

The Haberdashers' Company: How We Help

School-Home Support



The Haberdashers' Company has been supporting School-Home Support with charitable donations since 2007. Our Company Contact is Jess Bond, Freeman.



SHS practitioners work with some of the most disadvantaged children, young people and families. The children they support are battling issues including poverty, housing and domestic violence. 128,000 children were homeless or living in temporary accommodation last winter, and in the first two terms of last year more than 800,000 children were persistently absent from school. Persistently absent children are more likely to be engaging in risky behaviours such as drug use and gang activity – 83% of young knife offenders in 2018.

SHS's 45 trained practitioners identify and tackle the immediate problems that are barriers to learning - addressing housing issues including unsafe accommodation, overcrowding and threats of eviction. They also deal with serious issues such as lack of food, domestic violence, health and mental health problems, and substance misuse.



Jake's Story



“Jake was referred by the school due to low attendance – he had missed 72% of Year 10. At the time of referral, Jake lived at home with his father. In a meeting with the school, Jake’s father revealed that Jake had been brought up in a chaotic and unstable environment, and had witnessed many violent incidents between family members. Indeed, Jake’s mother had previously reported the father for domestic abuse and children’s social care had been involved.

Jake eventually moved to his maternal grandmother’s home. I therefore attended a home visit with his grandmother, who revealed that she was very concerned for Jake and confirmed that he had been brought up with violent, abusive, unstable and unpredictable parenting. I followed up with several home visits, creating plans with Jake to increase the stability in his life whilst at school.

Jake also suffered from asthma but did not own any inhalers, and sometimes turned up to school struggling to breathe. Unfortunately, none of his family members were willing to support him so together we arranged a review with the doctors to get the inhalers. He is now also in the position to get more inhalers when he needs them.

Since receiving support from SHS, Jake has made fantastic progress. His attendance has risen a huge amount from 28% the previous year to a massive 84.85%! It was also great to hear straight from Jake how much of an impact I had had – not just his attendance, but also his asthma.”

Adele (practitioner)



The Haberdashers' Company: How We Help

Place2Be



The Haberdashers' Company has been supporting Place2Be through charitable donations since 2015. Our Company Contact is Past Master Deborah Knight.



Place2Be provides emotional and therapeutic services in primary and secondary schools, building children's resilience through talking, creative work and play. Place2Be provides children's mental health services in 286 primary and secondary schools, reaching a total school population of 129,000 pupils, helping them to cope with wide-ranging and often complex social issues including bullying, bereavement, domestic violence, family breakdown, neglect and trauma. Last year 232 schools took part in their in-depth training programmes.

“Place2Be helps you feel less angry, make friends, get more confident, sort out your problems, make you feel special, make everything better.” Girl, 10



Poppy's Story



Five-year-old Poppy spent every night crying over her mother, who sent her away to live with her uncle when her father left because she was struggling to cope. While Poppy enjoyed school, she lost sleep and was often sluggish and tired in class. She became very attached to her friends and would react in angry outbursts when she felt excluded.

Counselling gave Poppy the chance to do and say what she wanted. Although she was nervous at first, she soon developed a warm and trusting relationship with her counsellor. She loved playing in the room and was particularly interested in the baby dolls.

Poppy quickly became a kind of mum for the dolls. She looked after them and struggled to say goodbye to them at the end of sessions. She would cry, refuse to leave the room and demand they come with her. This role-play was Poppy's way of responding to her own neglect in the safety of the Place2Be room.

After time, Poppy settled into a routine at home and school. She was calmer and began to respect her friends' boundaries more. She showed her counsellor that the 'babies' were becoming healthier and happier and explained how sad they were to be ending counselling for the year. Before saying goodnight Poppy named the babies for the first time and gave each one a kiss on the cheek. She was now comfortable enough at home to sleep in her own bed every night.



The Haberdashers' Company: How We Help

Fine Cell Work



FINE CELL WORK



The Haberdashers' Company has been supporting Fine Cell Work through charitable donations since 2002. Our Company Contact is Mark Jopling, Liveryman.

Fine Cell Work is a charity which makes beautiful handmade products in British prisons, many designed in collaboration with some of the country's leading contemporary designers.

Teaching prisoners high-quality needlework boosts their self-worth, instils self-discipline, fosters hope and encourages them to lead independent, crime-free lives.



