



ANNUAL REVIEW  
2013/2014





## WELCOME

As Chief Executive of Threshold Housing Link I would like to pay tribute to the hard work and perseverance of everyone who is involved with Threshold for another high achieving year. Our finances are in good shape with over 50% of the surplus being ring-fenced to enable KeyScheme+ to continue for another year.

Our different teams work hard to give our clients a future to look forward to. 199 people were accommodated at our direct access hostel however 297 were turned away due to the hostel being full - a number that illustrates the need to continue to provide this easy access provision to accommodation and resettlement support. Demand is high for our resettlement and move-on hostels where people are taught skills necessary for independent living and are encouraged to undertake personal development. Our young person's scheme had 66 referrals, the substance misuse project had 37 and 25 Persistent Prolific Offenders were accommodated across our projects, which is 15 more than we were contractually obliged to accept. Behind these figures are people with often tragic stories which led them to a point where holding down a job or looking after a home became impossible. The positive steps they take towards change means so much to their families; it also has a positive effect on the local community and other public services. Overall our positive resettlement rates were up by 8%.

Threshold is also facing a positive future through the creation of a permanent foundation for the charity. In partnership with the local authority, we are developing a building which will accommodate a new day centre, our registered offices and additional rented accommodation. Such provision will enhance our ability to continue to meet the needs of homeless people in the future whilst also creating a better working environment for our staff and a permanent, sustainable base for the charity. This will enable us to tackle homelessness further and make real changes to people's lives - as a charity we will make a real difference to our community too.

Cher Sawyer-Smith MBE  
CEO of Threshold Housing Link



I am delighted to be serving as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Threshold Housing Link. It is an exciting time for the charity as we look forward to building on the past 42 years of hard work since the charity's inception. As we look positively to the year ahead, we are planning to expand our property portfolio to better meet the increasing demand for affordable housing, particularly for those battling alcohol and drug addiction. Our aim is to never say 'no, sorry, we're full' to a client and by extra provision we will move some way to achieving our goal. We must ensure the charity is growing and developing with quality provision of services at the forefront of everything we do. On a human resource level, we are developing our services not only to support our clients but to provide leadership and ambition to our staff to strive and to excel in everything they do.

There are many reasons for someone to be homeless; instability, rejection from family or the workplace, mental health issues and substance dependency can affect us all at any time. Our aim is to deal with each client in a compassionate way and to (re) introduce them into a safe and secure environment in which they can flourish. My focus this year is to drive the team to develop services to provide people with "a reason to live". Identifying how people interact and 'touch' each other's lives will assist in creating a framework for a paradigm shift in their self-worth. If an individual feels they are worthless, then what is the point in living?

I would like to extend my thanks to the Members and Trustees for their support and guidance throughout the year. Much praise should go to Swindon Borough Council and the local businesses whose continuing and stalwart support enables us to grow and develop. And last, but by no means least, I wish to pay tribute to the excellent work of the staff whose commitment, enthusiasm and dedication to serving our clients in Swindon and the local area is second to none.

David Price  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Threshold Housing Link



THIS

IS

THRESHOLD











## OUR FUTURE PLANS

We always have lots of exciting plans for the future and we are of course constantly working to improve our services. Below are some of our future plans. All of these we will deliver in partnership with a range of organisations and supporters. We are very open to offers of support and suggestions for new services or projects - if you think that you can help then please get in touch.

## Positive Activities - Broadening Horizons, Learning New Things

In conjunction with homeless people themselves we will develop a programme of meaningful activities that give the homeless something positive to do with their free time. This will aim to build their self-esteem; develop their skills and support the creation of helpful friendships and social networks away from the streets. Activities are important in preventing the boredom that may lead back to crime, or to alcohol or drug misuse. This programme will help people get on the pathway to work and off benefits. Our hope is that it will cut re-offending rates, and reduce alcohol and drug treatment costs through offering alternatives to often pre-set patterns of behaviour. New funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner will allow us to support this programme of activities engaging homeless people across our projects.



## Harding Street Project - A One-Stop Centre for Homeless People

We have ambitious plans to build a brand new facility on the vacant site next to Culvery Court, our open access hostel. Our vision for this building is to have the flexibility to improve our current services, develop new ones and bring in a range of outside expert support to help some of the most vulnerable in our society. It will host our day centre, provide washing / showering facilities and be a place to drop in for advice or support. By having this all under the one roof, we can deliver better and more cost effective services. Our new building will not replace Culvery Court, which is needed now more than ever, but enhance and improve how we can help and support the homeless of Swindon.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP?

