



Help to bring the festive season to someone who has nowhere to call home.



Turning Tides, the largest provider of support for homeless men and women in West Sussex, fears a crisis is looming in our community as they look after record numbers of homeless people this winter.

Chief Executive, John Holmstrom explains: 'During the first lockdown, the Government's 'Everyone In' initiative brought a truly historic moment when homelessness in Britain was all but briefly ended - men and women were quickly housed in hotels and B&Bs to protect them from the virus. This initiative ended in July and since then we have tried to hold on to these people. Many are in our own services, which are now stretched to the limit. Some are in short term accommodation and their future is uncertain. And some, are once again, trying to survive on the streets. It is heartbreaking.'

On top of this, local councils report a doubling of people becoming homeless, as Covid steals jobs and livelihoods. Homelessness is escalating at the same time as the harsh winter months approach, and a second wave of the virus.

John continues: 'For people sleeping rough, and particularly for those homeless for the first time, surviving the winter will be unimaginable. We are doing everything we can to rise to these challenges but we don't have much time. The winter months bring the greatest risks, particularly to people who are forced to sleep rough. In previous years, communal night shelters have saved lives during freezing temperatures and severe weather - but they do not allow for safe social distancing. So this winter presents an enormous challenge.

Ruth Poyner, Head of Fundraising for Turning Tides, explains how the charity will be supporting people over the Christmas period:

"Alongside the practicalities of how to stay warm and dry, and what to eat, Christmas also highlights the pain of what is missing from a person's life, - family, food, safety, happiness. So we are determined that Christmas will not be cancelled."

Caring is never cancelled - we want these men and women to know they are not alone."

Turning Tides' frontline staff will be on hand with emotional and practical support, throughout December and especially on Christmas Day to show people they are cared for. Outreach workers will be searching the streets and countryside to find people who need support, across the north and south of the county.

The charity's Community Hubs will provide hot showers, clean clothes, food and other essentials. People who are rough sleeping will receive a take-away Christmas dinner and a Boxing Day food box with gifts. Those housed in Turning Tides hostels will experience a full Christmas dinner.

Ruth continues: "Almost 90% of the people we support are local - they are our people, our neighbours. When people donate to us, they are not just providing a Christmas meal, the money also provides shelter, counselling and practical support, from housing to employment. Any single donation could turn out to be the first step that changes someone's life. We really hope people will make a donation to help men and women rebuild their lives this Christmas."



TURNING TIDES
ENDING LOCAL HOMELESSNESS

TO DONATE VISIT:

WWW.TURNING-TIDES.ORG.UK/CHRISTMAS

OR PHONE: 01903 680740

FUNDRAISING@TURNING-TIDES.ORG.UK



OR SCAN
ME TO GO!

