

# Challenge Poverty Week 2024

October 2024

Organisations Participating  
in the Week & Visits

Tackling Cornwall's Housing Crisis

Housing and Homelessness  
Conference



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## Andrew Yates Chair Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum – Introduction

### TACKLING CORNWALL'S HOUSING CRISIS

With 27,000 people on the waiting list for Council Housing and over 800 families in temporary accommodation such as rooms in Travelodges around the County, the theme of Housing and Homelessness was crying out to be the main focus for Cornwall's marking of Challenge Poverty Week 2024. This followed on the focus on Food Insecurity in 2022 and in 2023 the launch of the Campaign for Cornwall to be become a Real Living Wage Place.

Once again Cornwall Independent Poverty is especially grateful to the many organisations and community groups who supported the week and raised awareness of the tremendous amount of need that sadly still exists across the County as well as showcasing the huge amount of support that is offered by so many to those who have been and remain impacted by the cost of living crisis that has hit so many. We are especially thankful to the local MPs Jayne Kirkham, Perran Moon and Andrew George who took time to visit a local group.



This report contains over 30 articles in which we offer a wide spectrum of contributions about Cornwall's Housing Crisis. This includes the insights from those affected personally with a set of photos and reflections from the Truro Foodbank Lived Experience Group and another set of powerful poems from the Redruth based VIVA Group. You can read about the organisations working to support those who are sleeping rough on our streets as well as the community groups who are helping those who have found accommodation. There is an article from the Landlords Association explaining the challenges faced by property owners who do want to help those in need and summaries of the presentations made at a Conference entitled from Prevention to Housing that was hosted by Entrepreneurial Futures Project at the University.

A number of groups showed their support of Challenge Poverty Week by inviting visitors to their project to showcase the support they give and please look at the section with images from these groups from Breakfasts for the Homeless to a new Volunteers Homeless Prevention project. CIPF is part of Church Action on Poverty and they organised a series of letters written by people in poverty across the UK to the Prime Minister which detail how services and systems fail to recognise the complexity of people's lives. Many of the letters testify to the years of painful and avoidable cost this can bring. One of the letters was written by Chris from Cornwall and reflects on his own experience as a disabled person on Employment Support Allowance, and who has also been a foodbank user. These letters were mentioned in parliament and it was good that issues in Cornwall were part of that submission.

Earlier in the year CIPF published the 2024 Community Manifesto with over 40 proposals from people in Cornwall on ways to make our County a fairer and more just place to live and work in and copies were sent to our new MPs as well as our existing Councillors. It can be seen and downloaded from the web-site [www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com/community-manifesto/](http://www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com/community-manifesto/) A Community Manifesto for Cornwall 2024 – Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum. If you want to find out more about CIPF then contact [Andrewy@cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com](mailto:Andrewy@cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com) Or join one of the monthly Poverty Forum meetings – held on the first Tuesday of every month at 10am either on zoom or at venues across Cornwall. Please . Email [Rosey.Sanders@truro.anglican.org](mailto:Rosey.Sanders@truro.anglican.org) to sign up for information about future meetings.

### DO JOIN US AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO END POVERTY IN CORNWALL!

#### KEY STATISTICS ON HOUSING IN CORNWALL

- There are 270,000 households with tenure split with 13% social rent, 20% private rent or rent free and 67% owned outright or with a mortgage or loan.
- Cornwall has a much older housing stock than most parts of the country, with 31% of properties built before 1930
- 96% of future emissions from housing in Cornwall will come from the existing housing stock that has already been built.
- 49% of Cornwall's homes are heated by mains gas, far less than the 74% across England and Wales. Fossil fuels such as oil and LPG are used in 20% of homes with the balance (31%) provided mostly through forms of direct electrical heating.
- 51% of roofs in Cornish homes need more insulation compared to 38% nationally.
- 43,500 homes (16%) are at least partially single glazed, with 15,500 (6%) fully single glazed. 90,000 (33%) homes have older double or single glazing with a further 72,000 (26%) having double glazing of an unknown age.
- The cost to move to low carbon heating is estimated to be £2.4-3.1 bn as a minimum first step (£3-10k per property). £8.4 - 9.1bn should be invested for all homes to be well insulated with (£26-29k per property) by 2050.
- Around 15% of households in Cornwall live in fuel poverty, according to the Government's most recent reports and this is rising.
- Fuel poverty is a significant driver of health inequalities.
- 25% of all dwellings are estimated to be in severe disrepair.
- 12,000 homes are estimated to suffer with damp and mould.
- 27,000 households are on the Council housing waiting list.
- 800 households are in temporary and emergency accommodation.

*More information can be found at <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/housing/housing-intelligence/>*

## Simon Fann and Truro Foodbank Lived Experiences

'How many layers to an onion? Same question for poverty in Cornwall in 2024. Increased energy costs, food price inflation, minimum pay work, overly complex benefit systems, shortage of housing, debt, mental health, insecure work....so many layers. Challenge Poverty Week this year focuses on housing and homelessness. Many come to us because they have been subject to a no-fault eviction by the landlord who then does minor works to the property before installing new tenants paying massively increased rent. Some tell us of an upfront demand of six months rent in advance plus a deposit before a tenancy will be granted. One of the hostels we supply food to used to have no problem in finding move on accommodation in the private sector for its male occupants. Now there is a real struggle to secure any move on accommodation in private or public sector. These issues are best explained by people exposed to these circumstances, which is where Photovoice comes in.

Photovoice asks people to take a picture that either spoke to them or for them about their experience. Our Lived Experience Group took these pictures and then discussed what the image represents. The accompanying words reflect the views of the group not just the taker.



**PHOTO 1: DOORWAY**

"This is a photograph of an empty doorway. A rough sleeper usually leaves his cardboard mattress here with a bag of all his belongings. But today he is not there, his cardboard is not there, his belongings are not there. Where is he? Has he moved on? Has he been moved on? On one of the doors of the empty shop is a poster promoting a fundraising concert for Man Down, a charity set up to help men struggling with mental health and suicidal thoughts. Was the poster put here deliberately in this doorway because of the usual rough sleeper? Has he seen it and gone to them for help? Or is it accidental irony... a poster about a helpful organisation put up after someone in need is no longer there?"

*Note: Man Down registered as a referral agency to Truro Foodbank after the number of local men contacting them considering suicide had trebled.*



**PHOTO 2: GRAFFITI**

"This sums up the whole 'affordable' housing situation to me. How is housing affordable when a mortgage is over ten times the average salary in Cornwall? How is rent affordable when some landlords demand six months rent in advance plus a deposit? How does someone with an average job stand a chance when even doctors posted to Treliske Hospital cannot find anywhere to live? Even if you get a flat can you keep it? Can you keep your head together, stressing about rent on a low paid job with no guaranteed shifts? ...This picture does not ask questions; it is just a simple truth. I wonder if the person was born in 1988, I wonder if they have given up trying to live here....."



**PHOTO 3: ANONYMOUS**

"The man in the doorway could be anyone – could be you, could be me, could be someone unsuspecting that three months ago was their last pay cheque. I did not want to intrude so took this angled photo. Look at the umbrella, it's raining, it's cold. Look at the gap between the passers by and the anonymous man sitting in the doorway. There's a distance there – a comfortable distance or an uncomfortable one? Homelessness just far enough out of reach. Look at the advert in the window of the next shop along... 'come and buy your latest tech kit', affluence next to poverty. Look at the guy's middle finger extended... is that a comment to the passers by or just the way he rests his hand?"

This exercise illustrates the thoughts and feelings of those affected by housing and homelessness in Cornwall.



## Hidden Help

In May 2011 Hidden Help was set up as a CIC with the help of CIPF and the Truro Diocese to support men's and women's refuge houses with furniture and household items donated by the local community, averaging about 50 clients a year. Now Hidden Help helps over 50 clients / families a month.

We think people don't fully appreciate the poverty and housing issues there are in Cornwall, perhaps because they are largely unseen. We experience the issue every day. Although we can't speak scientifically about the causes, we see the human impact and the stories behind it, and regardless, we are here to help. We place no judgement on anyone and the circumstances they find themselves in, some of which are very challenging.

Even when families leaving a refuge home or a homeless person gets an apartment, they often have nothing to live with, sleep on, sit on, or cook with. (e.g. they might have just a sleeping bag and concrete floor.) Via Hidden Help, the people of Cornwall are able to ensure their unwanted items make a transformational difference to help meet basic needs.

We have seen several families evicted because the landlord wants to sell the house - that's what happened to one of our clients with little girls who then spent over a year in hotels and hostels until they were given somewhere to live.

Many referrals we have are from abusive relationships, and both men and women can consequently become homeless.

There seem to be more people who are homeless because there are fewer places to go to. Because of this pressure we have also seen Cornish people become less accepting of refugees. A social worker arrived very distressed the other day as one of the refugee families she was helping in Penzance was getting so much hassle from the locals that she had to call the police. We didn't use to see this issue so much, and it is indicative of the pressure for housing.



## Tara Hopper Truro Foodbank Citizens Advice Outreach Worker at Truro Foodbank

I cover two projects, Probation and Truro Foodbank. Probation clients having recently left prison who do not have family who can house them may be offered supported housing for a limited period – whilst this eases them back in to society I very rarely had clients who progressed on to their own tenancy. With limited affordable housing available the competition for properties is fierce and offenders are usually at the bottom of the list be it lack of references, poor credit history or simply not enough money to cover the deposit or rent in advance because they don't have anyone who can be a guarantor. As a result many clients became homeless and not deemed priority by the council, more than a few were recalled to prison (some, likely intentionally and others because they weren't able to root themselves to healthy connections and relationships which are key to rehabilitation).

My foodbank clients have similar issues in terms of affordability, often living in poor conditions because they can't afford to move or don't want to risk repercussions from landlords by complaining. For many, the Local Housing Allowance doesn't cover their rent and they have less and less money available for essentials in order to keep up with payments. Many of my clients have a variety of issues such as survivors of domestic violence, health issues and debts – secure housing provides the safety and stability we all need to survive and thrive, it is the most fundamental basic need that otherwise prevents healing and recovery from the other issues they face.



## Matt Gavan CEO of Glen Carne

Glen Carne is a charity providing supported accommodation to homeless or vulnerably housed people in Cornwall, helping them to move into independent living.