We rely upon the generosity of local people and the wider community. Increasingly we need your cash donations so we can respond flexibly to homeless people's needs and better plan for the future. We welcome any donation, no matter how small - we can make it go a long way! You can make a single donation or regular donations through our giving webpages, just go to [www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/thl](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/thl)

By using 'Give as you Live' we will receive donations from online retailers when you use their sites, at no extra cost to you. Check out their website and look out for the logo when you shop online [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com)



Food donations help us to stretch the pennies. We accept non-perishable food items with clear in date expiration dates, such as tinned vegetables, beans, pulses, rice and pasta. We always need personal care items to distribute to homeless people including toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, deodorant, nail clippers and baby wipes. Items should be in their original packaging, with any safety fixtures still in place. We need clothing such as shirts, trousers, jackets, sweaters, scarves and gloves in all styles and sizes. Clothes can be 'used' but should be in good condition please. We accept socks and underwear if they are still in their original packaging



## Blanket Appeal

We are happy to receive blankets, duvets and bedding throughout the year, but from November to February we run a Blanket Appeal to meet increased demand. Please help us! Donate your unwanted items or collect on our behalf!

## Sleep Out

Are you brave enough to join us at our annual Sleep Out? It takes place on the night of the first Friday in December every year. Or would you prefer to run your own Sleep Out maybe at your place of work, school and church or community group? Our fundraising team will help you make the most of the event, just give us a call!



## There are many ways to help

Why not give up a non-essential shopping item each week for a month and donate the cash you've saved? Why not bake some cakes and sell them to your colleagues at work or invite your friends round for a tea party and collect donations? Why not ditch your mobile phone for the day and be sponsored for your trouble? Why not sponsor your boss to spend a full day back on the shop floor or at the 'coal face'?

If you don't have any items to donate or want to do more, you can volunteer. Opportunities vary and we would match your skills against our needs. If you think that you can help, why not get in touch?



THANK YOU!

We would like to take this opportunity to express our warm thanks to our various funders and partners:

**Crisis**



**VA**  
Voluntary Action  
Swindon

**ZURICH**  
Community Trust

**pcc**  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
for Wiltshire and Swindon

Swindon  
**foodbank**

- ASDA - Community Life
- Swindon Borough Council
- The Filling Station
- Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation
- Wiltshire Probation Trust
- ASDA
- Co-operative Food Stores
- Barclays Bank
- Starbucks
- Norbert Dentressangle
- Christ Church, Old Town
- Christmas Care Swindon
- Churchfield Academy
- Commonweal School

- End of the Track
- Gateway Furniture
- Immanuel URC Church
- Isambard Community School
- Lawn Community Centre
- Life & Light Mission
- Royal Wootten Bassett Hounds
- Salvation Army
- St Peter's Church, Swindon
- Swindon Striders

And our volunteers:

- Wendy Cole
  - Terry Dixon
  - Alistair Mabbutt
  - Amanda Knox
  - Vicky Parkinson
  - Adrian Imrie
  - Robert Winterflood
  - Stuart Neale
- and the many service users who regularly lend a hand at the Daycentre

