



**Together
we will end
homelessness**

Croydon Skylight Newsletter

February 2023

A note from our Director



It has been a very busy 6 months for my amazing Crisis Skylight Croydon team who have been working tirelessly as we see the demands on our services increasing daily.

We geared up for another Crisis at Christmas making sure the most vulnerable members were able to have some respite in our hotels and day centres over the Christmas period as our Crisis Coaches continued to work with them throughout their stay to try and end their homelessness.

We also responded to the request from the Greater London Authority and Croydon Council to help provide some additional warm spaces throughout the day as the severe cold snap hit the UK.

We had a great fundraising effort from seven year old Zac, our Crisis Skylight Croydon Fundraiser, who year on year supports Croydon Skylight and has provided some much needed items for our members at Christmas which goes hand in hand with the Crisis mass participation event at Kings Cross that highlighted through an amazing artist's sculpture that homelessness can't be ignored any longer.

A big thank you and farewell to Shaniqua our Poetry Tutor (and Croydon's Poet Laureate) and to Megan our Trainee Clinical Psychologist.

Welcome to Tarron and Johnny who have joined our Skylight team and are doing great work with our members and our teams.

We were all really chuffed to announce that Crisis and Crisis Skylight Croydon were chosen as the charity partner for 'Croydon Borough Of Culture – Croydon Stands Tall' which has launched an exciting community arts and culture event, including a spectacular giraffe sculpture art trail around our borough which we are very excited to have our members, volunteers, and staff involved in as we showcase the talent in and around Croydon and bring some much needed colour to the Croydon landscape; so let's get ready to welcome the giraffes to Croydon 😊.

Christine Eyers

Director of Crisis Skylight, Croydon

Croydon Stands Tall

Decorated by local artists and communities, more than 30 giant giraffe sculptures will appear across Croydon Town centre, forming a free 10-week art trail of discovery by Croydon BID and Wild in Art.

Croydon Stands Tall is designed to celebrate the vibrancy, culture, and creativity of Croydon, whilst also raising money for Crisis.



Crisis at Christmas

From the 21st December to the 5th January, as part of Crisis at Christmas, Crisis took over three hotels across London to accommodate at least 450 people who would otherwise be sleeping rough during the Christmas period.

In addition, Crisis opened four day centres in the capital for people in insecure accommodation and is providing services across Britain to thousands of people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness.



Homelessness can't be ignored any longer

Crisis collaborated with artist Sophie de Oliveira Barata to create a giant, life-like human sculpture, representing multiple, real people who have lived experience of homelessness. The sculpture, named Alex, has been designed to stop people in their tracks and force them to confront the issue now staring them in the face.



SJ from Skylight, Croydon helped out and received overwhelming positive feedback from members of the public. Including one former Crisis member who has just moved into their new home.



Crisis Skylight Croydon

- 397 people approached us for support in the first 6 months of our financial year (June 2023 onwards.) Out of these, 303 members were allocated to a lead worker with the rest being sign posted to other services and will be allocated a lead worker if appropriate.
- We supported 4 members into employment and 1 member started volunteering.
- We prevented homelessness for 4 members and improved the housing situation for 62 of our members.
- We helped secure stable housing for 33 of our members.



Out in Crisis Group

Volunteers and Members from Out in Crisis Group designed and delivered their first training on LGBTQ+ migrant homelessness. It covered members experience of being homeless as well as looking at reasons behind LGBT migrant homelessness and ways to support people in that situation.

Songwriting project with the London Mozart Players

Some of our members are involved with a songwriting project with a composer and musicians from the London Mozart Players.

They will write, rehearse, and perform a song as part of the Oratorio of Hope for Croydon's London Borough of Culture launch event in April 2023.



A warm space for those currently sleeping rough

"I just want to thank you for your job, I have been hungry and I appreciate the help that I got over the past couple of days. I am feeling very happy for your work and one day I would like to help people in the future."

- Provision ran for 5 days.
- Support was given by 15 members of staff on the rota.
- 3 volunteers offered and completed shifts.
- We worked closely with Croydon Reach.



DHL donations

We received some incredibly generous donations from DHL in December. They delivered 12 huge boxes of food donated by their customers and have pledged to donate again soon with clothing for our members.

Zac, 7 fundraised £1,260 for Crisis!

Zac is 7 years old, and is passionate about ending homelessness. For the last few years Zac has fundraised for Crisis in Croydon and has used the money, with the help of his mum, Lee to purchase warm clothes, gloves, scarves, deodorant, soap and chocolate, to make sure people experiencing homelessness have a nice and useful present on Christmas Day.



Welcome to Tarron and Johnny

Since our last newsletter we have welcomed Tarron as our Learning Manager, who has previous experience of delivering educational services in the prison service and Johnny, who has experience working for charitable and non-profit organisations.

Farewell to Shaniqua and Megan

Our Poetry Tutor, Shaniqua and Megan our Trainee Clinical Psychologist are sadly moving on from the Skylight to pursue their careers.

They will be missed by staff and our members and we wish them all the best for the future.

KD's collection of poems

One of our members, KD, worked with Shaniqua to write a book of poetry based on their life experiences.





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CRISIS ICEBREAKER

Take an icy plunge to help
Crisis end homelessness.

Cold showers, wild swimming,
ice baths – the choice is yours.

Take part in your own DIY Icebreaker
fundraiser. Anytime, anywhere.

#CrisisIcebreaker



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