

INFORMATION FOR CHURCHES



FROM MEETING ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2021

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss options for churches to help homeless people this winter. Churches are asked to send suggestions and offers to ECWNS by the end of October, so that we can plan what we can do together.

Homelessness in Ealing - [Welcome message](#) and [detailed information](#) from Chet Mander of St Mungo's Ealing

Hope for Southall Street Homeless are not planning to re-open their shelter in churches this winter (it was previously year-round). They continue to support people with advocacy and daytime help. You can see [their video](#) produced earlier this year.

ECWNS Shelter Worker Marie told us of people she had similarly been able to support, both in emergency hotel accommodation and on the street, while shelters were not running

Training - we can equip church members to help people with accommodation issues, to be more aware and actively campaign. One idea is training from [Hope4All](#), centred on preventing homelessness. They run a 1-day / 2 half-day course, and this could be organised for several churches together. Another possibility is the [Study Course on Housing](#) "Unless the Lord Builds the House". This is a free 5-week Bible study and practical guide which includes getting out and walking round your local streets.

Street Storage is a project which gives homeless people a safe place to store and retrieve their belongings. Rachel Woolf told us about how it works, and how we could have a West London location if we had suitable space.

London Hosting links people who have no recourse to public funds (often waiting for long asylum or immigration cases) with hosts who have space to share. They produced a [video](#) with one of their hosts. One of our past guests at ECWNS has been hosted in this way for several years, and only now is his case coming to a successful conclusion.

Should we run shelters? Alison went through [things to consider](#) and asked for churches to reply by end October.

Other information:

Government guidelines: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-provision-of-night-shelters>

Latest local CHAIN report: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_oYWfdBasOLO3UWCXgdEE9-iYzZqAzYQ/view?usp=sharing

Homeless Sunday: <https://housingjustice.org.uk/homeless-sunday-2021>

ECWNS recruiting administrator: <https://www.ecwns.org.uk/about/recruiting/>

CONTACT chair@ecwns.org.uk