



PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

Sleepout Saturday 30 January

On Saturday 30 January, 31 people slept outside in the freezing temperatures to raise money for Worthing Churches Homeless Projects. WCHP have been running this event for many years participants this year included representatives from local churches and pupils from the Sir Robert Woodard Academy.

It was a freezing cold night, with the people huddled in their makeshift shelters in a local school playground. The event is not meant as a test of endurance, but as a taster to give people some idea of what it is actually like to have to spend a night outside open to the weather and noises.

Many of those who attended spent a very disturbed night, conscious of being cold and the noises around them. But they could get up the next morning and return to their warm homes, have a hot shower and probably cuddle up under a duvet to get some decent sleep.

Katie Collet Community Fundraiser for Worthing Churches Homeless Projects said 'We are really grateful to everyone who took part. We hope the event gave people an insight of how horrible it is to have to sleep rough. The money raised from this event will go towards the running costs of our day centre and four hostels. Every year we help in excess of 450 individuals, we would be unable to do this without the support of the local people for which we are eternally grateful.'

Worthing Churches Homeless Projects (WCHP) is a registered charity with a 17 year track record for providing care and support to homeless and insecurely housed single adults in the Worthing area. They are the only charity in the Worthing area providing accommodation and support to homeless and insecurely housed single adults. The charity initially started in 1991 by four individuals who took soup, blankets and sleeping bags to offer to the local homeless people. From this small beginning WCHP now has 40 staff members and over 250 volunteers providing a range of services. They currently have a day centre and 4 hostels.

If you would like any further information on the work of WCHP please contact the PR & Fundraising Team on 01903 227829, email info@wchp.org.uk, or visit their website www.wchp.org.uk.

Photos attached

Background Notes

Worthing Churches Homeless Projects (WCHP) started in 1991 when four local Christians took soup, blankets and sleeping bags to the seafront to offer to local homeless people. Today this vital Christian charity has 40 staff members and over 250 volunteers who enable WCHP to provide a range of services on 4 sites offering opportunities to homeless people to regain independence.

The work undertaken by Worthing Churches Homeless Projects is crucial. People using the services receive the specialist support they need to enable them to take the first steps back to independent living.. As with many other homeless charities, last year brought a cut of 30% in Government funding to WCHP, making the support of local people even more important. If

every person living in Worthing were to donate just £10 per year the services would be secure.

Further details can be obtained from Sue Stevens on 01903 227828 or sue.stevens@wchp.org.uk