

Welcome

Dear friends and supporters of Eden Gate, welcome to our new eNewsletter. There are so many of you; we wanted to keep you up-to-date with what's happening as there have been some changes within our organisation. Firstly, Thank you for all the various ways you have supported Eden Gate. Through your continued support we have been able to help vulnerable people in Newport. In this first issue we will identify some of the projects and services Eden Gate provides and how we plan to develop and improve these. We will also share plans of new projects we are working on. We were saddened to lose Stuart & Caroline Johnson at the end of 2015 as a big hole was left without them. The Trustees took over the running of Eden Gate whilst a replacement manager could be found. The Trustees are happy to announce that following a successful first season Co-ordinating the Nightshelter and with effect from 1 April this year, Marc Hepton's role has been expanded to Operations Manager, with overall responsibility (with the trustees) for the strategic direction and day-to-day management of Eden Gate. We are delighted that Marc has agreed to take on the extra responsibility.

Weekly Services



Drop-in
Wed & Thur 10am-1pm
Tue & Thur 7pm-9pm



A Sunday lunch is provided to our Guests every Sunday 2pm-3.30pm



Streetchurch opens every 3rd Saturday of the month

What we do



First contact is our service that meets our Guests needs directly. We offer hospitality to our guests in a calm, relaxed environment. Guests can come and enjoy Tea, Coffee, biscuits and conversation in our drop-in centre on Hill Street. First contact is aimed at combating social isolation for some of Newport's most vulnerable people. During first contact sessions people can receive more tailored support with Welfare Benefits, Housing support, accessing health services as well as accessing drug & alcohol services. First contact is all about us getting to know our guests. Building trust and showing a non-judgemental attitude in is really important to the success of this service.



The Sunday Munch is a project that partners with over 20 churches to deliver a lunch in a bag every Sunday. The bags contain a sandwich, fruit, drink, crisps and a cake. This outreach project is aimed at providing a lunch to homeless and vulnerable adults in Newport. Eden Gate volunteers manage a church rota system and each week churches deliver the lunch bags to our drop-in centre on Hill Street. We can hand out up to 60 lunches on a Sunday! This gives you some idea of the need there is in Newport for this service. We are always looking for additional churches to participate in this outreach ministry. Please contact us if you are interested in your church being involved.



Streetchurch was started at the request of our Guests and is now into its 3rd year. Feedback from our Guests showed there was a need for a service that had meaning and spoke to them directly. Streetchurch uses the testimonies of those that have broken the cycle of addiction to encourage and inspire our Guests to rehabilitate. A local minister will then bring a relevant Gospel message. Streetchurch opens on the 3rd Saturday of the month and provides a hot meal and a message of hope to those in need.



Breaking Free is our project that helps those that are stuck in the cycle of Addiction who have a desire to break free from a life of misery and brokenness. The project supports them step by step as they apply for Detox and Rehabilitation programs, This project is specifically managed by Eden Gate staff only who work one to one with the guests. Breaking Free is incorporated into all Eden Gate projects.



Nightshelter now approaching its 8th season, is a cold weather shelter for those who find themselves homeless during the winter months. Nightshelter operates through a partnership with 14 local churches and is supported by a team of fully trained volunteers. It provides 12 beds and provision of a warm evening meal and breakfast in a safe environment. Nightshelter opens between November & March every year.

Schools Prevention Work: we believe that prevention is better than the cure. We work closely with Gwent Police in partnership with local schools and have developed a number of packages to identify the dangers of drugs & alcohol. We regularly attend Drug & Alcohol presentation days organised by South Wales Police to raise awareness in Schools. *(More about this project later)*

Projects Update and Developments

Nightshelter: Nightshelter went extremely well this last winter, headed up by Marc Hepton as coordinator, assisted by Renate Paetel. It ran until just before Easter. Marc was greatly helped by Stuart Johnson in getting things going. After a slow uptake, the shelter was full or nearly full most nights. Our aim is to see all Night Shelter guests securely and permanently rehoused, however long that takes. In a number of cases, rehab is an essential part of that process. We are happy to report that Laura, one of our Nightshelter guests successfully accessed Teen Challenge Hope House to overcome addiction. She is doing well and has successfully completed phase 1. Please keep Laura in your prayers as she starts her new life. Nightshelter also supported 26 other people secure suitable move-on accommodation and had a total of over 400 volunteers participating in the venues.

