



# St Martins Housing Trust

Addressing the needs of single homeless people in Norwich and Norfolk

Your **legacy** counts

# About St Martins Housing Trust



Kevin Long  
Chairperson

*Everyone deserves to have a place called home.*

*Sadly, many single people face homelessness due to life's difficulties.*

*At St. Martins Housing Trust we believe it is important to help single homeless people to regain the ability to live in their own homes.*

*We provide accommodation and assistance to help such people rebuild their lives, to move to a place called home.*

*Although we work closely with local authorities we are an independent Charity.*

*We need the generosity of local people so that we can improve our services to single homeless people – some of the most vulnerable people in our society.*

*Legacy gifts go directly to providing for their needs.*

*We hope you will remember single homeless people in your will, by leaving a legacy to St. Martins Housing Trust.*

*Thank you very much.*

## How it all began



St Martins at Oak

St Martins Housing Trust started life as the Norwich Night Shelter Project. The original Night Shelter at St James Church on Barrack Street opened in 1972 in response to the growing problem of homelessness in

Norwich. In spite of the very basic amenities, the Night Shelter was in ever increasing demand, and within a few years new premises were needed to cope with the swelling number of Night Shelter users.

In 1976 the Shelter relocated to St Martins at Oak, a redundant church on Oak Street. From this point on the Trust developed a wide range of complementary services that responded to the needs and expectations of homeless people. In April 2002 the Night Shelter was replaced by a new, purpose built Direct Access and Resettlement Hostel (Bishopbridge House) at Gas Hill, off Riverside Road.

# The Trust's Services...

## Bishopbridge House

A 30 bed Direct Access and Resettlement Hostel. The aim is to provide direct access accommodation from the street and after a period of stabilisation, a route out of homelessness.



John

*Anyone's life can take unexpected turns, and mine has been no different. A series of bad choices coupled with an alcohol problem left me homeless with no-one to turn to. I, as many others have, had exhausted the goodwill of friends and I found myself left with no*

*options but to sleep on the streets of Norwich.*

*I made contact with the rough sleepers team at St Martins and I was lucky enough to be given a place at Bishopbridge House. By this time I had lost all sense of self. I had no self respect and felt like a non-person.*

*"Normal" people crossed the street to avoid me or faces were averted. The staff at Bishopbridge House saw past the street sleeper and drinker and just saw me.*

*With their support and a safe place to sleep I was able to tackle my addiction and*

*reassemble my life. I am now happily married and have a happy home life. I have been working as a volunteer for St Martins for several months and have recently achieved an ambition of several years, I am now a full member of staff.*

*I cannot imagine where I would be now had Bishopbridge House not been available to me, without being over-dramatic I truly believe that they saved my life. I cannot thank enough the staff, the volunteers and all the people who donate so generously to St Martins.*



Service User Volunteer meeting



Resettlement kitchen



Office and reception

## The Trust's services...

# Highwater House



George

A number of years ago – I lost my council owned property and as a result I ended up applying for a place at the “Old Night Shelter”.

I'd been seeing a local GP namely Dr Cole, at Oak Street surgery due to having bad bronchial asthma. Dr Cole was not too happy about my case and made an appointment for me at St Martins House (now Highwater House). After an

*interview and being informed of specific rules I was expected to adhere to I was accepted and given a room of my own. I was also put under the care of a Key Worker who would and still does advise and assist me. I was then and still am an alcoholic. My key worker had me agree to be put on both a money plan and try to take steps to at least cut down on my drinking and general mode of life.*

*I am still under her supervision and today it appears to myself at least to be working ok. Whilst not being soft with me we do*

A newly refurbished 22 bed registered care home for people with mental health problems and with drug and/or alcohol dependency (dual diagnosis).

*seem to be getting on! Were it not for my Key Worker and friends I've met via her and the two “Bosses” or Managers, Angela Herbert, Manager of Highwater House and John Hales, Head of Operations I'd be homeless and with nothing – no company or friendships, without practical, medical care, or advice – most of all a secure and safe “all right” roof over my head, and all that goes with it.*

*So, I'm very happy about my “lot in life”, being well looked after in all ways.*

*Thank you.*



# The Trust's services...

## Carrow Hill Home

A registered care home providing care and support to people of either gender who have some form of mental disorder.

The home has a small friendly team who are committed to supporting and caring for vulnerable people who may have been or are at risk of becoming homeless, working with them to set up individual care plans, building on their abilities and interests and helping them to move on to more independent accommodation.