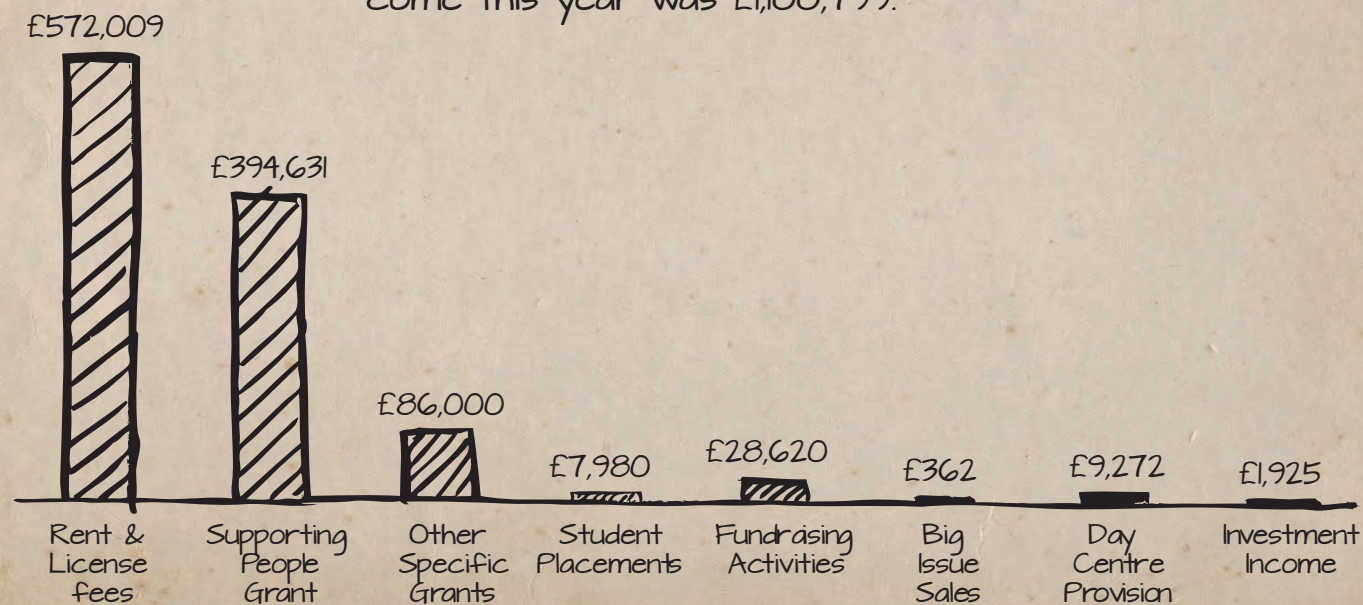




## FINANCES AT A GLANCE

### Income:

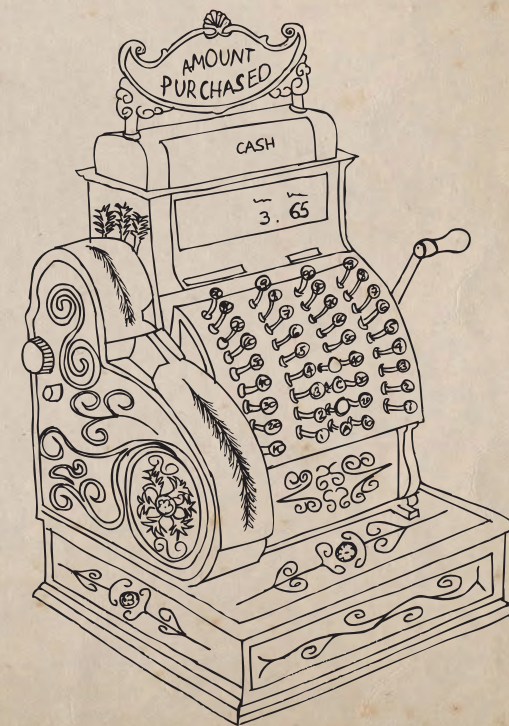
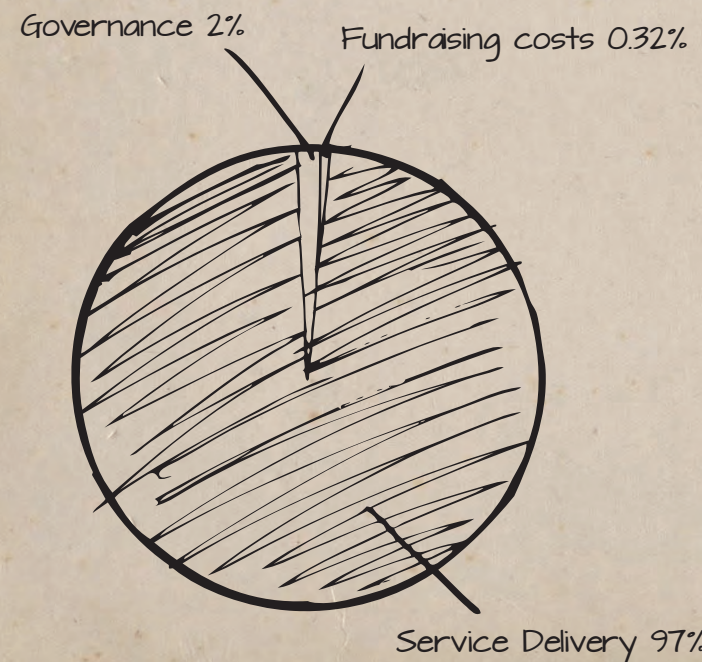
Funds for the various services we deliver came from a number of sources in 2013/14. Some income is restricted to certain aspects of our work and other funds can be used to meet core costs, such as the rent for our office premises. The graph below illustrates our diverse income streams. Our total income this year was £1,100,799.



### Expenditure:

We run a tight ship - very little money is spent on non-service related activities. We work hard to make every penny last longer and reach further.

We spent £1,019,004 last year.



\*You can find the full report on our website!



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