Cornwall faces a severe housing crisis, driven by rising property prices, a shortage of affordable homes, second homes and a growing market in holiday lets and Airbnb-style models. Local residents, and particularly those who may have additional needs and access supported housing such as Glen Carne, struggle to find long-term, suitable accommodation.

For our residents, purchasing a property is unrealistic. Many rental properties are priced beyond local income levels, with restricted availability as a growing number of private landlords often prefer short-term holiday lets over longer-term tenants, or are leaving the sector altogether due to a perceived increase in regulation and financial risks.

Social housing is scarce, with long waiting lists on the Homechoice register. Once a resident has completed a six-month stay at Glen Carne, we can apply for a Homechoice banding uplift, which may elevate their banding from a grade D to a B. However, once this is completed, it often takes around 18 months before a suitable property is found and accepted. Prior to Covid, this was typically around four months.

These factors in every area of housing are exacerbating local homelessness. It can be a real challenge to find suitable long-term accommodation for residents who are ready to leave a supported service such as ours, which naturally delays the process of housing new applicants into the service.

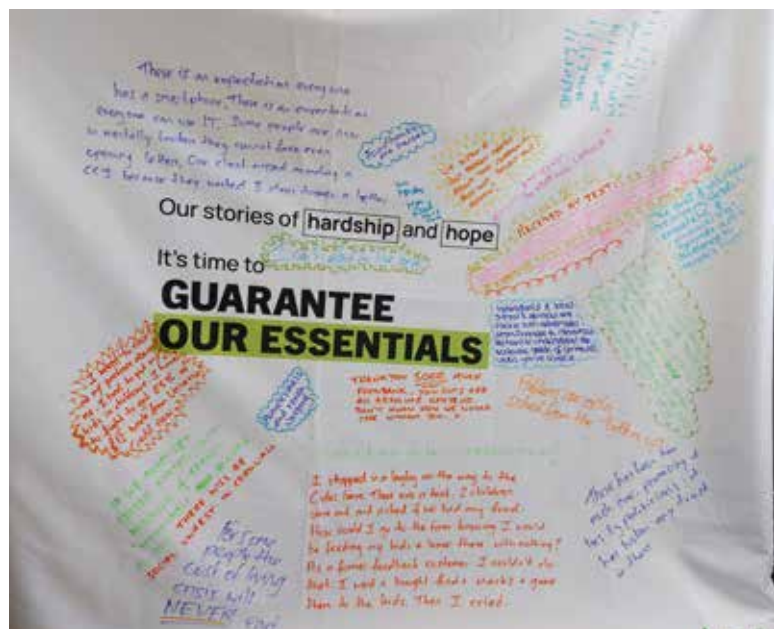


## Zoe Nixon Operations Manager Newquay Foodbank

Zoe Nixon, Operations Manager Newquay Foodbank reflects on the impact of temporary housing.

The number of people living in temporary accommodation is the highest we have known. It is particularly distressing that many of these are children. As a seaside town, Newquay faces a perfect storm of issues including high cost of living, lack of affordable and of suitable accommodation, with some landlords choosing to let out on short term rentals. All this is despite the local authority's determined efforts. The situation shows no sign of improving in the short term but it has fostered a determination from organisations in the Newquay area to come together more to support households that find themselves in this predicament. As an emergency food provider, Newquay Foodbank is well placed to help many affected disproportionately by the housing crisis: those on low incomes, in seasonal work, those with a physical or mental health condition. What may be less widely considered is the stigma attached to finding yourself in that position in the first place.

One common mis-conception is that people have found themselves in that situation through some fault of their own: mis-management of income, addictions or simple laziness. The reality is that most people who are homeless have faced a huge life event, a bereavement, divorce, loss of a job or income, change in a rental agreement - situations beyond their control. The reality is these are people in our communities who are functioning and decent; with hopes, wishes and desires for themselves and their families. They simply have had a poor deal of the cards and sometimes don't know how to get help or who to turn to. Some start to question their worth. Newquay Foodbank works with local organisations with similar values, committed to get people the right help, at the right time, with fairness, dignity and equity.



At Newquay and Truro Foodbanks we leave pens out on our tables and encourage our visitors and volunteers to write down their feelings and their comments. Above is a recent selection ...

## Tablecloth Quotes Lived Experiences from users of Newquay and Truro Foodbanks

*"As a volunteer it makes me aware (even more so) of the huge need by so many who rely on the foodbank. This should not be happening."*

*"Children come to foodbanks too..."*

*"Foodbanks are a poignant reminder of the stark unfairness that exists in our society...the chasm between rich and poor ever widening leaving countless people stranded on the wrong side. Charities provide a much needed flicker of hope but it is society and government that should restore the balance."*

*"I volunteer at the foodbank 3 years ago we saw 1 or 2 households a week now it is 20 plus each week, this can't continue."*

*"The people in crisis is growing, as a foodbank user it seems that the service is overrun with people that need it."*

*"Everyone is so kind at the foodbank, they really help me not just with food but a friendly face. My children love the helpers who always treat us with kindness and respect. I wish I didn't have to come but I'm so glad I did as everyone is so friendly. I'd say to anyone if they need help ask the foodbank they do more than food."*

*"Foodbank never judged me when I needed help, I come in now mostly to see people."*

*"Volunteers are great, they even helped my dog and helped me to see the homeless GP."*

*"I stopped in a layby on the way to the cider farm. There was a tent, 2 children came out and asked if we had any food. How could I go to the farm knowing I would be feeding my kids and leave these with nothing? As a former foodbank customer I couldn't do that. I went and bought food and gave it to the kids and then I cried."*

*"If we don't get proper social housing and really 'affordable' housing there will be social unrest in Cornwall."*

*"Solutions have to be collaborative!"*

*"I can't afford to live here!"*

*"Individuals and support services are facing such adversity from finances to resources. It's hard to understand the eclectic needs of Cornwall until you've lived it."*

*"Problems are only solved from the bottom up."*

*"Life was hard - still is in a way. Seeing no hope government don't help don't have sympathy and understanding"*

## Loic Rich Secretary of Truro Community Land Trust

Truro Community Land Trust is a community benefit society established to provide rented accommodation for local people in the Truro and Kenwyn area, at affordable social rents. We are working on developing two different sites so far and have a small board of trustees and volunteer base that has put in a huge amount of work to date, including raising around £90,000 towards our aims. We are working with local architects, Truro City Council, Cornwall Council, Cornwall Community Land Trust, and other stakeholders based in Cornwall and beyond.

Many families who are not in council or affordable accommodation are renting privately. A quick look at rightmove or other property lettings website will give you an idea of how incredibly expensive and scarce the private rented market is. For example, standard 3- or 4-bedroom properties now range from £1500 to £2000 a month, and even then, around 200 families will be chasing each property. A council home or affordable home will be less than half of market prices, as will our Truro Community Land Trust properties, whether it's a single person flat or large family home.

We want to help local people stay living locally and give them long term rented accommodation at council house prices, for as long as they need it. If you want to help us, in particular if you have some background in property, law, or finance and can spare a couple of hours each month, then please get in touch at [truroclt@gmail.com](mailto:truroclt@gmail.com) or call me on 01872 276630.

## Citadel Cornwall

Citadel is a volunteer-led homelessness prevention, community integration and tenancy sustainment model that has recently launched in several locations across England, including Cornwall. We support people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness through matching them with volunteers who provide holistic one-to-one support. Citadel has been supporting adults to settle in longer term accommodation in Wales since 2019, and 95% of the people supported through Citadel remained in their homes for over 12 months.

We recruit volunteers, providing them with training, a DBS check and regular support from their local co-ordinators. We then match them with people who have been referred to the service, where the volunteers help individuals both emotionally and practically in making the move to safe and secure housing. This can include settling into a new home, setting up utilities and bills, sourcing furniture and decorating. They can also help individuals to connect and engage with support providers and networks to promote wellbeing and independence. The support can even be as simple as having a coffee, providing a listening ear, and letting an individual know that someone cares. We offer a variety of opportunities to get involved, from 1:1 support work, fundraising and collecting donations.

To find out more, or if you would like to volunteer, please visit our website here: *Housing Justice*, or contact the Cornwall team at [CitadelCornwall@HousingJustice.org.uk](mailto:CitadelCornwall@HousingJustice.org.uk).

## Pam Reeves Chair of Truro Homeless Action Group (THAG)

Truro Homeless Action Group or THAG as it is commonly known was set up over twenty five years ago to provide a hot breakfast meal for rough sleepers. After a variety of premises in Truro it is now based in St John's church hall in Strangways Terrace. We are a team of approximately thirty volunteers who serve a full English cooked breakfast, cereals, tea and coffee every morning for 365 days a year. Take away sandwiches are also provided. A Christmas meal is served on Christmas day and Boxing day. The clients greatly appreciate the breakfasts which might be their only hot meal of the day or indeed a meal at all. There is also the opportunity to charge phones, get some clean clothing and warm up after a night on the streets. Our clients also enjoy and benefit from the friendly, non-judgemental welcome they receive and the opportunity for conversation with others.

There are many sad stories of those who sleep rough through a range of circumstances whether it be alcohol or drug addiction, relationship breakups, job loses, mental health issues etc. Whatever the reasons we can be there for them to help provide at least some support to help them survive the daily difficulties they have to face.

## Ruth Clarke Secretary of Cornwall Residential Landlords Association

**Ruth Clarke, Secretary of Cornwall Residential Landlords Association reflects on the challenge of renting out property.**

Letting out a property is a business and landlords cannot let out properties at a loss. Many landlords would like to help those who are disadvantaged financially but are unable to afford to do so. Good landlords and good tenants tend to have longlasting relationships which is a reason that few properties become available.