Again, we would like to thank everyone who volunteered with the Nightshelter or supported financially or practically. We couldn't deliver this service without your support.

Future: We are hoping to open Nightshelter this coming winter for 21 weeks. To do this we are looking to recruit an additional 7 churches to the project. If you are interested and can commit your church to open for 1 night a week for 7 weeks please speak to Marc on 01633 243235.

1st Contact: Here at Eden gate we want to see people moving on and achieving. During our weekly Drop-in service our guests can access private tuition in Mathematics and English. We also plan to extend this to offer IT skills/enhancement to our guests at beginner or intermediate level. We are working in partnership with Newport City Homes to develop this skills enhancement project.

Future: Some of you may remember the Teen Challenge bus that went out into the community of Newport. We are planning to Pilot a 1st Contact street outreach project for 12 months. Similar to the Teen Challenge bus we will take a message of hope to the most vulnerable in our society. We are waiting to hear about hiring a bus to deliver this project alternatively we will approach Church or Community buildings as a suitable alternative. We have spoken to 2 Churches who are interested in this project and would like to Pilot the project in at least 3 Neighbourhoods. We will be looking for volunteers with a passion for outreach and community development to deliver this project.

Schools Outreach/Prevention Work: This work has been delivered by Matt Hill and Gareth Northam, both of whom have overcome addiction and a destructive lifestyle. They are both passionate about this work and have been regularly attending D & A days arranged by Gwent Police. Matt & Gareth have both been busy developing packages on topics such as Bullying, Homelessness, Sexual Abuse & Grooming, Alcohol & Drug addiction and criminal offending behaviour. We are hoping to extend this work to Colleges and Universities as we believe that if we can raise awareness to these issues it will prevent people entering into a life of misery and despair.

I hope you are encouraged by the work we are doing to reach out to people in Newport. If you are inspired by what you have read and want to support us please contact Marc Hepton at marc.hepton@edengate.org.uk

Other News

Bronze Standard Award

We have been working hard to obtain an award from the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO). The award is aimed at governance and how we manage the Charity. Caroline Johnson started a lot of this work which involves producing and implementing policies. This work is almost complete and ready for submission. The award is very important to us as it makes us more viable to potential funders. Watch this space for updates!

Amazing Spaces

The trustees have agreed to transfer the Amazing Spaces Project (living in a converted shipping container) to Stuart Johnson. It has always been his particular vision, and he is the one with the flair and expertise to carry it forward. You can obtain further information about this project from <http://stpaulsnewport.org.uk/>

Marc's Testimony

Born in London, I moved to Yorkshire when I was 11 years old. I found it hard to fit in and as many Teenagers do struggled with acceptance. I started to hang around with lads that were older than me and it wasn't long before I was smoking and experimenting with drugs. Through my Teenage years I became more involved with drugs and the rave scene that swept the UK in the 90's. My drug use started to have a negative impact on me but it wasn't until I was introduced to Crack Cocaine that my life really spiralled out of control. I tried lots of ways to overcome my addiction but nothing worked. In Sept 2009 I went to my doctor who told me about Teen Challenge and in October 2009 I started a Christian Rehabilitation programme. I was an atheist and didn't believe in God but I saw something in Christians, a peace, that I desperately wanted. Thankfully God has set me free from that life and I am now happily married to Jana. With your continued help and support I hope that we can help others find peace and meaning in life. Marc

WE NEED YOU

