

StopGap Sheffield

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts
2023-24**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Report for the period
1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024**

Charity Reference and Administration

Registered Number: 1146601

Registered: 27 March 2012

Registered office:
Sheffield Cathedral
Church Street
Sheffield S1 1HA

Trustees (including officers):

Jo Abbott (Chair)

Louise Finnigan (Secretary)

Souleymane Bah

Timothy Renshaw

Aimee Lowe

Wendy Robson

Retiring Trustees:

Tina Powell-Wiffen retired as a Treasurer and Trustee in January 2024.

It was agreed that all Trustees would act as joint Treasurers.

Administrator (part time):

Liz Grasso

Bankers:

Virgin Money

Note: Public Benefit:

In compiling this report and in exercising their powers and duties, the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

Structure, Governance and Management**Governing Document:**

StopGap Sheffield is a Charitable Association whose constitution was adopted on the 4th October 2011 and amended by a Resolution passed at a Special General Meeting on the 28th February 2012.

Governance and Management:

The Charity is managed and administered by trustees comprising its officers and other trustees elected at the last Annual General Meeting or co-opted during the year.

All Trustees must retire at each Annual General Meeting but are eligible for re-election. The day to day running of the Charity is the responsibility of its officers (the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer).

The Trustees meet regularly and receive reports from the officers and from other appropriate persons on the operations of the Charity, its finances, fundraising and governance. The trustees take decisions regarding strategic and policy direction, significant items of expenditure and other major issues.

Reserves

The trustees feel that it is necessary to hold a minimum of £5,000 in reserves: to cover all foreseeable expenses for several months and to ensure that StopGap can continue to offer a basic minimal emergency service for its most vulnerable clients for the following season.

Objectives, Activities and Achievements**Charitable Objectives:**

The objectives of StopGap Sheffield (hereinafter referred to as StopGap), as stated in its constitution, are 'the relief of poverty of the homeless, temporary homeless and rough sleepers in the City of Sheffield by the provision of overnight emergency accommodation and related support services.

Method of operation

StopGap arranges and pays for short-term overnight accommodation in Sheffield for those who may otherwise find themselves on the streets or sleeping rough.

Accommodation is in hotels that have been approved both by the Rough Sleeper Service, Framework, and ourselves. We do not possess, hire, or otherwise provide our own accommodation.

StopGap liaises closely with various local voluntary sector agencies accepting referrals from them of individuals as appropriate (and subject to availability in all cases), usually for one night at a time and usually for a maximum of 3 nights per individual.

Individuals are asked to report back to the referral agency, or to another appropriate agency, the following day; and must be re-referred by an appropriate agency for a subsequent night's stay.

StopGap itself does not select, engage with or interview people directly. We have no office or permanent staff, other than a part-time administrator, and no volunteers.

Achievements for the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024:

The numbers of people sleeping rough in and around Sheffield city centre have been increasing, and in line with other homeless agencies, StopGap has seen an increase in the demand for accommodation.

To address this, from March 2023 we agreed as a charity to run a pilot project whereby through our partner agencies, we place people who are newly at risk of rough sleeping in appropriate hotel accommodation.

This would then allow Framework to work with them to find longer term accommodation. The pilot would be aimed at low-risk people finding themselves recently homeless, and not clients already known to services. These people would be risk assessed by the agency and placed in suitable hotel accommodation. StopGap will pay a maximum of £80 per person per night for a maximum of 3 nights.

The pilot has been constantly under review, and it was agreed that it should be extended to July 2024, when we would review whether to continue the scheme at a Trustee meeting.

As a charity, Stop Gap have also:

- Continued with their "Sponsor a Room" campaign.
- Produced a newsletter update to our supporters with detailed case studies of people that we have helped.
- The Trustees continued to meet regularly via Microsoft Teams.

Issues:

One of the ongoing challenges we have faced is a lack of accommodation in the city for rough sleepers to be placed in. There is demand from not just Sheffield Council but other Councils in the South Yorkshire area, as well as social services and the NHS amongst others.

People placed through StopGap:

During the 12-month period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, StopGap provided a total of 103 bed nights for a total of 14 people

MONTH	NO. OF PEOPLE PLACED	GENDER	AGE	NATIONALITY	NO.OF BEDNIGHTS USED	REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS
JULY	1	Male- 1 Female-	18-25- 25-40-1 40+	Iranian	3	Eviction- Relationship Breakdown- NASS leaver ¹ - Non-Priority need- Other-
AUGUST	5	Male-2 Female-3	18-25-1 25-40-2 40+-2	British-3 African- 2	14	Eviction- Relationship Breakdown- NASS leaver- Non-Priority need-2 Other-3
SEPTEMBER	5	Male-3 Female 2	18-25-3 25-40-1 40+ One not recorded	British-3 African-2	14	Eviction-2 Relationship Breakdown- NASS leaver-2 Non-Priority need-1 Other-
OCTOBER	7	Male-7 Female-	18-25-3 25-40-4 40+	British-1 Afghanistan-3 Iranian-1 Iraqi-1 Latvian-1	17	Eviction-1 Relationship Breakdown-1 NASS leaver-5 Non-Priority need- Other-
NOVEMBER	8	Male-5 Female-3	18-25-1 25-40-4 40+- 2	Hungarian-2 Somalian-1 Sudanese-2 British-1 Kurdish-1 Eritrean-1	14	Eviction-2 Relationship Breakdown-1 NASS leaver-4 Non-Priority need- Other-
DECEMBER	2	Male-1 Female-1	18-25- 25-40-2 40+	Chinese-1 Eritrean-1	6	Eviction- Relationship Breakdown- NASS leaver-1 Non-Priority need-1 Other-
JANUARY	2	Male-2 Female-	18-25- 25-40-1 40+- 1	Sudanese-2	3	Eviction- Relationship Breakdown- NASS leaver-2 Non-Priority need- Other-
FEBRUARY	1	Male- Female-1	18-25- 25-40- 40+ Not recorded	Ethiopian-1	2	Eviction- Relationship Breakdown-1 NASS leaver- Non-Priority need- Other-
MARCH	8	Male-6 Female-2	18-25-3 25-40-3 40+-2	Sudanese-2 Eritrean-3 Afghanistan-1 Iranian-1 Sierra Leone-1	24	Eviction-4 Relationship Breakdown-2 NASS leaver-1 Non-Priority need-1 Other-
APRIL	2	Male-2 Female-	18-25- 25-40-2 40+	Iranian-1 Slovakian-1	6	Eviction- Relationship Breakdown- NASS leaver-1 Non-Priority need- Other-1
MAY	0				0	
JUNE	0				0	
TOTALS	41	Male-29 Female-12	18-25-8 25-40-19	British-8	103	Eviction- Relationship Breakdown-