Unfortunately many landlords are selling their rental portfolios due to fears of the impact of regulations in the Renters' Rights Bill. >



## Why are some rents so high?

- Increases in legislation impose an administrative and financial burden on landlords.
- The Finance Act 2015 brought about a major change in the way landlords are taxed, in some cases leading to taxation being higher than the income from letting a property. Other changes in tax law, including Stamp Duty Land Tax Surcharges for landlords and the way Capital Gains Tax is calculated, have further disincentivised the lettings industry and added to the landlord's costs.
- Rental accommodation needs to have appropriate thermodynamic properties to give tenants a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle. However, the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards required add to the landlord's costs of maintaining and updating the property.
- Local Housing Allowance, used to calculate the amount of Housing Benefit or Housing element of Universal Credit, at its maximum level gives the equivalent of >
- > less than one-third of the market rent in an area. Landlords with high outgoings, including servicing of loans or mortgages on a property, are frequently unable to offer properties to rent at these levels.
- Rent arrears are increasingly a concern to landlords. Tenants in arrears tend to hide from the landlord rather than have a discussion about how best to resolve the problem leaving landlords with an increasing debt. By the time a landlord takes a tenant to court there is usually around 5 months worth of debt accrued. Every tenant who fails to pay their rent contributes towards the need for higher rents to be asked from future tenants to make up the loss suffered by the business.
- Private landlords are essential to the housing market and forcing them out of the industry will increase homelessness.

Despite all of the above there are landlords with homes which are deemed to be decent and who have paid off the borrowing for the property, who are keen to assist. Avenues for helping vulnerable tenants can be confusing with Cornwall Council and almost all supported housing providers vying for those few. The CRLA provides support and assistance for landlords with a residential property in Cornwall, that support includes assistance with finding tenants and referencing.

## Nail Cooper CEO of Church Action on Poverty - Lived Experiences

**Let's End Poverty together!** As we mark Challenge Poverty Week again in 2024, far too many people are struggling with the daily reality of poverty, low pay, insecure or unaffordable housing, homelessness, stress, ill health and lives diminished or cut short. But we must never lose sight of the fact that people also have hopes and dreams for a better future, for themselves, their families and wider communities.

If we're going to end poverty in the UK, then people with lived experience of the struggle against poverty need to be part of the process. To mark Challenge Poverty Week, Lets End Poverty is publishing fifteen personal letters to the Prime Minister by a diverse range of people with lived experience of poverty from across the UK.

Each letter is honest and challenging, and many make for painful reading. They detail how, too often, services and systems fail to recognise the complexity of people's lives and so entrench, rather than alleviate, problems. Hardship and trauma often goes unaddressed, and many of the letters testify to the years of painful and avoidable cost this can bring.

Chris, who lives in Cornwall, has written his letter to reflect on his own experience as a disabled person on Employment Support Allowance, and who has also been a foodbank user. He reflects that 'there is a problem in how we see people with a disability in Cornwall, our abilities are not recognised, and we are ignored by significant parts of the population.' In Chris' words:

***"People with disabilities now face being one of the groups most at risk of homelessness, and homeless charities are not equipped to cater for some of our needs. There are also crushing and devastating gaps in social security provision, which leaves people with nothing. It creates lives which are just filled with despair, in a county of considerable wealth... Please can we not make the same mistakes that have happened in my lifetime. More austerity measures will reduce our chances to live with dignity and respect. We must create change."***

The overall message of this Challenge Poverty Week is clear: Policy makers and political leaders need to trust the insights brought by people with lived experiences of poverty to craft solutions that genuinely address the complexities of people's lives and bring about positive change for good. What is true nationally, has also to be true locally. I hope that policy makers and political leaders in Cornwall are listening! To find out more about Let's End Poverty and read all fifteen of the Dear Prime Minister letters, visit [www.letsendpoverty.co.uk](http://www.letsendpoverty.co.uk)



## Lois Wild of St Petrocs

Lois Wild of St Petrocs describes their working to end homelessness in Cornwall.

At St Petrocs, we are working to end homelessness in Cornwall. By addressing the root causes of people's experiences of homelessness, we can prevent people from losing a place to call home in the first place and put an end to the cycle of homelessness.



**We have four objectives which outline how we achieve our ambition of ending homelessness:**

1. We take action to prevent anyone becoming homeless wherever possible: By collaborating with national bodies, we can call for changes to policy which addresses the needs of those who access our services. We support efforts to increase the number of new houses being built and bringing unused properties into use once more.
2. Making homelessness an exception: We will not accept homelessness as an inevitability. We ensure that anyone who is at risk of experiencing homelessness has access to opportunities that will prevent them losing their accommodation.
3. Making the experience of homelessness short: Our focus remains on making the experience of homelessness as brief as possible through dedicated efforts in rapid rehousing and expanding our supported accommodation capacity. Through our Outreach and Resource Centres we provide advice and guidance and work with people to secure suitable accommodation quickly.
4. Supporting people out of homelessness for good: We ensure that all of our clients receive personalised support to make their own plans for the future and take steps towards independent living, whether that be through training, employment or skills development.

## Jayne Kirkham MP

Having been a councillor, and now as an MP, I am regularly contacted by people impacted by Cornwall's housing crisis. There are around 27,000 households on our housing waiting list, and around 800 of those are in temporary and emergency accommodation. Many are families with young children. The housing crisis is particularly acute in Cornwall, which is why I am pleased that the Government is prioritising taking steps to address it, starting with the Renters' Reform Bill which will abolish Section 21 evictions.

Last year, the now Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Angela Rayner MP, promised the biggest increase in social and affordable housing in a generation. To deliver this, the Government have reintroduced mandatory housing targets to build 1.5 million homes in 5 years. It is crucial also that those are the type of homes we need – a minimum of 50% of homes on 'grey belt' sites will be affordable, and through local plans, councils will have a say on where and what housing is built.

In Cornwall, part of the solution to the housing crisis is regulating and taxing second homes and holiday lets. The Government intends to introduce a licensing scheme for holiday lets. I am hopeful that they will take further measures like creating a planning use class for holiday lets, as well as closing the loophole for second home and holiday let-owners to avoid paying both council tax and business rates, and I will continue to push for this in Parliament.

## Anthony Ball Advanced Public Health Practitioner

**Anthony Ball, Advanced Public Health Practitioner asks why is housing and homelessness an important determinant of health?**

Our home, both the location and the physical building itself, influences almost every aspect of our lives – from how well we sleep, to how often we see friends, to how safe and secure we feel. It is estimated that we spend around 90% of our time indoors, with 65% of this spent at home. If we want to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, there can hardly be a more important place to start than the home: it is where most people spend most of their life.. Creating a physical environment in which people can live healthier lives with a greater sense of wellbeing is hugely important in reducing health inequalities. >

# Tackling Cornwall's Housing Crisis

> Everyone is potentially at risk from the effects of poor housing, lifestyle and wider environmental conditions. The home circumstances present a particular risk to the health and wellbeing of low income households (e.g. those who have to make stark choices about buying food to eat or to adequately heat their home or those who live in crowded conditions, the very young and the very old, people with multiple physical and mental health conditions) and people who experience a number of inequalities (homeless, those who are subject to domestic violence, ex-offenders or offenders living in the community, misusers of drugs and alcohol, gypsies or travellers.)

## Housing is a determining factor for health, education and employment:

Money spent on dealing with poor housing is money invested in health – when agencies act to improve housing conditions, there is a resulting financial benefit to the health. Evidence suggests that good quality housing can help reduce demand and support patients through:

- Providing decent homes (lack of excess cold, damp and safety issues) - positive impact on health and wellbeing including a reduction in symptoms for the chronically ill, a reduction in rates of acute illness.
- Adaptations and preventive measures - positive impacts on health and wellbeing for disabled/ long term condition recipients, carers and other family members;
- Reduction in home hazards - reductions in injury and acute poisoning via a multiagency approach including health visitors and home safety checks by the Fire and Rescue Service;
- Helping patients discharged from hospital to return home quickly and safely and avoid re-admission.
- Supporting those with complex needs to prevent homelessness.
- Reducing poverty and fuel poverty.

## Nightchurch Penzance

The members of the congregation of St Mary's Church on Chapel Street in Penzance felt called to respond to local high levels of deprivation, poor mental health, loneliness, housing shortage and rough sleeping in their churchyard. They decided to start NIGHTCHURCHPZ to offer a welcome and hospitality to all who venture in, with free light refreshments in a warm and friendly environment. A team of volunteers, drawn from our church and other local churches, is on hand to chat, offer support and join in a variety of leisure activities with visitors. There is no agenda and no liturgy, but quiet space for reflection, quiet conversation or prayer is available, for those looking for these opportunities.

Our motivation is our desire to share the love of God with those who come in, through non-judgemental friendship and support. There are members of our church who support this venture by their prayers and sometimes with gifts of cakes or other goodies, which are naturally a source of delight to our visitors! We have had the joy of welcoming a talented pianist - who was rough sleeping and desperate - who now lifts OUR spirits with his extraordinary playing and his warm and generous personality and has entertained others across Cornwall

NightChurch is open on Saturdays twice monthly '8 TIL LATE' and Wednesday's weekly '6 TIL 8'. There can be between 15 and 45 people including volunteers attending and NCPZ is funded by charitable trusts and donations.



## Cornwall Community Foundation

### Cornwall Community Foundation launches the Cornwall Housing Crisis Fund.

Cornwall is facing a severe housing crisis, with skyrocketing costs making it difficult for local residents to find affordable homes. Over 27,000 households are on waiting lists for social housing, and homelessness is on the rise, with double the number of people sleeping rough compared to pre-pandemic levels. In response, CCF are launching the Cornwall Housing Crisis Fund to provide urgent support to those at risk of homelessness and increase affordable housing options across the region. The fund will focus on two main areas: supporting frontline organisations who are experts in helping people experiencing homelessness, alongside boosting community-owned housing projects. Frontline groups will receive long-term flexible funding to continue providing essential services like housing advice, emergency shelter and moving people on from homelessness. Additionally, a 0% interest loan fund will support community-led housing initiatives, helping kickstart affordable housing projects across Cornwall for those most in need. >

# Tackling Cornwall's Housing Crisis

> This dedicated fund will act as a catalyst in ending homelessness, bringing together key grassroots actors across Cornwall, and working alongside Cornwall's Voluntary Sector Forum and Homes for Cornwall campaign to ensure that everyone can have a roof over their head. With your support, we aim to raise £3 million to distribute to impactful grassroots groups, offering hope and stability to those in need. Every donation, no matter the size, brings us closer to ensuring everyone in Cornwall has a safe, stable home.

To find out more, please visit: *A Home For All: Help End Cornwall's Housing Crisis - Cornwall Community Foundation.*

## Laura Maclaren of Cornwall Council

Laura Maclaren of Cornwall Council describes plans for a Housing Assistance Policy.

