

Quarterly Bulletin

SAFE HAVEN SUSSEX CIC

Sophia Papanicolaou
Head of Service



Here are some updates and a few words from Sophia Papanicolaou, Head of Service

Welcome to our quarterly bulletin!

Our Bulletin is sent out Quarterly each Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter, we print copies for you but it is also available on the website under "News". So if you are new to SHS or missed one, you can take a look at our previous Bulletins.

There are a few updates in this section as it has been a busy few months! Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to all the Residents who have continued to support us by attending the Resident Forum Meetings each month. Your time and dedication have been key in keeping our service running smoothly and effectively, whilst helping us to organise great events and activities, it also helps me put together these bulletins!

We have welcomed some new team members, you may have already met them, and we have more joining us in the coming weeks.

We have had lots of inhouse workshops, Monthly Resident Forum Meetings and the Christmas Dinner afternoon which all of you were invited to. I have shared some photos later on in this bulletin.

We are always working on Service Improvement and have sent out the Annual Quality Survey to all residents. This survey is really important to gather feedback about the service and accommodation, if you haven't completed one already please do, and remember everyone who returns a completed survey is entered into a prize draw to win a £50 voucher.

Completing the survey helps highlight concerns or areas of required improvement. We can then work on making positive changes and work towards our mission of providing the best Supported Accommodation Service in Brighton.

We hope you enjoy this bulletin, let us know if you have any suggestions for the next one!

In this Bulletin:

Updates and Upcoming

Access to Funds and Resources

Successes and Achievements

Events and Activities

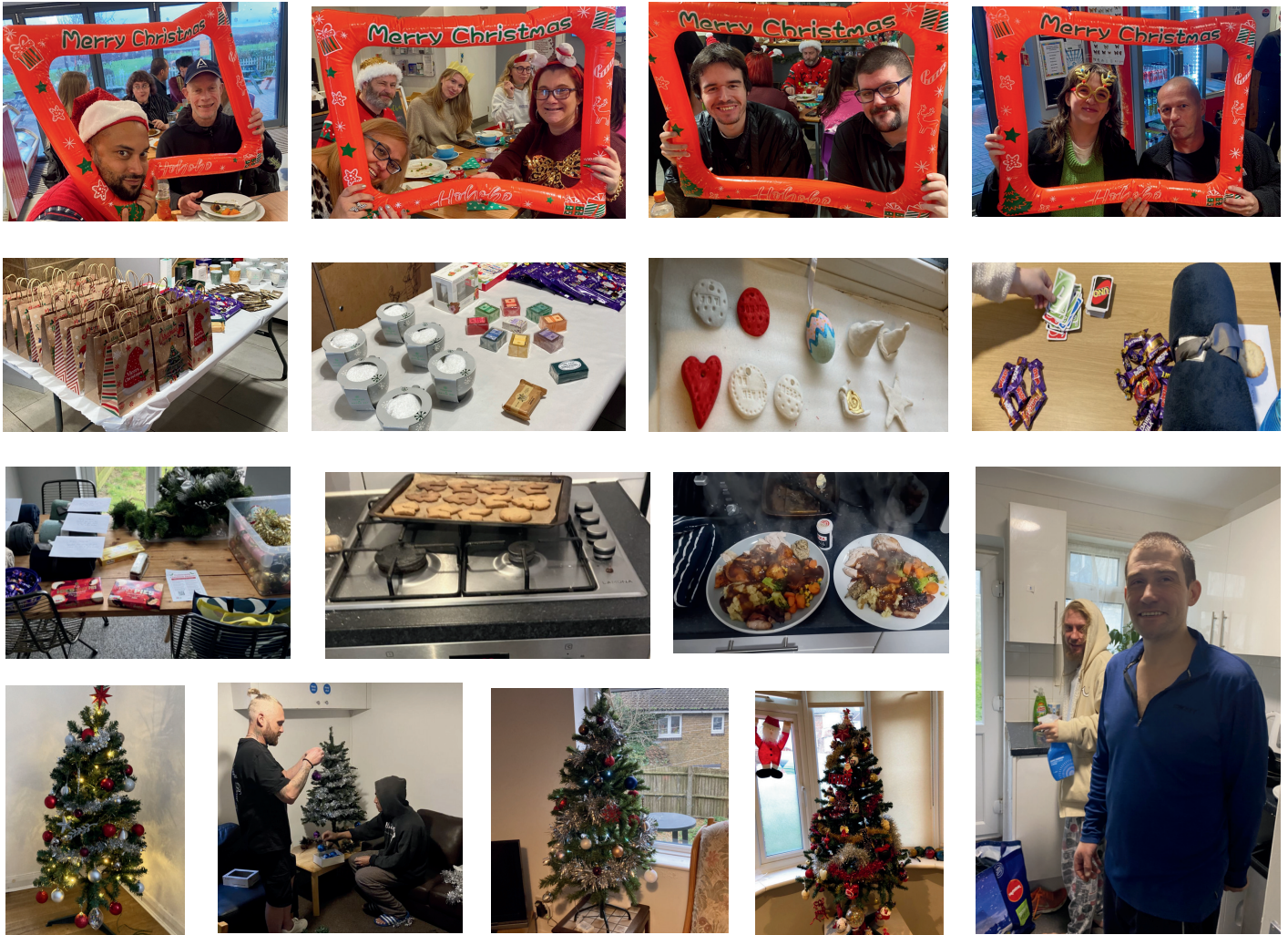
Move On Options

Events and Activities

We've had a great few months, full of different events, workshops and activities. The Christmas Dinner was a success! It was so lovely to see you all having a nice time. Everyone went home with a full tummy and a gift bag of goodies. We will definitely put more of these on in the future.

