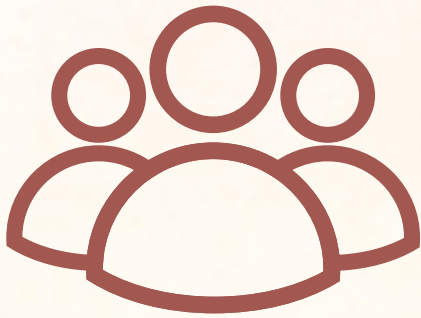
15 Bed Capacity with 5 additional emergency bed spaces available for cold weather



over 850 meals served

Referrals

Referrals recieved 33



*Guest who stayed at
least one night 28*



*Mental Health
difficulties: 9 guest
37%*



*Substance use
issues: 7 guests
32%*



*Shelter invitation
accepted 33 Guests*



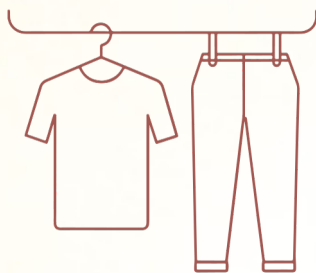
*Housing success rate
1 guest housed every
10 days on average*



*Housing Outcomes: Successfully facilitated
15 positive housing outcomes, averaging
one guest housed every one and a half
weeks. Guests were housed in the Private
Rented Sector, Supported Accommodation
and Adult Social Care*



*A steady occupancy rate throughout the
Winter Night Shelter*



Sun

Mon

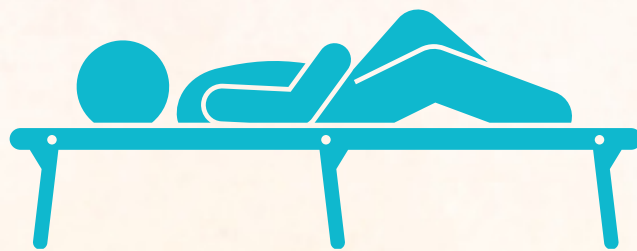
Tue

Wed

Thu

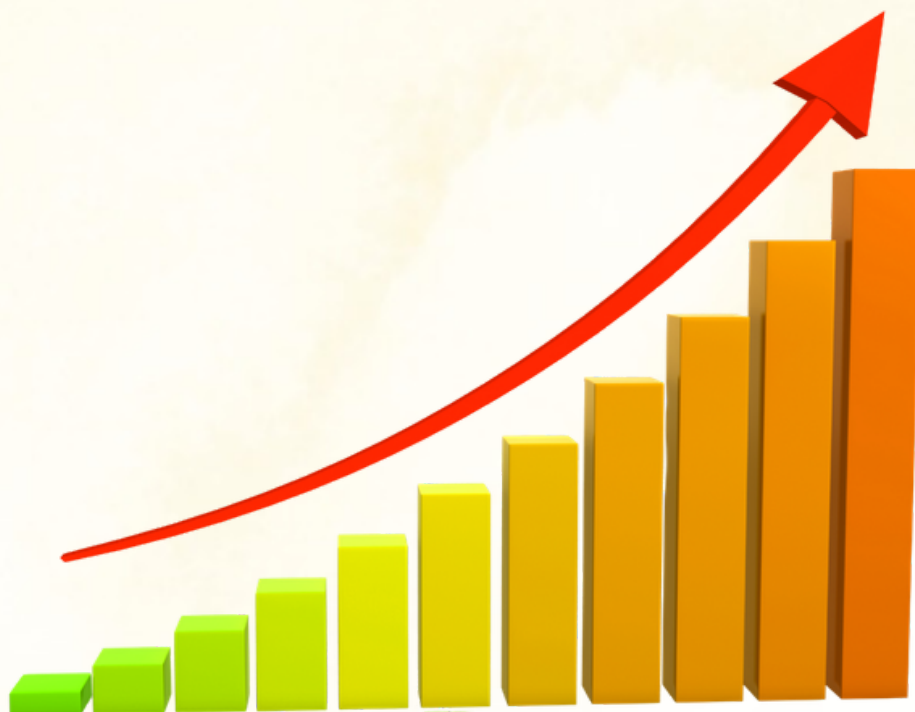
Fri

Sat



90 days (13 weeks)

*Total bed spaces filled
684*



FIRM FOUNDATION

Whether you have supported FirmFoundation financially or as a volunteer Thank you. Your dignity, resilience, and warmth inspired everyone at the Night Shelter

Our Volunteer Catering Teams

Paula & Lisa

Trinity Church

Agape

St Johns

Little Stanmore

St Mary's - Harrow School

Harrow International Christian Centre

Ishver

St Michaels and All Angels Church

Orley Farm

St Lawrence

Street Pastors

Kings Church

Vinod

Kol-Chai

Bread of Life

Emily Green

St Mary's Harrow on the Hill

South Harrow Methodist

Pinner Baptist

Our Lady Our Lord

Tina & Lazar

St Joseph's



Your dedication, skill, and generosity made mealtimes truly special. Thank you for coming back.

Notes



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