Good quality housing is crucial for the health and wellbeing of our residents. Local Authorities have the power to introduce policies for improving housing quality. This includes assisting residents with adaptations, repairs and improvements within their homes. Assistance can be financial or information and advice services.

Cornwall Council is reviewing and combining its policies on adaptations and housing quality. **This will introduce a single Housing Assistance Policy.** This policy explains how Cornwall Council and its partners can help residents to repair, improve or adapt their home.

**The Housing Assistance Policy can help reduce the health impacts of a poor home environment, maximise independence and help to prevent or delay the need for care and support:**

- By providing adaptations for disabled and older people, we can help them live safely and independently in their homes.
- By assisting eligible residents to make improvements to their homes that will support good health. This includes removing hazards and improving energy efficiency.

We have prepared a draft version of a Housing Assistance Policy for Cornwall. We are seeking accounts of the experience of poor housing conditions, the impact of this on health and wellbeing and what would have offered support with improving the condition.

## Housing Challenges for Careleavers in Cornwall

Housing is a huge challenge in Cornwall currently, with the most vulnerable people being the most impacted. Young people leaving care face huge system barriers to transitioning to adult life without the safety next of a family to guide and support them. Organisations such as Carefree Cornwall, the charity working with young people in or leaving care, undertake fantastic work to provide support to help people move from care to independent living, but there are system challenges that can mean care leavers struggle to access housing and can lead to them living in poverty and being vulnerable to crime, drugs and alcohol issues.

On Thursday 24th October, representatives from Cornwall Council's Housing and Children's Services teams, social housing providers, the judiciary and community and voluntary sectors met together for a Round Table event hosted by Carefree to explore the challenges care leavers face accessing appropriate accommodation. Following a Q&A session with young care leavers about the experiences they and their peers have faced, attendees came together to draw up some actions that are needed and can be taken to make the system fairer for young people leaving care, to give them a sense of worth, feel valued and accepted into wider society and avoid falling into poverty.





## Poems by VIVA - Lived Experiences

VIVA is a group of community service designers facilitated by Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change, all with a variety of different lived experiences including homelessness, addiction, abuse, and mental ill health. VIVA aims to speak our truth to power and encourage more understanding through our voices.

### Halloween Hardship Horror

*An open letter to the Government:*

You and Your Growth Growth Growth.

Yes things are growing  
the take home pay of the fat cats,  
the gap between rich and poor,  
the difference in life expectancy  
the damage to our planet

You and your trickle-down dogma  
Invest in the rich and the economy will grow – But it doesn't  
We are ungrateful for your offer of poverty wages  
The loose change falling out of your pockets  
While you stockpile your greedy hoards  
Like a sandcastle allowing small dribbles of  
dry sand into the moat  
The moat that you dug and stole from  
what should have been rightfully ours  
But it never fills back up  
Until the tide comes washing in, washes us all away  
Because you forgot that you'd boiled the sea.  
As your pets eat steak and caviar  
We beg for leftovers as if they were the  
last bit of jam from the jar.



### Our Beautiful World

Our Earth

It's not a flat Earth

This is something we've known from birth  
Cornwall features pretty large  
Our climate but we are not in charge

Planning given for holiday accommodation  
Why not homes for our population  
Lots of tourists going to the beach  
Children's bus fares make it out of reach

#### Our Earth is on fire.

On its axis, the world is turning  
The heat is on, wildfires burning  
The young, sick and old struggling in the heat  
No money for a fan and no fuel to cook to eat

We are worried and anxious things will get worse  
This coming winter increased fuel costs will be a curse  
Food prices on the rise, can't make ends meet  
Do we really have to choose to heat or eat?

#### Our Earth is on fire. Our air is polluted

Up in the air the planes are flying  
We can't afford a bus to town we're crying  
The A30 is getting a massive investment  
For 10 minutes' gain lots of resentment

Nature's suffered really badly  
Birds and bees now homeless sadly  
Asthma increases due to pollution  
We need to find a long-term solution

#### Our Earth is on fire.

#### Our air is polluted, but we're surrounded by water

Glaciers melting waters are rising  
Localised flooding isn't really surprising  
Southwest Water's prices are increases  
Yet all our resources are depleting

The tourists are coming; be careful what you're using  
Drinking and bathing does not equal abusing  
Water's a fundamental of human life  
Access and affordability shouldn't be a strife

#### Our Earth is on fire.

Our air is polluted, but we're surrounded by water.  
The solutions should be locally rooted.

## Sarah Thorneycroft Housing Strategy & Partnerships Engagement Officer

Sarah Thorneycroft Housing Strategy & Partnerships Engagement Officer writes about a new strategy for supporting Gypsy Roma and Traveller Communities.

Our Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community experience some of the starkest inequalities, and as they are our second largest minority ethnic community, we know we need to do what we can to remove many of the challenges and barriers that exist. Key evidence includes:

- Living nomadically is part of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller cultural heritage and identity, although 4 out of 5 such residents in Cornwall now live in conventional homes.
- There is a chronic local and national shortage of permanent sites and stopping places. There are 3 local authority sites in Cornwall providing 66 pitches and one transit site providing 15 pitches and a number of private sites are also established.
- They have a younger age profile when compared with the overall population of Cornwall and this is generally due to poor life expectancy (5% of Cornish Roma and 8% of Cornish Gypsy/Irish Traveller population are older than 65 compared to 25% of the overall Cornish population).

We believe that every person has the right to live in a safe environment that is free from discrimination and is supportive towards their culture and way of life. The four strategic priority outcomes identified in Cornwall first comprehensive Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Strategy are as follows. These will be used by the Partnership Board being set up as their priorities and will guide working with this community to improve living conditions and access to services:

- Celebrating Diversity.
- Ensuring Equality of Opportunity.
- Improving Health and Wellbeing.
- Providing Homes and Safe Spaces.

## Emergency Accommodation for Young People CIPF

### Emergency Accommodation for Young People in Cornwall

Cornwall Nightstop is a project being developed by the Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum. Cornwall Nightstop will initially operate as a pilot project.

Cornwall Nightstop is a project that provides emergency accommodation for 16 to 25 year olds, who find themselves homeless, throughout Cornwall. Accommodation is arranged on a night by night basis, with a volunteer host, but a young person can potentially stay with a family for up to three nights, whilst the referral agency continues to work with them to find a more permanent solution.

Emergency accommodation can help when a young person experiences sudden homelessness, and would otherwise risk sleeping rough. Many young people find themselves vulnerable by suddenly becoming homeless.

There is no other organisation offering this service in Cornwall. Cornwall Nightstop aims to have 12 volunteer hosts and expects to receive over 150 referrals in the period of the pilot project of 6 months.

The emergency accommodation will be provided by a free, safe and supportive and welcoming environment in the home of a volunteer host.

Cornwall Nightstop is affiliated with DePaul Nightstop UK, an organisation that has helped successfully establish 37 Nightstop services nationally. DePaul Nightstop UK has provided support and guidance for the project and will ensure all necessary Quality Assurance standards are met, as well as helping establish standards of good practice and opportunities to learn from other services, through their forums and networks.

We ask for your support in making Cornwall Nightstop a reality.

Paul Green and Andrew Yates - CIPF

## Laura Bannister for Centre for Progressive Change

Who should own Cornwall's homes?

Would you like to buy a home? Or does it feel completely out of reach? What makes it so hard? And what needs to change?

The Centre for Progressive Change (CPC) is launching a housing campaign aimed at making home ownership possible for people who currently feel locked out of it. CPC is a campaign organisation that works with communities to develop ambitious proposals for change, and then pushes that change through parliament. This is an opportunity to reimagine how the housing system works, so that people in Cornwall and across the UK can become the owners of the homes they live in.



The first stage of this work is listening: they want to hear from you about your views and experiences. Could you take part? You can:

- Complete this 5 minute survey the web link is [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc2g-uMjxargIU\\_sl2MGzmRS6mOd1ev537O0t-qZKUDBWJbkQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc2g-uMjxargIU_sl2MGzmRS6mOd1ev537O0t-qZKUDBWJbkQ/viewform)
- Click here the web link is <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-makes-it-hard-to-buy-a-home-group-discussion-tickets-1064652246529> to sign up for a small group discussion meeting (one hour)

*Your input is vital to make this campaign happen. Many thanks!*

## Penzance Citizens Panel Reducing Street Homelessness CIPF

Following a number of meetings listening to presentations and suggestions from a wide spectrum of people and organisations linked to housing issues in the area, the Penzance Citizens Panel made a number of recommendations. Below are the key ones and the full report can be seen at

Penzance Citizens Panel – Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum

[www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum/our-projects/penzance-citizens-panel/](http://www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum/our-projects/penzance-citizens-panel/)

**The Provision of mobile or fixed night shelters in population centres.** The aim is to address immediate needs of vulnerable rough sleepers.

### Young People

We need more Warden supported accommodation for young single people Cornwall. YMCA already provide this but extensions and adaptations to this model could include constructed mini communities for single people with warden support - for example converted shipping containers or static caravans with adequate heating and insulation.

Implement early intervention mental health support for young people vulnerable to homelessness. They may be living at home, or with friends but have reached the point where neither they or friends and family feel they can cope with their behaviour. They may be vulnerable to homelessness as a result of mental health, drug and alcohol issues and therefore need early and ongoing support to prevent homelessness.

### Emergency Accommodation for families within Cornwall

Emergency accommodation for homeless families must not rely on B&B's and Travel Lodge type hotels. Shipping them out of the towns, away from their friends and familiar surroundings is not a solution for many.

### Affordable Housing

We also stress the need to re-define 'affordable housing'. Until now, 'affordable housing' has been defined in terms of market rates, not local wages. It makes no sense to say that a rent or house price is 'affordable' because it is at or below 80% of the market rate, when such housing still remains far beyond the financial means of most local people. Affordability should instead be redefined in terms of local wages.

Penzance Citizens Panel and Andrew Yates - CIPF

## Children's Trauma and Homelessness CIPF

This proposal is based on the research undertaken by Evolve Housing and their subsequent report 'Breaking the cycle of trauma' in 2018. The Objectives of the research included; identifying the links between trauma and homelessness and understanding the impact of childhood trauma which may cause them to become homeless. Issues that can be suffered in childhood are; separation and loss, violence and physical abuse, substance abuse and sexual abuse. These experiences can lead to multiple complex traumas in later life if left untreated. Trauma in childhood is directly linked to mental health issues and homelessness, later in life.

