

Hello

First, we know you are making changes to the way you are being church, making changes to stay together as a family and keep serving those around you and your fellowship. You are in our prayers.

We wanted to **update you on the situation at Wycombe Homeless Connection** now we have moved into a phase of social distancing as well as self-isolation.

We want you to know that we are still open, here to serve and support those who are homeless in our community, and those who are at risk homelessness. We think as our economy and society is impacted, we may see more people needing our help.

We are still open and changing the way we run our services

The following are always our most important goals:

- **To make sure no one is sleeping on the street**
- **To take action so no one is made homeless during the pandemic**
- **To support everyone who needs food, clothing and hygiene equipment**

We are extending some services and reducing some peripheral services

- Our staff will run **support centre** in a different way: we will not have set opening hours in the morning but will make sure people can get help from our support team throughout the day. This minimises the chances of people being here in numbers that would increase any risk. And we will increase the amount of support we offer over the phone and online and helping people access healthcare through our Homeless Health project.
- Our staff team will continue to **support guests in who are accommodation**, ensuring they have what they need to be healthy through the provision of food and other items.
- Our staff will continue our **homelessness prevention work** over the phone, online and only in person when strictly necessary. We are hoping to launch a new hotline as soon as possible.
- Our hearts ache as we ask almost all our dedicated and passionate volunteers to step down until further notice while we run these amended services.

What can you do to help

Give to our urgent appeal

Please give generously to our appeal and share it with people you know who would like to help in this vital way. Any gift will help to ensure all our services continue. www.wyhoc.org.uk/urgent-appeal

Pray

- For our guests as they find ways to navigate these extra challenges on top of those they already face. It is a time of great uncertainty for them and some are losing the little work they had. Please pray that they keep engaging with us, they stay confident in us, and that we can help them keep hope alive.
- For our partner organisations as they too struggle with illness, uncertainty and losing volunteer support.
- Pray for wisdom and health for our staff team so we can continue to run our services well.

Other news

Celebration service postponed

We have postponed our annual service of thanksgiving and celebration which was in late April. We will let you know when a new date is arranged.

Good news

Did you see us on Channel 4 News?

Channel 4 visited our support centre to report on the impact the coronavirus pandemic is having on people who don't have a home, and services being provided to help them.

We were pleased to be able to help our clients be heard, people who are so often overlooked, and even more so at times of crisis.

You can watch the film here: <https://www.channel4.com/news/fears-for-homeless-during-coronavirus-outbreak> Please do share it widely to make sure the voices of those we support are heard. If you are still meeting, perhaps you could show this in church, or send the link to your fellowship.

Thank you so much for all your help and love.

The Wycombe Homeless Connection team.