



Advice, support and housing
for a better tomorrow

2022 AGM



Scan here for
Agenda, Minutes and
Accounts

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Welcome and Apologies

Minutes of Previous AGM 2020/21

- Acceptance of minutes
- Matters arising

Finance Report of Activity

- Acceptance of Accounts
- Appointment of Independent Examiners

Election of Officers & Trustees

Standing down:

Rev John Phillip Staves

Carolyn Bantin

Simon Shefford

Chris Smith-Haynes - remaining as Trustee

To be appointed:

Damian Roche

Helen Aird

Sarah-Louise Isaacson

Chair's Comments

Outgoing....

Incoming

Welcome to the new Chair

- My background
 - Career spent working in housing
 - Homelessness & housing advice
 - Social housing management for local authorities & housing associations
 - Now work for a housing improvement consultancy
- Voluntary experience
 - Housing association board member
 - Corby Nightlight volunteer

...cont'd

- My reason for standing
 - Safe and secure housing is (or should be!) a fundamental right
 - I know I am very lucky; I know others are not
 - If I can help in some small way...
- My vision
 - Cost of living crisis means organisations like AC are needed more than ever
 - Sustainable growth - housing, support & advice
 - Work closely & collaboratively with local authority & other stakeholders to deliver a comprehensive service to those in need

CEO's Report

Another year of growth and change

Restructured with new posts:

- Advice Service Manager & Tenancy Service Manager
- 3 x Kick start posts recruited
 - 2 retained

Satellite Advice Drop in's launched:

- Desborough Library
- Daylight Centre, Wellingborough for Rough Sleepers

NHFT Advice Contract in North Northamptonshire launched

AQS Accreditation Audit successfully retained

Advice & Casework for Housing, Welfare Benefits & Debt



2021/2022 Data



- 1043 individuals approached
- 1217 issues supported with
- 13 % were under 25 years old
- 13% from Black and ethnic (BAME) Communities
- 81% had a disability or long term illness
- 33% were experiencing mental health difficulties
- £626,687 (£290,699.60 previous year) achieved in Financial Gains

2022/2023 Data

Current Position (since April 22)

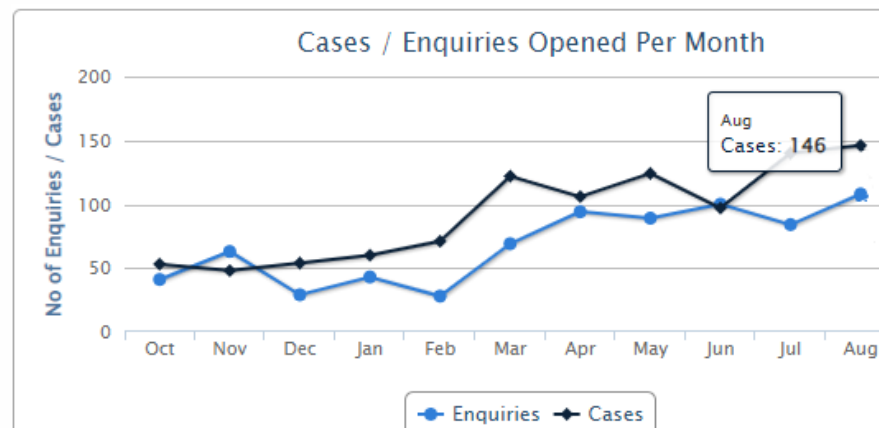


- 877 individuals approached us
- 1074 issues supported with
- £622,789.52 achieved in Financial Gains
- 30% of cases are food parcels

Advice Service

Current Position (since April 22)

- Advice Team grown from 3 to 7 Advisers
- No of cases opened
 - Was 55 per month
 - Now 146 per month
- £801,406 debts being managed £144,521.66 debt written off/included in DRO



Cost of living survey (undertaken in July)

Cost of Living Survey

“ — 1 in 4 people in Northamptonshire say they are 'likely' or 'very likely' to need to visit a food bank at least once in the next 12 months. — ”



257
responses

Cost of Living Survey

“ — 1 in 4 people admit to skipping meals and being in arrears with their energy providers. — ”



72% of
respondents were
worried or very
worried about
keeping warm this
winter

Cost of Living Survey

“ — 7 out of 10 people in Northamptonshire are making fewer journeys to save on fuel and transport costs. — ”



Advice Clients story's

Just wanted to say a massive THANK YOU

To you all for our much needed food parcel yesterday the children came home from school to a treat for the first time in a long time and we are so grateful to you all for allowing us to do that
We truly don't know how we would have got through the week without your support and can't thank you enough for your amazing work

You guys are doing amazing,
G & M helped me so much
They have done a brilliant job,
can't thank you guys enough

Supported Accommodation Service

Current Position

- Increased from 4 to 6 properties
 - Sackville, Ash, Naseby, London, Melton, Field
- 6 RSI 'Housing First' properties
- 1st Northampton house goes live next week
- Private landlords looking to purchase property
- 3 TSW's and a Trainee (3.75 fte)
- Developing meaningful activity programme



Our Residents' Achievements ...

11 Supported Accommodation Clients
moved into their own properties

Currently 27 people are in accommodation
supported by us,

Another 3 beds due to go live next week



“I went to take our mutual friend shopping today, he was busy so I waited outside and a lady came out the flats front door looking like a bush baby and shaking her head, it would appear that it was the tenancy official and was amazed with the transformation, rightly so.



All down to you and your team mate.

“The property is fantastic I love it here”

AC has been the biggest help in my life. Thanks

“There have been issues but the response has been very good”

“ I was supported through tasks, help with duties that I struggle with i.e., doctors, appointments”

“over time I really enjoyed it and it gave me space to take time for myself”

Future Plans..

- Roll out our **Housing, Benefit & Debt Advice** offer across North Northants in partnership with **NHFT**
- Ensure **capacity** for the growing need for Advice
- Source **additional Supported Accommodation** properties across North Northants (Corby & Wellingborough)
- Develop our **user involvement forum** to ensure we continue to listen to the voice of our clients and residents
- **Fundraising Sleep Out** planned for this winter



How can you help?

Donations:

- foodbank, house set up & Amazon wish list
- Join the sleep out fundraiser
- Sign up to our newsletter

**Huge thanks to staff team, volunteers
and trustees for supporting the growth
and being open to change**

Don't forget to follow us on ...



Any Other Business

Thank you ...

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