### What needs to be done?

- Counselling services should be embedded in all support services for those who are homeless.
- Access to counselling after a traumatic event needs to be timely.
- Psychologically informed wellbeing practitioners should be available to homeless people who experience multiple and complex traumas in addition to homelessness.
- Interactive approaches to therapy should draw upon a range of models, including those that address previous trauma.
- Personal wellbeing should be taught in schools, youth clubs and community centres along with education about recognising types of trauma and homelessness.
- Connecting people to their community to ensure early identification and treatment of trauma can be put in place
- Positive mental wellbeing activities should be embedded in all services, to ensure that those experiencing trauma can get the support they need.
- Good practice around working with trauma and homelessness should be celebrated and shared between agencies.

Paul Green - CIPF

## Housing Pods in Cornwall - CIPF

The local authority has already opened micro-homes in Truro, Newquay and Penryn, following a sharp rise in the number of people needing help.

Plans to install 18 further pods at Long Rock, near Penzance, were approved by the sub-area planning committee. There are also existing one-bedroom pods at Truro and Camborne.

They will provide short and medium-term supported accommodation for former rough sleepers and will be built alongside a management building with facilities for staff and security.

The new site is on a former highways depot which had been used by Cormac in Newtown Lane, Long Rock.

Cornwall Council has been using its own land for single units which can help provide accommodation for homeless people - and it is planning more.

It explained that using the units was more efficient than paying for bed and breakfasts or budget hotels to house people.

The units are fully equipped and are also seen to be a way to ensuring that people can remain independent and are able to prepare to move into more permanent homes.

There are currently more than 800 households in temporary emergency accommodation which can often have no catering facilities or be located away from where people need to be to access work or training.

These Pods provide secure and safe accommodation, with support and help provided on site. The CIPF would encourage Cornwall Council to look carefully at the situation of homelessness and potential rough sleepers and consider extending the Pod Scheme which has provided an effective bridge into better conditions for the street homeless, and give them a better base to establish themselves again.



## Housing First

**Housing First is a housing and support approach which:**

- Gives people who have experienced homelessness and chronic health and social care needs a stable home from which to rebuild their lives.
- Provides intensive, person-centred, holistic support that is open-ended.
- Places no conditions on individuals; however, they should desire to have a tenancy.

The Housing First approach was first developed in New York by Pathways to Housing in 1992. It has since been widely adopted in the USA and become central to the national homelessness strategies in Canada, Denmark, Finland and France, demonstrating widespread success.

In England, since 2010, a growing number of local areas have established Housing First services to meet and identified need.

What is Housing First? Housing First is an evidence-based approach to successfully supporting homeless people with high needs and histories of entrenched or repeat homelessness to live in their own homes. It has been widely adopted across the US, is central to the national homelessness strategies in Canada, Denmark, Finland and France, and is growing in popularity in countries including Italy, Sweden, Spain and, increasingly, the UK. Successful Housing First pilots are operating in Newcastle, London, the Midlands, Greater Manchester, on the South Coast and in Wales and Scotland. The overall philosophy of Housing First is to provide a stable, independent home and intensive personalised support and case management to homeless people with multiple and complex needs. Housing is seen as a human right by Housing First services. There are no conditions around 'housing readiness' before providing someone with a home; rather, secure housing is viewed as a stable platform from which other issues can be addressed. Housing First is a different model because it provides housing 'first', as a matter of right, rather than 'last' or as a reward.

What are multiple and complex needs? Multiple and complex needs are persistent and interrelated health and/or social care needs, which impact an individual's life and ability to function in society. These may include: • Entrenched street homelessness, repeat service use or being otherwise vulnerably housed • Mental, psychological or emotional health needs • Drug and/or alcohol dependency • Contact with the criminal justice system • Physical health needs • Experience of domestic violence and abuse. Mainstream services are often not equipped to support individuals with these overlapping needs. Housing First has been shown to be effective in supporting people with histories of street homelessness, or other types of homelessness where contact with services has been unsuccessful in breaking the cycle of instability. Housing First can be adapted for specific groups, including people with repeated hospital use or custodial sentences. There is scope to use Housing First to help prevent homelessness among people with multiple and complex needs who may be at risk of homelessness.

## Andrew George MP raises Housing Crisis

From an article by Lee Trehwela for Cornwall Live.

Parliament has heard the "grave" extent of Cornwall's housing crisis in a debate called by St Ives' Lib Dem MP Andrew George. The Cornish MP sparred with the new Housing Minister Matthew Pennycook on issues affecting residents in the Duchy, where as many as 27,000 people are on the housing waiting list.

Summing up the debate, which took place on Monday (September 9), Mr George said of the minister: "He accepts that extreme housing problems call for bold measures

"I challenged his government's commitment to housebuilding targets. Cornwall has been one of the fastest growing places in the United Kingdom in the last 60 years – nearly trebled its housing stock – yet the housing problems of locals have got significantly worse. I asked him to give Cornwall the devolved power to direct planning policy to meet need rather than developers' greed. He was not as receptive. So, there's a battle ahead."

Mr George, who is the former chief executive of the Cornwall Community Land Trust charity which works with communities to deliver affordable housing, told MPs in the House of Commons: "It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to raise the rather grave issue of providing affordable housing in the housing emergency-ridden communities of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

"In the present local plan for Cornwall, covering 2010 to 2030, the housebuilding target is 52,500. The Government propose to increase those projections under their new formula from 2,707 properties per annum to 4,454. I urge the minister to > >

## Andrew George MP raises Housing Crisis (Continued)

allow places such as Cornwall to be granted devolved powers to vary the way in which we achieve what needs to be done in our local environment: not simply to give us housebuilding figures but to set targets to reduce housing need.”

Truro and Falmouth's Labour MP Jayne Kirkham responded to Mr George's opening speech: “As he said, about 27,000 people are on Cornwall's housing waiting list, and about 800 are in temporary and emergency accommodation. Many of them are families with young children, who are placed in caravan parks and holiday homes that are up to an hour and a half or two hours away from their support networks, their schools, their jobs and where they live. This is really affecting community cohesion, upsetting families and causing real hardship.

“So many people in Cornwall are now living in their vans because they simply have nowhere else to go. I am finding that families are moving into emergency accommodation, and that the single people who were becoming homeless when I was first a councillor in Cornwall are now living in their cars. The situation has become really dire.”

The minister finished the debate by saying “there is clearly a fierce clarity of purpose on both sides of the House in respect of meeting housing need across the county, and I assure all members present that the Government are resolved to do what is necessary to ensure that that can happen.

“As we have heard, the housing crisis in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is acute. Eye-watering house price-to-earnings ratios are putting home ownership out of the reach of most local people; an overheated and shrinking private rented sector is placing a severe strain on local economies as well as families and communities; and social housing waiting lists are growing steadily.

“I recognise that second homes and short-term lets are not the sole causes of those pressures, but none of them can be properly understood without taking into account the sharp increase in the numbers of second homes and short-term lets in the county over recent years.”

## Homes for Cornwall

From an article by Lee Trehela for Cornwall Live.

A quietly revolutionary yet wildly ambitious group of movers and shakers in Cornwall are working together to provide hope for the future and an escape from the housing crisis, which is blighting life for so many in the Duchy. Homes for Cornwall is a politically neutral band of volunteers committed to reversing the lack of affordable housing in Cornwall by forming a “collective uprising”.

Formed by business and community leaders including Sam Galsworthy (Trewithen Estate, High Sheriff of Cornwall), Nick Rodda (Rodda's), Andy Snapes (Ward Williams Associates), Emma Stratton (Scarlet and Bedruthan hotels) and Allister Young (Coastline Housing), Homes for Cornwall is a galvanising force, applying fresh and creative thinking to the challenge of creating homes for everyone and thus ensuring the survival of communities across Kernow.

Allister told us: “The housing crisis isn't just about the 20,000 on the social housing waiting list, it's not just about the 900 families who are stuck in temporary accommodation, it actually affects every one of us. There's probably not a single person in Cornwall whose life isn't in some way negatively impacted by the fact that we don't have enough decent, secure affordable homes.”

The collective is supporting altruistic landowners who are willing to gift or offer land for community housing. The Acre Project has been instigated after some private individuals agreed to donate an acre to their communities. Homes for Cornwall is working on the legalities of protecting that gifted land for the future for each community.

Emma said: “We're starting to challenge policy and how things have been done traditionally, as housing will need to be more flexible in the future. The rents are so high in Cornwall. Unless you're earning a hell of a lot of money - much more than the median Cornish wage - you're never going to afford to buy. So what can we do to unlock that?”

“It could be possible to have someone living there who could pay a rent which would make the scheme financially viable, but also enable them to save for a deposit. That could be very attractive to people who would like to be on the housing ladder but can't currently get on it.”

Emma added: “We've got to be brave. Hopefully, we can try things as a pilot and see if it works, because we're not going to get change if we don't try some new stuff.”

Homes for Cornwall is actively speaking to the Government and MPs - including Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and Housing Minister Matthew Pennycook - to strip out red tape rules to allow more flexible use of land for housing for local people. The group has had help from Cornwall Council's planning department in its bid to challenge housing policy. >

## Homes for Cornwall (Continued)

Emma said: "It's really difficult if you're in a public organisation to create change. That's why we've been trying to challenge some of the areas around planning and housing. We're receiving positive feedback that people are now having conversations which they never would have dared have a few years ago."

Homes for Cornwall intends to provide an online resource to offer advice on planning, community land trusts and architect designs to aid each community's decision making.

## Renters Rights Bill

From an article by Lee Trehwela for Cornwall Live

The full extent of Cornwall's housing crisis and the "heartache" it is causing for thousands of families was laid bare in Parliament on (Wednesday, October 9).

MPs debated Labour's rental reforms as the Renters' Rights Bill passed its second reading with a huge majority and moved a step closer to law. The legislation is set to scrap Section 21 or no-fault evictions – which allow landlords to evict tenants without a reason – along with a range of other changes to give renters more security.

Jayne Kirkham, who was voted in as the Labour MP for Truro and Falmouth in July's General Election, told fellow MPs just how bad the housing situation is in Cornwall, the area with the largest supply of short-term lets outside London.