¹ NASS leaver - Someone who has left National Asylum Support service accommodation

			40+-7	Eastern European-4 African-18 Middle East-6 Other-5		NASS leaver- Non-Priority need- Other-
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Case study - SA

SA was found rough sleeping by the Street Outreach team on 23/10/24. She had recently had a caesarean section but the baby was stillborn. The pregnancy was the result of sexual assault and so her husband had asked her to leave the marital home. Children and families social care who had been supporting SA prior to her C-section was no longer involved as the baby had not survived birth.

The council were unclear if they had a duty to house due to complications around her immigration status and around whether she was homeless due to a possible right to return to the marital home.

The client had suffered significant trauma in the months prior to her rough sleeping and due the recent major surgery of a C-Section- she was at significant risk of both mental and physical harm while on the streets

Stopgap funding meant that SOT could accommodate this woman in a safe place while further investigations were undertaken. It also helped gain SA's trust so SOT were able to support her to seek medical care for an infection of her surgical wound. SA was admitted to hospital for treatment from the Stopgap placement and on leaving hospital was able to be placed under discretionary RSI funding.

Summary:

Numbers of referrals this year have increased from last year, and of the people who were placed, the main reason for homelessness (where noted) was eviction.

Most referrals came via Framework's rough sleeper service on weekdays. However, other agencies, such as St Wilfrid's Centre, the Archer Project, the Snowdrop Project, and City of Sanctuary can refer to Framework during office hours to access StopGap accommodation.

As in previous years, we have continued to give priority to those people who are most likely to be able to engage with services to increase their chances of obtaining longer-term accommodation in the near future. Statistics consistently show that a significant proportion of people that are seen are currently engaging with other services after accessing the StopGap scheme, principally by signing up to Framework's Rough Sleeper service.

Fundraising:

We were awarded a grant of £1,500 from the Sheffield Town Trust subscription service for 2021/22/23.

The Trustees constantly review funding needs at their Trustee meetings.

We aim to produce at least one newsletter or information update annually, generally in the late autumn.

We also have a website (www.stopgapsheffield.org) through which it is possible to make online donations, as well as a Facebook page.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank our Independent Examiner, Dr Peter Cromar, who carries out a thorough job, voluntarily, on our accounts.

Thank you to all of the homelessness agencies that StopGap work with - StopGap couldn't do our work without your knowledge, help and expertise.

Thank you also to Liz Grasso, our part-time Administrator, and our Trustees.

Declaration-

The Trustees of StopGap Sheffield declare that they have approved the above Trustees' Annual Report, and the following have signed on behalf of all of the Trustees-

Signatures-

Full Name - Jo Abbott (Chair)

Signature-



Dated-

28/1/2025

Full Name - Louise Finnigan (Secretary)

Signature-



Dated-

28-1-2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 30TH JUNE 2024

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS 2023-24	TOTAL FUNDS 2023-24	TOTAL FUNDS 2022-23
	£	£	£
Receipts			
Subscriptions	50.00	50.00	30.00
Donations	2427.00	2427.00	2175.00
Grants	1500.00	1500.00	4500.00
Total Receipts	3977.00	3977.00	6705.00
Payments			
Self-Employed Administrator	4800.00	4800.00	4800.00
Administration	108.00	108.00	74.00
Sundries	85.00	85.00	
Trustee Insurance	431.00	431.00	434.00
Accommodation costs	6500.00	6500.00	3584.00
Total Payments	11924.00	11924.00	8892.00
Excess of payments over receipts	-7947.00	-7947.00	-2187.00
BALANCE SHEETS AS OF 30TH JUNE 2024			
Employment of Assets			
Current Assets:			
Virgin Bank	28843.00	28843.00	36790.00
Creditors			-594.00
Total	36790.00	28843.00	38383.00
Assets employed:			
Accumulated Fund as 1 st July 2023	36196.00	36196.00	
Prior Year Adjustment	594.00 ¹		
Deficit for the year	-7947.00	-7947.00	-2187.00
Accumulated Fund as at 30th June 2023	28843.00	28843.00	36196.00

Statement of Independent Examiner-

I have examined the books and records of StopGap Sheffield, and find the statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 30th June 2024, and the balance sheet as at 30th June 2024, to be a true and fair reflection of the organisation's affairs.

P. Cromar

Dr Peter Cromar -

Dated - 20.1.2025

¹ In previous years the Trustees had made provision in respect of two outstanding invoices payable for bed and breakfast accommodation. The Trustees now consider that these invoices will not be paid and so have adjusted the accounts accordingly.