Stephen's Story



FINE CELL WORK



"I came to prison a broken man with little to live for. Mental health problems, self-harming and alcoholism had defined my life. I was introduced to Fine Cell Work as a way to occupy my time constructively, to take my mind off the problems I had, and of course, to earn me some money. However, I was not prepared for everything else that FCW gave me, and continues to give me.

Over the months, and years, I gained a lot of experience and soon other prisoners were coming to me for advice. Coming to me! I had never experienced that before and it was a tremendous boost to my self-esteem, self-respect and pride. I enjoyed sewing, it cleared my head of the clutter of life. It was me, my needle, my pattern, my colours, counting, sewing, re-counting: the disarray and disorder of life in prison was replaced with calm, quietness, order and self-possession. I was getting so much from FCW and putting so much into it that I was delighted when I was offered the role of FCW coordinator for the prison. It is a role that I have done for a number of years now.

Since the beginning I have grown into the role. But more than that, FCW has helped me deal with my mental health problems in a practical way, it has helped me manage my self-harming, it has given me back my sense of pride in myself, my self-esteem and self-worth. These are things I can hold onto forever. My skills in sewing which FCW has taught me will stay with me, and I hope, develop and continue to give me, and others, pleasure and contentment."



The Haberdashers' Company: How We Help

999 Club



Making change count
for homeless people



The Haberdashers' Company has supported the 999 Club since 2008. Based in Lewisham, one of the top 20% most deprived local authorities in England, the 999 Club has a 25-year history of working with homeless people, most of whom experience high levels of poor health, poverty and disadvantage.

Rough sleeping is a devastating experience. It is extremely dangerous and has a very negative impact on both physical and mental health, resulting in an average life expectancy of just 43 for women and 47 for men.

999 aims to provide a warm welcome for people who are often ignored, isolated or stigmatised, empowering them to gain the confidence, skills and support needed to transform their lives.

Despite their complex needs most of them do not meet the criteria required for the local authority to find them a housing solution. In the absence of this support, 999 aims to provide holistic services for both rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness in order to significantly reduce the number of homeless people in the borough over the next five years.



M's Story



Making change count
for homeless people

“This is first time for 18 months that I’ve been able to sleep with both eyes shut.”



‘M’ slept rough for about eighteen months before coming in to the 999 Club. *‘I was trying to get out of being homeless, but I just wasn’t having any success.’* M sought help and advice from various places, including the housing officers at the council, the Department for Work and Pensions, Citizens Advice Bureau and charities. But none of them could offer him a way out homelessness.

Someone he met sleeping on the streets suggested that he come in to the 999 Club in order to get some food, a shower and some fresh clothes. *‘I was taken aback by the warm and friendly nature of the staff team, and they made me feel particularly welcome.’*

M was assessed and given a place in the Night Shelter, *‘At last somewhere safe to sleep.’* Working with the 999 Club Advice and Support Manager he was put in contact with a private landlord who would accept him. He went to view a bedsit, moved in, and began looking for work in the building industry, getting back to what he used to do before he became homeless.

‘I still can’t understand how the 999 Club was able to move me from rough sleeping into long term rented accommodation within 11 days of me entering the Night Shelter. Staff from the 999 Club even followed up with phone calls just to touch base and see how I was coping. A place of my own after eighteen months on the streets means I feel safe at night.’



The Haberdashers' Company: How We Help

Forward Trust



The Haberdashers' Company has been supporting Forward Trust with charitable donations since 2002. Our Company Contact is Jane Cockerell, Freeman.

Forward Trust helps ex-offenders to overcome the complex challenges they face to break the cycles of addiction and crime. 41.8% of prisoners have re-offended because of addiction problems, so Forward Trust delivers drug and alcohol recovery services in 18 prisons and 3 community settings.

Over 75% of prisoners are released to unemployment, so Forward Trust also offers employment services: real paid jobs, employability and vocational training, employment coaching and in-work support. One third leave prison without stable accommodation to move on to, so Forward Trust helps them find somewhere to live, via placements with private landlords plus tenancy support.

Forward Trust believes that anyone, whatever their history and circumstances, is capable of lasting change, of finding the help they need to move forward from a life of crime and addiction, and of building a fulfilling and productive future with family, friends, work and community.