She said: "Recent statistics show that 50 per cent of the private rented sector in Cornwall doesn't meet the decent home standard. That's way above the average of 21 per cent." Ms Kirkham added that a quarter of Cornwall's children and young people were living in private rented accommodation, including a third of under-fives. "That's been evidenced by the noticeable uptick in Section 21 evictions in recent years, affecting families with young children and we now have over 800 households in Cornwall in emergency or temporary accommodation, many of those young families.

"Because of our geographical spread many of them have ended up in holiday parks, caravan sites or hotels up to hour and a half drive away from home. With poor rural transport links this can often lead to families completely cut off from jobs, schools and support networks."

"Regardless of their caution, the private rented sector has still been decimated in Cornwall, with many landlords selling up or flipping lucrative short-term holiday lets. The prices have skyrocketed and many people are struggling to find homes. That's why I am so pleased and relieved that this Bill has been prioritised with this Government

"There are 24,300 holiday let properties in Cornwall, which is up 30 per cent on 2019. Statistics from the council tax base tell us there are also approximately over 13,000 second homes registered in Cornwall – that's nearly five per cent of the total housing stock; five times higher than the average across England.

"There are also 27,000 families on the waiting list for social housing but we only have 10,000 council houses and 22,000 housing association homes in Cornwall. I'm therefore pleased that the minister is considering a toolbox of measures that could be made available to local authorities to discourage the further depletion of private rented sector and full-time residential housing in Cornwall, such as the higher council tax that is coming in, licensing and registration, planning restrictions and closing the business rates council tax loophole."

Opening the debate, deputy prime minister Angela Rayner said: "Millions of people live in fear of Section 21 no-fault evictions that could uproot them from their homes and their communities, and are forced to live in homes that are riddled with damp and mould, too scared to complain in case they end up evicted and homeless, knowing another potential tenant will be desperate enough to move in.

"This is why, as housing secretary, I have put decency at the heart of my plans for housing, and taken the steps to ensure that all homes are warm and safe. Nowhere is that more needed than in the private rented sector, a sector that plays an undeniably critical role in our housing system."

## Hidden Homeless A Report by Citizen's Advice

### "I feel like a blot on a computer screen"

We believe there are thousands of people living in despair of ever finding a stable home and this reality is becoming entrenched. In some cases this ends with more people living on the streets, or in temporary accommodation. Here are some stories that relate to those who consider themselves suffering from hidden homelessness, and some people are living in their cars and in tents, are sofa surfing or living in squats.

**Clara** is living with her daughter, daughter's partner and grandson in a one bedroom flat but has been told the family must leave the property because Clara did not seek permission from the landlord for them to live there. Clara is currently facing legal action as she is in breach of her tenancy agreement, but the family have nowhere to go.

**Kerry** is living with her in-laws, husband and two teenage children. Her husband is abusive and police have been involved. Her husband has given her a month to get out of the house with the children. She has no savings. Although her husband buys some food, he will not buy any for her. She has been offered emergency housing, it would mean that she would have to take her children out of their present school.

**Ben** is sofa surfing and stays at his mother's house twice a week when he has two of his children to visit. He has been homeless since his relationship broke down. Although he has applied for Home Choice, he has been told as a single male he is unlikely to get a home.

**Sara** works as a carer and is sofa surfing with friends. She suffers poor mental health but can't find any properties she can afford to rent. She is now at risk of street homelessness, as the friends she is staying with are moving out.

**Sadie** is a young single mum with an 11 year old boy. She was served a no-fault eviction notice and had to leave her rented home near Truro. She is also caring for her father who has a range of health issues. She has had to move in with her father at his one bedroom flat, with limited bedding. She says 'I've had depression and have a doctors note but this does not help with my housing situation. It's like they don't care. My dad is my life and I just want to look after him, so I'm stuck, also stuck in this situation.'

Hidden Homelessness is a complex scenario, comprising a broad range of individuals with different backgrounds and needs, driven and exacerbated by broader environmental and societal factors. There is a wide acknowledgement that Hidden Homelessness is a growing issue in society and one that previous generations since the war haven't had to confront.

The complete Report can be obtained from **Wailim Wong (Citizens Advice South Hams)**

[wailim.wong@southhamscab.org.uk](mailto:wailim.wong@southhamscab.org.uk)

## Matthew Barton - Head of Strategy and Business Planning - Cornwall Council

One element of Cornwall Council's extensive range of initiatives to tackle the housing crisis, includes the provision of purpose-built SoloHaus modular homes: with 18 constructed on part of Tregunne Hill car park in Newquay earlier this year.

The positive impact these modular homes are having on the lives of many local people is best expressed in the words of one of the first individuals to occupy one of those 18 properties: "I love the independence I now have in my own home and my own space. This is the support I've needed, and I can talk to them about anything. I come from this area, and I've lived here my whole life - this is the place I call home. Now I have a proper home and it's my time to prove to myself - not to anyone else - that I can do it."



Following a landmark deal with award-winning housebuilder The Hill Group, Cornwall Council has bought SoloHaus homes to provide secure, comfortable homes as follow-on accommodation to local people as they progress out of emergency housing, helping them regain their independence. These modular SoloHaus homes provide excellent quality accommodation for single people who would otherwise be homeless. It ensures the Council has an increasing stock of good quality homes that people can live in for a short period on dedicated sites, whilst those living in the modular homes



# Tackling Cornwall's Housing Crisis

get the help and support they need to secure a permanent residency. The Council is also helping residents live nearer to where they want and need to be, with the security of knowing this home is theirs until a permanent one can be found.

The specially designed modular homes provide a safe, comfortable, and independent space for residents and arrive fully furnished, ready for installation onto a pre-prepared site. Designed to house single people, the homes have a 60-year lifespan and are built to Future Homes Standards, exceeding building regulations for energy efficiency and sound insulation.

Following on from the first SoloHaus development in Truro, the scheme in Newquay will be complemented by two more – one in Penzance and one in Penryn. Each development provides modular homes with outside space, utilising low carbon heating technologies. The homes are specifically intended to help those with a history of homelessness who are ready to move on from emergency accommodation or other provision, and will help reduce the need to place people in expensive, nightly-paid hotels and B&Bs.

The Council is using all means at their disposal to tackle the housing crisis, including prevention services, outreach, providing emergency and temporary accommodation as well as building and buying more homes for social rent.

## Simon Fann Homelessness and Housing: From Prevention to Provision Conference

Homelessness and Housing: From Prevention to Provision Conference

24th October University of Exeter in Cornwall

Hosting the event is Dr Harry Pitts, Senior Lecturer in Politics, Director of Business Engagement & Innovation for Humanities & Social Sciences, University of Exeter in Cornwall and Simon Fann, Chair of the Living Wage Place Group and Manager of Truro Foodbank.

The aim of the event was to shine a light on the issues relating to homelessness and housing provision in Cornwall. Each speaker has 12 minutes, the job of the audience is to join the dots....what follows, what doesn't, where are the gaps or inconsistencies? After the event follow up contacts, ask questions of elected officials and key stakeholders and raise further awareness of issues with partners and organisations

### Our panel of speakers:

Rosie Emmanuel - Homelessness Prevention Officer

Claire Arymar – Roughsleeper Resettlement Officer

Malcolm Williams – Institute of Cornish Studies

Sadie Fulton – TUC South West

Allister Young - CEO, Coastline Housing



## Rosie Emmanuel Homelessness Prevention Co-ordinator, Salvation Army Cornwall

My role is to map the needs within each community area (Liskeard, Newquay, St Austell, Falmouth, Redruth, St Ives, Hayle, and Penzance - where there is a Salvation Army Church) Working with the Officers (Salvation Army Ministers) I endeavour to encourage service users to connect with available sessions. We run homelessness advice drop ins, breakfast clubs, community cafes, women's groups and more.

Across the county, I have noticed an increase of complex service users struggling to achieve positive outcomes through statutory services and there has been big push on voluntary sector organisations to fill the gap. Individuals who are regarded as high risk are meeting regular barriers to access accommodation due to inflexible engagement commitments, lack of tolerant placements and general lack of housing availability. Cornwall doesn't have enough housing to support all the different categories which are presenting, and this needs to be addressed for us to tackle the current crisis.

Salvation Army aims to help homeless people regardless of their circumstances and without judgement. "We will do whatever we can to get them back on their feet." >

## What we need to do to make prevention work more effective:

- Increase prevention schemes, maybe have different sections for different needs?
- Promote prevention services and make it easy to access.
- Have a more holistic approach to housing or homelessness support.
- Understand drug and alcohol needs
- Treat them as human beings, not just case numbers (get rid of the priority needs)
- Create less boundaries for support, we need more assessable support pathways.
- Make more specific housing for different tolerance.
- Bring back the pods for rough sleepers.
- Have more face to face hubs for those to seek advice sooner rather than later.
- Have workers who understand the job and want to work within the sector.
- Have multi agency system to recording system.
- Need more housing across Cornwall for all different support needs.

## What housing providers could do to supply better provision:

- Increase properties for different types of support needs.
- Change tolerance for their supported accommodation properties.
- Cornwall council to change pod sites back to what they were made for - entrenched rough sleepers.
- Work together better - make more housing pathways with support provided for most complex individuals.
- Check frontline workers or caseworkers understand their jobs and are efficiently completing them up to standard.
- Bring back night shelters.
- Have more open support services open for longer hours (possibly unsocial hours).

## Claire Arymar Roughsleeper Resettlement Officer

Claire Arymar, Roughsleeper Resettlement Officer working with the most chaotic and vulnerable in the county "Calming The Chaos". Resettlement Workers work with a caseload of the most vulnerable and chaotic clients who challenge all areas of services ie blue light services, ASB, crime, housing, mental health services. Our aim is to befriend, support and calm the chaos. Our clients need support in every aspect of their lives and support with trauma that drives their behaviours.



**A few facts;**

- RS in Cornwall predominantly male with females accounting for less than 8% of the RS community.
- The average age of Rough Sleepers in Cornwall is 44
- Hot spots tend to be in areas where there are services
- In Cornwall 96% of Rough Sleepers are British Nationals
- There is a lack of suitable tolerant supported accommodation for people with complex needs

**Main Reasons for Rough Sleeping**

- Housing Crisis
- Financial
- Addiction
- Mental Health
- Trauma
- Institutionalisation
- Relationship Breakdown/ DV
- Choice

## Malcolm Williams from the Institute of Cornish Studies

### The Context of the Housing Crisis in Cornwall

- Cornwall builds as many (or more) units than comparable Local Authorities by population.
- Yet there is an under-supply of affordable housing.
- Cornwall's population is increasing through in-migration.
- In migrants less economically active.
- Housing problem and economy are linked.

