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8 March 2021

To All Padley Supporters

Dear colleagues

I wanted to write to you to say a huge 'thank you' for all your continued support. During the pandemic the citizens of Derby and Derbyshire, alongside many local organisations, have been really generous such that we have been able to continue our services to homeless and disadvantaged people. On behalf of all those Padley has helped to lead better lives, thank you once more.

You may have seen in the local press the news that all the services currently delivered at Padley House are to be re-located during the early part of 2022 as a result of the huge Becketwell regeneration project. I will explain later in this letter why this provides Padley with a real opportunity to better meet our charitable objectives. But firstly, I need to share with you the background to some very difficult decisions the Trustees took last week.

As you will know, we are determined at Padley to do the very best for our service users, including, of course, making sure that they are always kept as safe as possible. It was with great concern, therefore, that the Trustees had a report that suggested that the zero-tolerance drug environment that we demand was not, at the present time, in place so that we were unable to provide a guaranteed safe environment at Padley House. We have instigated an externally led investigation which will enable the Trustees to take any action required. Meanwhile, the Board last week made the very difficult decision to temporarily close all activities at Padley House. We have worked in partnership with Derby Homes and Derby City Council to ensure all residents received alternative offers of accommodation and support. Just one of the twelve residents decided to make his own independent arrangements, all the others were found another place to stay approved by Derby Homes. We are working with our partners, the City Food Alliance, so that those who need food, toiletries and advice will be able to do so by accessing their services. We are hopeful to reopen very soon.



The Becketwell re-generation development should bring much needed new life into the City centre. However, it does mean that Padley House and our adjoining warehouse will need to be re-located. We are working closely with the City Council to make sure that we can move smoothly to other premises. The Council have assured us that the moves will be fully funded by them and that the new premises will be at least as equivalent in size and facilities as to what we have now. We hope to be in our new premises in about a year.

We have also taken this opportunity to reflect on what we do and how we do it, and particularly how we might work more closely with other partners, including the City Council, to better meet the needs of homeless people and those many individuals who need much support to enjoy a fulfilled life. As you will know, the problems are so great that no one organisation can hope to solve them, but working together we can make a real difference.

The old Day Centre on the ground floor of Padley House will have a new focus. At the new Padley Centre we don't just want to help people with food, clothes, a shower, friendship and so on- we also want to help people become more independent by giving them the skills to earn a living, look after their own health and find secure long-term housing. We will be running courses in things like cooking skills, basic IT, writing a letter of application, healthy living, etc. which will be open to anyone looking to move out of the awful cycle of dependency. I think that this is a really exciting opportunity to play a major part in the fight against poverty and disadvantage in Derby. But there is much work to do to plan and fund such a vision. The first task, of course, is to identify a building from where we can operate our services. A facility which can also accommodate the warehouse on the same site. Good progress is being made to secure such premises and I hope to be able to more specific in the near future.

A new accommodation service will be very different to that which we currently provide. The national and local strategy is to provide many more self-contained units (one-bed flats, for example) with regular support from staff, rather than hostel-type accommodation. This gives higher levels of dignity and supports an individual to become part of the 'mainstream' rather than being institutionalised in a hostel. Derby City Council feel there is enough emergency accommodation within the City but not enough supported accommodation within a community environment. We have been asked to be part of this city-wide strategy by managing 18 such self-contained units- six more than our existing hostel. Negotiations are well advanced with Derby Homes (who deliver the City's housing strategy) and planning is now taking place regarding how the change from the 'now' to the 'new' will be undertaken. Whilst this is a major change, and will bring many challenges, I think this is exactly the right way forward and very much matches our values of Partnership, Respect, Integrity, Development and Empowerment. A few people will always require a sheltered hostel environment, but how much better if people can be in their own home supported by caring, experienced Padley Staff!

We live in challenging times! Padley has great work to do as we continue to support those who are homeless, are in danger of becoming homeless or suffer from social isolation and disadvantage. The shape of our service is changing to better reflect the changing world in which we live. Not looking at homelessness in isolation. Restoring the dignity of those without a home sooner rather than later. Developing a service where safeguarding of the most vulnerable is put at the centre. And as we undergo these changes, I know that we



Foundation
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will depend, more than ever, on the unstinting efforts of our staff, volunteers and fund-raisers alike. Thank you so much for all your love, care and work in the past. So many have benefited from it. And thank you in anticipation for the excellence of what you will do in the future to enhance the lives of those who come to Padley for support.

Yours faithfully

Allan

Allan Shaw
Chair

PS Don't forget our shop in East Street will be opening again on 12 April!