We hope you all liked your gifts that were sent out in December. Many thanks to Tracey in the Property & Finance Department who organised these and put them together.

As well as the Christmas Dinner we have had lots of things going on in your houses, such as tree decorating, baking, cooking, and playing games.



Upcoming Events and Activities

We like to encourage you to put forward suggestions for things you would like to do as a group. Information about upcoming events and activities are put on your noticeboards, so please look out for posters.

If you are interested in helping to arrange future whole service events you can help us by attending the Resident Forum Meetings. Here's a snippet of what's coming up over the next few months:

Renting Ready Course

Photography Competition

Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic in a Park

Construction Workshops and CSCS funding through Wilmott Dixon

Move On: Options and Support

SHS Move On Schemes

- Readiness for Independent Living Assessment
- Renting Ready Course
- Move On Grant
- Deposit Loan
- Transitional Support

Move On Options

Safe Haven Sussex CIC provides temporary supported accommodation. We tailor support around each individual, so whatever stage you are at in your journey, we aim to support you to get closer to living independently in the future. Every resident will be supported to have a Move On Plan, and we have put together our own schemes at Safe Haven Sussex to remove some of the challenges and barriers of moving out.

Start your Move On Plan by completing the Readiness for Independent Living Assessment with your Support Coordinator. This will help work out what areas might need to be worked on, such as budgeting and tenancy skills, and what options may be available. We have leaflets available for you to read about these options in more detail.



Renting Ready

Once you have started the Readiness for Independent Living Assessment you may get the option to attend the Renting Ready Course, no matter what your move on options are, this course is suitable for everyone. The next course is a 6 week course, with 1 session per week. Please look out for the poster on your noticeboard and ask your Support Coordinator or another staff member if you would like to attend.

Move On Grant

When you have found somewhere to move to there will be moving costs and you may need items of furniture and household items to get you started. We have put together this Move On Grant scheme to support you with some of these costs. It is available to residents who have made regular service charge payments and therefore not in arrears. This must also be a planned move. If you meet the criteria we may be able to offer 25% of your Service Charge payments from the last 12 months. This payment is a grant and you won't need to pay it back.

Deposit Loan

A big barrier to moving out is finding a deposit. We have set aside a pot of funds which is used to lend to eligible residents as an interest free loan which is paid directly to the new landlord/agent for the deposit. SHS have an agreement with Wave Community Bank to process the funds and monitor repayments. SHS cover the admin fee for this. Repayments are worked out based on your affordability and all repayments go back into the pot to lend to more residents in the future. Before applying for the loan you will need to open up a Wave Community Bank Account, and start saving. You can start with just £5 to open the account.



Successes and Achievements:

This quarters main story has been written by an ex resident.

I moved into Safehaven in 2019. Struggled with underline health problems. Since being in Safehaven I learnt a lot of things, how you get your life back on track by putting the trust into staff and security. Yes, I had good days and bad but if it wasn't for staff to help, I wouldn't be where I am now. I am truly grateful for Safehaven to get me into things I really enjoyed photography, swimming, beach and outdoor life. I left Safehaven in November 2023 to start my new life away from Brighton. It was the best move and decision I ever made and never look back. Thanks for clearing my life up and finding happiness and joy at last. Dealing with giving up Alcohol and Drugs definitely change me as a person. I can honestly say now I've moved on more built my own Dance Group

Put your faith into Safehaven and trust and you will start a new life and feel yourself again. Thank you, blessings, to everyone from my spiritual light 🙏🌟🙌❤️

Other Successes and Achievements :

11 People had positive move on's out of the service since October. Through Private Rental, Southdowns, and Relocating to other areas. Congratulations!

Over £1,100 was raised since October to support residents with things such as courses, Passports, , and to help with costs of moving into their new accommodation.

Lots of residents have been attending events, activities and learning, with other organisations such as Justlife, Evolve, Step-by-Step and Cascades.

Access to Funds and Resources:

In our last Resident Forum Meeting, attendees suggested we provide some information about how to access funded travel and access to resources in the community. Here is some information we have found:

Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card

This is provided to those unemployed claiming Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit for 3-9 months (18-24 year olds) or 3-12 months (over 25s). Other benefit recipients may receive a Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card from 3 months of their claim and if they are actively engaged with a Jobcentre Plus adviser. Cardholders are entitled to a 50% discount on selected rail tickets.

Wave Community Bank Discounted Travel, and Discounted Gym Membership.

Bus Tickets:

Members of Wave Community Bank receive 20% member discount for annual bus tickets.

1. You can pay the discounted price in one go. To arrange your annual ticket, send an email to info@wavecb.org.uk, call on 0300 303 3188 or visit us at the head office in Hove Town Hall. Please ensure you have the money available in your savings account with to cover the full cost of the ticket.
2. If you cannot afford to pay upfront, then you can apply for a loan to cover the cost. This will end up less cost per month than if you were to buy monthly or weekly bus tickets.

Freedom Leisure Gym Memberships:

Members get 15% off membership to Freedom Leisure's seven sites across Brighton and Hove with gym, swimming and fitness class facilities PLUS the discount can be applied to a Connected benefit that covers ALL Freedom Leisure's sites.

Scan the QR code
for more
information



wave
community
bank