### Malcolm's key points are:

- Just building more houses is NOT the answer because they attract in-migrants.
- The new houses have to be affordable and they have to have covenants on them that keep them as affordable.
- The Council should be more creative with the Section 106 funds that it claims from new developers to strengthen the affordable housing market.

### The Housing and Economic Problem

- Low median income means locals can't compete in the housing market.
- In-migrants have property capital and can succeed in housing market)
- In-migrants are / or become economically inactive as they age.
- Problem of retention / recruitment because workers can't afford the housing.
- Cornish economy risks being a 'client' economy, with poor GDP growth and continued low wages.
- Low median income means locals can't compete in the housing market...and so it goes on!

## Allister Young CEO of Coastline Housing and Chair of CVSF Housing and Homeless Alliance

**As a society, we often think about a 'home' in terms of its financial value, and in doing so we've lost sight of what's really important. What's really important is that we all deserve a decent place to live, somewhere to call home. A decent, secure, affordable home is fundamental to our health and wellbeing, and is the foundation for a decent life.**

Too many people in Cornwall are reliant on insecure, expensive private rented housing. Where standards are often very low, where there is no safe route to complain if things go wrong, where you can lose your home with two months' notice.

It wasn't always this way. Forty years ago, people in the bottom 1/3 of the income distribution were five times as likely to live in social housing as in private rented housing. Now, that same group are more likely to live in private rented housing than in social housing. The result? They are now spending 40p in the £1 on their housing costs, compared to 15p in the £1 back in 1980. That is a huge difference. It has a huge impact on a people's health and wellbeing, and it traps generations in poverty.

**It doesn't have to be this way.**

In the short term, the government could decide to increase the 'Local Housing Allowance' cap on housing benefit, a cap that means fewer than 2% of private rented homes in Cornwall are affordable to someone on housing benefit.

In the longer term, the government needs to develop a long-term housing strategy for the country. That strategy should place genuinely affordable, secure housing at its heart, because decent housing can be the foundation of our future health, happiness and prosperity as a nation.

### Post script to St Petrocs article:

Cornwall and St Petrocs were featured in the two-part documentary which follows the first year of [#Homewards](#) - a five-year programme founded by The Prince of Wales and The Royal Foundation which aims to demonstrate that it is possible to end homelessness.

Airing in the UK on [ITV](#) and [ITVX](#) the documentary will also now be available to stream globally from the 1st of November on [#DisneyPlus](#).

## Highlighting the issues of poverty and making positive changes

The Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum in partnership with Church Action on Poverty, organised and promoted Challenge Poverty Week Cornwall 2024. We asked organisations and projects working to address poverty to invite local leaders to come and visit them to highlight the excellent work they do but also to give insights into the reasons why so many people within our communities are in poverty. The leaders were Councillors, Church leaders, M.P.'s and decision makers from statutory and voluntary organisations. This awareness raising is vital so that we can all work together to solve the problem of poverty. Through our support from Church Action on Poverty we are able to give Cornwall a voice at the centre of the national debate. Twenty Five projects and organisations participated in this year's Challenge Poverty Week Cornwall. Thanks to all who took part in making a positive change and challenging poverty.

## Organisations and Projects participating in the Week and Visits

### Another Way Community

Thank you to Joff Phipps, Lead Pioneer for Another Way community, a faith based group. Joff has been a social justice missionary for the many years I have known him and has always worked to help address issues of poverty and to lighten the burden of those struggling.

> It is essential we work to address causes of poverty so that Evey and her amazing staff can concentrate on teaching and the children can concentrate on learning, without having to worry about food insecurity.

As the words say in the school hall "Plant a seed of kindness and watch it grow..."

### Backpack Beds Project

Backpack Beds provide shelter that can help improve the lives of people who face the prospect of rough sleeping on the streets of Cornwall.

Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum (CIPF) has distributed over 200 Backpack Beds, in conjunction with key partners who provide support for the homeless in the county.

Backpack Beds are durable, waterproof and cost effective and immediately improves the dignity, health, sleep, warmth, comfort and safety of people sleeping on our streets.

Each Backpack Bed costs £100 so all donations are very welcome.

Backpack Beds are not the permanent solution to preventing or relieving homelessness: but Backpack Beds do offer a simple short-term solution to help vulnerable people take the first steps away from rough sleeping.



### Breadline in Penzance

Neil and Faye work at the Breadline Resource Centre in Penzance offering support, help and advice to those that find themselves sleeping on the streets. In winter there is spaces booked at a local hotel to help the homeless, Issues covered include housing, benefits and mental health support.

### Blackwater School

Evey Evison, Headteacher at Blackwater Primary School invited Truro Foodbank to their harvest festival assembly held during CPW.

Teachers at the moment often have to recognise signs of hunger and poverty and discreetly work out the best way to support pupils and parents, including referrals to foodbanks. >





## Care Free

Care Free Cornwall hosted a round table conversation to explore the challenges care leavers face accessing appropriate accommodation.

This article highlights the problems that are faced 'Appalling' that care leavers are more likely to end up homeless, says charity | Your Local Guardian

## Christmas Catalogue

The Diocese of Truro are supporting Challenge Poverty Week with this year's Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue 2024. It features worthy local groups and charities, and all the foodbanks, who are working in Cornwall to provide assistance, support, activities, beds and more to people in our own communities in Cornwall. This year you can choose from 20 charities and the foodbanks to donate to and in return you will receive a gift certificate (printed or digital) to pass on to your family member or friend. In 2023 over £12,000 was raised for the charities and we are hoping you can help beat that total this year. For more information view: <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/about-us/christmas-giving/>



## Citadel Housing

Kirsty Dexter and Sarah Bassett of Citadel #Cornwall Housing Justice at the Village Kitchen run by the amazing Georgia's Voice today.

Great to hear more about the new Citadel Cornwall initiative during #ChallengePovertyWeek with the theme of supporting residents who are at risk or experiencing homelessness.

Citadel Cornwall are seeking volunteers to support their new homelessness prevention project in the Truro, Camborne, Pool & Redruth areas.

Volunteers play a fundamental part in people's journey from homelessness to belonging. Could you volunteer with people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness to make your community stronger? >

Find out more about the role on Volunteer Cornwall's website: <https://housingjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Citadel-Volunteer-Induction-CORNWALL.pdf> Or, if you'd like to arrange a chat, please contact Kirsty & Sarah at [CitadelCornwall@housingjustice.org.uk](mailto:CitadelCornwall@housingjustice.org.uk)



## Coastline Housing

Coastline Housing have been supporting Challenge Poverty Week 2024. They continue to build communities around affordable social housing whilst helping residents with a number of support programmes.



Perran Moon, MP for Camborne and Redruth visits the Coastline Chi Winder Centre with Coastline CEO Allister Young and CVSF CEO Emma Rowse. Chi Winder is a purpose-built facility for Coastline's Homeless Service in Pool and transforms lives by providing everything on one site, including overnight crisis accommodation, a doctors' surgery, and a community hub with space for partner organisations.

## Cornwall Community Foundation

Cornwall Community Foundation team supporting Challenge Poverty Week.

Cornwall Community Foundation harnesses the power of local philanthropy to address local problems. We focus on supporting grassroots, community organisations that help those experiencing poverty and social isolation across the county. Since 2003, we have awarded £20million to over 8,000 vital projects across Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

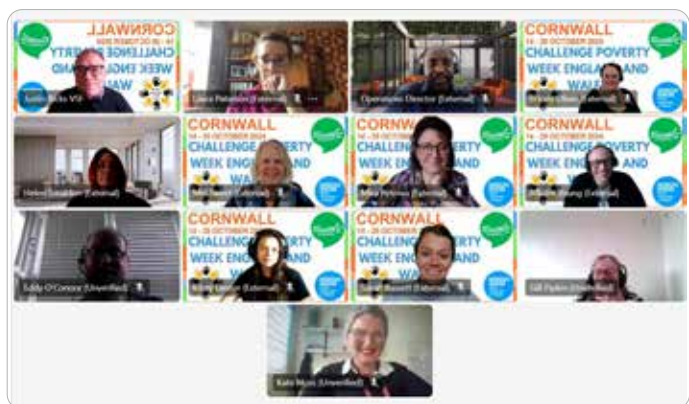


## Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum

Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum Housing and Homelessness Alliance meeting took place on Day 4 of #ChallengePovertyWeek.

Bringing together #VCSE organisations to be involved in the co-design review of Cornwall's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Homeless Link led a session to gain contributions from alliance members about their experiences and knowledge to inform the review. Excellently Chaired by Allister Young CEO Coastline Housing.



## Georgia's Voice

YOU MATTER!

Small, free, confidential support groups for young women with mental health concerns. Offering a safe place for you to come and talk, listen or just be.

Please pop in and buy a coffee if you are passing the new cafe space opened in July at Gateway Business Centre, Barncoose Redruth.

I had the pleasure of visiting Village Kitchen run by the amazing Georgia's Voice this morning as part of #ChallengePovertyWeek. Thank you to Chloe and James for the warm welcome and lovely coffee. Even better to know buying a coffee supports the amazing work of Georgia's Voice.



## Glen Carne

Glen Carne provide housing for previously homeless men. They have 35 individual rooms and offer a range help; including benefits advice, counselling, and various activities including art workshops, gardening and a gym.

Matt Gavan CEO and the Glen Carne staff team. They registered as a Living Wage Employer.





## Harbour Housing

Harbour Housing provides accommodation, advice and support to those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness across Cornwall. The charity has eight properties and also runs an outreach service to prevent those vulnerably housed in the community from losing their accommodation.

Specialising in harm reduction, Harbour supports people who have complex needs which may prevent them from accessing services elsewhere. They are assisted to develop their independence and eventually move on into their own homes. Harbour's programme of support and activities is varied and includes counselling sessions, art classes, volunteering on its small holding, excursions and educational courses, helping people to find value in their lives and in themselves, and develop their strengths.

