

Bexley Winter Shelter 2020

Dear Pastor/Christian fellowship

Please share with your congregation/fellowship – thank you

As you may know/ recall it is about this time each year that we start planning the next winter's (2021 that would be) project. Please read on even if you haven't been involved before. But, of course we find ourselves in very different circumstances. However, the steering committee (zoomed that is) to review the situation and what course of action we may be able to take. We are all committed to continually supporting the single homeless of Bexley Borough. As I am sure you know or can guess, the way ahead is very unclear, but this is where we are.

- a) We need to know what the Government, Mayor of London and Bexley Borough are going to be doing with all the folks for which they have currently found some kind of accommodation/shelter. Is there plan to continue to look after them until say next March?
- b) We are quite clear that anything resembling the night shelter arrangements we have had over the past four years is not an option. If there was some form of accommodation e.g. a former B&B place with separate rooms and washing facilities then it might be possible to operate something along these lines.
- c) We may be able to run some form of *drop in centre* during the day to give support where and as possible. We know the Council has some vacant properties that would be suitable and will pursue this.
- d) We will not be asking anybody who is 70+ to be involved in any personal contact situation.
- e) We want to earnestly commit to prayer and ask for the Lords guidance, wisdom and discernment on how we many serve Him and the homeless folk this coming winter.

We have also been investigating the Hope into Action model of providing a home for the homeless (see <https://www.hopeintoaction.org.uk/>). We would be grateful for any advice, guidance, or professional input and any knowledge of vacant buildings, houses or even rooms that could be potentially able to provide shelter if (a) above does not happen.

Please join us in prayer and ask around about potential accommodation. If you would like to be part of an ongoing BWS prayer team please let us know (info@bexleywintershelter.org.uk) and then we can forward prayer letters/requests to you. Thank you for your continued support and concern.

God bless

Melvyn French (project coordinator)

July 2020

See www.bexleywintershelter.org.uk for volunteers, guests, funding and to join the mailing list with preferences.