John

*The positive and constructive help I received from St Martins Housing Trust played*

*a huge part in getting my life back on track.*

*I turned to St Martin's for help when depression and chronic alcoholism had reduced me to human wreckage. I was a homeless, degenerate shadow of my former self, filled with only despair for the future.*

*The Trust completely turned my life around. I'm now two*



Refreshment area



Lounge



Bedroom

*years sober and studying for a postgraduate certificate of education at Norwich City College.*

*None of this would have been possible without the help of St Martin's.*

*Thanks guys!!*

## The Trust's services...

### First Step

First step is a FREEPHONE service providing advice to people in need of emergency accommodation. The service is mainly staffed by recent service users.

### Contact Assessment and Prevention Service (CAPS)

CAPS provides ongoing support and assistance to address the difficulties faced by people who are either sleeping rough or vulnerably housed and at risk of becoming homeless. This work includes street-based shifts that makes direct contact with rough sleepers in the city and provides them with advice, assistance and support.

### Dual Diagnosis

The Trust's Dual Diagnosis worker provides housing support to people who have dual diagnosis needs and who have also been homeless.

Dual diagnosis is a term used to describe people who have a mental illness in addition to problems with drugs and/or alcohol.

### Group Homes

A number of shared houses, which provide easy access to a secure tenancy, are an important part of the Resettlement process and act as a stepping stone towards independent accommodation.

### Temporary Accommodation Project (TAP)

The Trust works with Norwich City Council to provide temporary emergency accommodation on behalf of single homeless people whose homelessness status is being investigated under the Homelessness Act.

Accommodation is in shared houses and is a more homely alternative to bed and breakfast. It also gives the Trust the opportunity to work with the individual on an appropriate support package for both the immediate and longer term.

## Planning for your future

Your Will enables you to plan for the people and causes you care about. Making a Will leaves matters simple and straightforward for your family. Legacies to St Martins Housing Trust are free from Inheritance Tax. Remembering the Trust in your Will could reduce the tax your family has to pay.

**If you need to make a Will** you should talk to a solicitor to ensure your Will is legally correct and that all your wishes are clear.

**If you have already made a Will** and would like to add a legacy gift to St Martins Housing Trust, your solicitor will add your request to your existing Will.

## Planning for St Martins Housing Trust's future

A legacy gift to St Martins Housing Trust can be made in several different ways which your solicitor will explain more fully:

**A specific gift of money** - you can preserve the value of a cash legacy by linking it directly to the Cost of Living Index.

**A share of your estate** - you may choose to give a percentage of your estate or the residue (balance left) after other gifts and commitments have been made.

**A named item** - for example a property or stocks and shares.

If you wish to make a legacy gift to St Martins Housing Trust your solicitor will need the following information:

Registered name: St Martins Housing Trust  
Registered office: 35 Bishopgate, Norwich NR1 4AA  
Charity number: 802013  
Telephone: (01603) 667706, Fax: (01603) 663845

## I want to secure a better future for homeless people. I am intending to remember St Martins Housing Trust in my will.

The contents of your Will are, of course confidential. If you have left St Martins Housing Trust a gift in your Will and would like us to know, please complete the form below and return it to us. Please be assured this information will be kept in confidence.

Knowing about your plans gives us the opportunity to thank you, during your lifetime, for remembering St Martins Housing Trust in your Will.

I have remembered St Martins Housing Trust in my Will

I am considering leaving a legacy to St Martins Housing Trust - please send me more information about your work

Name	Title
Address	
	Postcode
Telephone	

*This form is not a binding commitment, and puts you under no obligation to St Martins Housing Trust - it simply enables us to thank you and involve you in our plans for the future.*

Please return to:

St Martins Housing Trust | 35 Bishopgate | Norwich | NR1 4AA

## The bigger picture...

The Trust works in partnership with several agencies in Norwich and Norfolk. We work with other voluntary organisations, housing associations and community and church groups to raise awareness of homelessness as one of the principle contributors to social exclusion.

The Trust aims to be a progressive and developing charity, adjusting to the needs of homeless people that are often very complex.

We are now seeing a growing number of young people, women and people with mental health and substance misuse problems presenting at Bishopbridge House.

## Back to the beginning...

St Martins came into being as a response to homelessness. Although the nature of the problem has changed, and the Trust has responded with new services, the mission remains the same...

...to enable everyone to achieve their full potential.

## Your **legacy** counts



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*Registered charity no. 802013*