## CCF and Harbour Housing

For Challenge Poverty Week Community Outreach Officer for Cornwall Community Foundation, Shannon Lenton, met with Kate Moss, responsible for Business Development and Project Management at Harbour Housing to discuss the work Harbour Housing and how CCF can provide support. Shannon received a tour of Cosgarne Hall, Little Cosgarne, spoke about the vital work of the service and even met Lenny the llama.



## Hidden Help

A lovely sunny day for giving MP Jayne Kirkham for Truro and Falmouth and Cllr Laurie Magowan a tour around our warehouse and vintage shop in Bissoe. Both Jayne and Laurie have donated to us through Community Chest (pot of money given to all Councillors for community projects) so it was great to explain how the money was spent.

Jayne said "Hidden Help is an amazing local resource. Judy explained that by recycling unwanted household goods, they furnished 40 properties last month - thanks to donations from the generous Cornish community and help from volunteer drivers like Joe." The visit was organised as part of #ChallengePovertyWeek 2024. Pictured are founder Judy Backus MBE, Jayne

Kirkham MP, Cllr Laurie Magowan, volunteer driver Joe Snowdon.



## Keep Cornwall Carpeted Campaign

Sam Williams from Transformation Cornwall met with St Austell Town Councillors during during CPW to raise their awareness of the Keep Cornwall Carpeted campaign.



## Living Wage Place for Cornwall

Cornwall Councillor Michael is a member of the Living Wage Place for Cornwall Action Group, a group which has researched low and insecure pay in Cornwall (and its effects). The issues of minimum wage, imposed zero hours contracts and short notice shift cancellations affect thousands of workers in the county. Whilst it is voluntary for employers to pay the real living wage (as determined by the independent Living Wage Foundation) or pay staff for a short notice shift cancellation our Action Group is promoting those organisations that do look after their staff. 30% of households coming to Truro Foodbank have at least one person employed (the national foodbank average according to Trussell is 20% of foodbank customer households employed). So dealing with poverty is both an operational and a strategic issue.



## Newquay Food Bank & Arts Well

As a volunteer it makes me aware of the huge need by so many, who rely on the Foodbank. The people in crisis is growing, and the Foodbank is struggling to meet the needs of all those that visit. Newquay Foodbank is a poignant reminder of the help that the poor need. Charities provide a much needed flicker of hope but it is society and the government the should restore the balance, that exists in our society. We help with issues of food but also help those that are homeless, including the street homeless and those with low wages, and those suffering with mental health issues.

Arts Well are working collaboratively with Newquay Food Bank, with the aim of adding value by bringing creative health and the arts to the venue whilst the food bank is in session. Bringing artists and creative practitioners to the venue offering workshops, performances and joy to the experience of getting the weekly shopping!

Arts Well are a Social Enterprise based in Penryn Cornwall, we are champions for Creative Health.



## Penzance Churches Together Breakfast Project

'Chef' Ivor and his team of volunteers, endeavour to welcome the Rough Sleepers of Penzance every weekday morning and offer them a hearty breakfast, warm drink and a friendly ear. Set up and supported by Churches Together in Penzance the project is based in the Breadline Centre run by St Petroc's. The Breakfast Project has been supporting the Street Homeless for well over 20 years.



## Pot Noodle Ministry Newquay Café

Providing hot food and hot drinks for those in need, in Newquay. Also advice and clothing, tents and a listening ear to those affected by poverty who often value someone to share their story with.



## Rewind

Thanks to the Directors of REWIND radio (Richard, Shaun, Sally, Nic below) for having Simon Fann on air the last month to talk about food recipes to help those struggling to cook well for low cost, but also to give me time to talk about why people in Cornwall are struggling. And to encourage employers to do the right thing by their workers.



## Salvation Army Falmouth

The Salvation Army in Falmouth provides a Support and Drop-in Centre, every Monday and Thursday for those that need help including the homeless. Food and hot drinks are provided with advice on a range of issues including benefits and houses.



## South West TUC

The South West TUC Rep meeting with Simon Fann of Truro Foodbank and Cliinton Sealey of Transformation Cornwall supporting the campaign for Real Living Wage Place





# Organisations participating in the Week and Visits

## St Ives Foodbank

St Ives Foodbank Manager Chris Walis supporting Challenge Poverty Week St Ives Foodbank began in 2012 to help those suffering from food poverty in the town. In those early days the demand was small and seasonal. Ranging from 4 households a week in the summer to 15 in the out of season months.



Demand has grown to 30 plus households a week in the summer to 60 plus households around the Christmas Period. Food donations from the public have gone down as everybody has been impacted by the cost of living crisis. We are now more dependent on financial donations and grants to purchase food and provide energy support. We have also had to move from the local Methodist church which is being sold, but charged no rent to now having to pay a large monthly rent making the provision of services more challenging.

## St Mary's Action on Poverty

'St. Mary's Act on Poverty Group met recently with our local MP Andrew George to discuss the impact of poverty in Cornwall and in particular, child poverty and housing issues. Andrew was encouraging and supportive and will be coming back to us to follow up on some questions we had for him in respect of breakfast clubs and childcare provision.'



## Transformation Cornwall

Strengthening faith based social action in Cornwall.



## THAG Truro Homeless Action Group

Jayne Kirkham MP visited THAG Truro Homeless Action Group

Her comment was 'You provide breakfasts 365 days a year and Christmas meals. I've seen a dozen people that morning who'd had a good breakfast and takeaway sandwich. It is a fantastic service that helps give support to the rough sleepers. Hopefully, we won't need services like this in the future but in the meantime thank you for everything you do'.

Therese, Rob and Jayne in the kitchen.



## Trussel Trust

Danni Malone, the Chief Network Officer for the whole of Trussell spending the afternoon in CPW with Truro Foodbank. Toni, one of our volunteers, passionately outlined the issues local people face with housing costs, low pay and the need to rely on organisations like foodbanks. Toni is part of our action group seeking to help Cornwall as a county be accredited as a Living Wage Place where employers are encouraged to pay, and recognised for paying, the real living wage. Danni oversees the Trussell funding for our Citizens Advice worker Tara and for the campaigning time of Simon Fann the Foodbank manager.





## Cornwall Lived Experience Partnership

# About Us



We are an intersectional VCSE owned and led partnership of Lived Experience Organisations and Journeying Organisations in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly collaborating together on voice and representation work supporting communities facing barriers across the country.

**Our vision is a fair, just and equitable Cornwall and Isles of Scilly for everyone**

*A place where a culture of interdependence is acknowledged and embraced and our lived experiences are heard and fundamentally embedded*

We believe that lived experience should be at the centre of all decision-making processes, giving voice to people with lived experience, ensuring coproduction and intersectional frameworks are at the heart of policy, planning and strategy.

We are always looking for new and diverse Wider Inclusion Partners, from all sectors, to work with us to champion the voice of lived experience across a wide range of disciplines. If this sounds like something you would like to be involved in, please contact us using the email [hello@clep.org.uk](mailto:hello@clep.org.uk)

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens could change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. ~ Margaret Mead

## Simon Fann Living Wage update

The Challenge Poverty Week event in 2023 focussed on the importance of paying the real living wage and campaign for Cornwall to become an accredited Living Wage Place where all employers are encouraged to pay the figure assessed by the Living Wage Foundation (LWF). A lot has been achieved in the year since that event in Newquay. The LWF have agreed the composition of the Action Group in Cornwall and the outcomes the Group are striving to achieve. There is one last piece of the jigsaw that needs to be agreed before Cornwall can be fully accredited as a Living Wage Place, namely the Action Plan of what will happen and how it will be communicated. Even without full accreditation just by stirring the waters the number of employers in Cornwall now with the LWF has risen from 113 to over 300, which means 15,000 workers are now guaranteed to receive the real living wage. Expect more news and a big launch in 2025!

## Housing and Homelessness by Paul Green Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum

### Housing and Homelessness – Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum

The Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum (CIPF) raise awareness of poverty issues, and try and influence positive change, through Poverty Meeting, Hearings and Conference, as well as meeting with our M.P.'s and other statutory and partner organisations.

This year is the fourth that the CIPF have worked with Church Action against Poverty to deliver Challenge Poverty Week in Cornwall, as part of a national initiative, with a focus this year is on Housing and Homelessness and we also given a voice to those with lived experience, and these are included in our 2024 Challenge Poverty Week Report. There were many stories of poverty in Cornwall, where people face the terrible choice between eating and heating, as well as stories regarding homelessness, including the street homeless and the hidden homeless and trying to uphold people's dignity.

Cornwall's cost of living and the housing and homelessness crisis are worse than the national average, as is food poverty and levels of low incomes. People living in poverty have little chance to increase their incomes whilst often having to pay out higher costs. Poverty also has serious impacts on physical and mental health, as well as issues of social isolation, due to limited transport options.

Challenge Poverty Week 2024 has been delivered in partnership with Church Action against poverty and has a focus on Housing and homelessness, as well as Dignity for All and Lived Experiences. For those with lived experiences of poverty, homelessness and social exclusion are often the best people in a position to develop solutions. Challenge Poverty week celebrates the excellent work that is being done by a range of voluntary and community sector organisations, in helping those struggling with poverty. Twenty Two Projects and Organisations invited local leaders and M.P.'s to visit their work to gain an insight into the work that they do and also the reasons so many people are suffering from poverty. There is also a commitment to work to uphold people's dignity and speak out for a just and fair solution to the ongoing cost of living crisis and the homelessness crisis

There are Thirty Five articles looking at the various areas of housing and homelessness. Some focus on Projects and Organisations working with helping those struggling with homelessness, such as the Salvation Army, St Petrocs and Harbour Housing. Some cover the work of Cornwall Council with their projects such as the Homeless Pods and Outreach Support for the homeless. There are ideas for proposed new projects, such as Nightstop and Childhood Trauma and Homelessness. There are also a number of articles looking at the work of national government, such as the Renters Rights Bill and the need to build more council and social housing.

There is much positive work being undertaken by the voluntary and community sector, Cornwall Council and our new government and the CIPF will be pleased to take part in helping with addressing the issues of the cost of living and the homelessness crisis, to help those that are struggling with poverty and disadvantage.

Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum's main focus of work is around addressing poverty by raising awareness, project development and influencing positive change. If you would like more information about us and the work we do, please visit our website: [www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com](http://www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com) *'Tackling social inclusion in Cornwall'*

Charity No 1183177

