

## **Canonsgrove update report from Somerset West and Taunton Council and YMCA Dulverton Group for Trull Parish Council Meeting:**

**July 2022:**

### Site Management Update

We are grateful for the ongoing onsite support of the homeless nursing team's regular presence, who support our residents with maintaining their health and wellbeing.

The GP from Taunton Vale Doctors continues to operate a weekly surgery from Canonsgrove. As always, this is very successful, and all appointments are always taken.



To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a BBQ was held for residents, volunteers and staff of YMCA Canonsgrove. The event was well attended and all those who joined had a great time. Delicious BBQ food was provided and it was a great occasion for staff and residents from the project to get together.



The popular singing sessions continue to take place, we have recently been able to hold these events outside so that everyone involved can enjoy the beautiful weather. Residents and a professional singer enjoy singing on a weekly basis and some residents are now joining in with their own instruments.

Some of our residents have been weeding and emptying our planters ready for the new bedding plants to be planted. Next month we will hopefully have a beautiful seating area for residents.

The church continues to offer support to our residents and some have started to regularly join the Sunday Evening Shute Service.

During the past month a volunteer has been attending once a week to offer art therapy sessions. Several residents have been attending and have found it to be a very positive experience. The sessions were a pilot to ascertain whether there is sufficient demand to continue. We would like to thank the volunteer for her time and hope she will decide to continue.

The food bank also continues to support the project and our residents. We would like to acknowledge this support. In addition, a dedicated core of volunteers continues to regularly provide sandwiches for our residents which are always gratefully received.

We continue with our relationship with Sainsbury's and Lidl, the stores donate goods that have slightly damaged packaging for our residents. These donations can be food or toiletries etc. Our residents are very appreciative of this and would like to thank both supermarkets for their continuing support.

## **Covid-19 Update**

Since the last report, we have had no new Covid-19 infections at the YMCA Canonsgrove project, neither with staff nor residents. Covid-19 is becoming more prevalent in the wider community and therefore we are continuing with following to request that all staff, visitors and residents at our accommodation provision follow Covid-19 protocols when on site. Measures to reduce the risk of transmission on site include social distancing, adequately ventilating all workspaces and mask wearing.

## **Moving On**

We continue to actively seek alternative accommodation for our residents and every effort is being made to find appropriate move on provisions.

## **Occupancy Data**

Resident Occupancy Level	21
Number of new residents	0
Number of residents evicted in the last month	1
Number of Residents who have moved on	3

## General Canonsgrove Data

Total residents accommodated	189
Total number of residents moved on	131
Total number of evictions	43
Total residents who have returned	6
Residents moved on supported by RSI team that have sustained their tenancy	43/43

## Of those that have moved on:

Own Tenancies (Includes those in Satellite)	72 (not all require support from RSI team)
Hospital/Rehab	5
Temporary Accommodation	12
Inter Hostel Transfer	11
Returned to Rough Sleeping	3
Returned to Family/Former Accommodation	18
Prison	2
Pathway to Independence service	3
Unknown	5
Employment with tied accommodation	1

The RSI team continues to work with colleagues at YMCA-DG and the Council's Housing Options Team to ensure that all avenues are being explored in finding the right accommodation for those customers who have more complex needs. The weekly 'task and targeting' meeting continues to take place to explore move on accommodation and support options for all Canonsgrove residents.

The 'Rough Sleeping Pathway' implemented within the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Team continues to be embedded well with the team currently focusing on ensuring each Canonsgrove resident has a comprehensive support plan.

#### Incidents and anti-social behaviour

Please refer to separate 'Canonsgrove contact report.'

#### **Accommodation Strategy and new accommodation solutions for Canonsgrove residents**

A summary of progress is provided below. Please note that only updates and progress since last month has been provided:

Accommodation and support needs for each remaining resident at Canonsgrove are being reassessed and updated in July to ensure that move on options which are in development continue to meet the needs of customers.

Plans for a new supply of accommodation remain promising. Tenancy sign ups to the first *Housing First* properties in the district are now complete with customers settling into their new homes well and all currently sustaining their tenancies.

The Council's *Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-2025* bid was successfully submitted in February 2022 with funding allocations released to Council's in May. Information relating to the funding allocations remains under embargo however recruitment to vacant posts in the Council's *Rough Sleeping Initiative* team has commenced

The outcome of our bid to the *Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme* for capital and revenue funding has recently been announced. The Council was successful in one of its two bids; the successful bid will enable the conversion of a Council property into four self-contained properties.

Feedback in relation to the unsuccessful bid has not yet been received however those organisations involved are meeting later this month to explore alternative funding streams.