SPEAR has been transforming people’s lives for 30 years. In 1987, after the tragic deaths of two rough sleepers on the banks of the River Thames, the local community came together to open a night shelter. Since then, SPEAR has also transformed as a charity and we now offer a range of accommodation options and support services to people across five South-West London boroughs, reaching hundreds of people each year. The local community remain at the heart of everything we do – funding our services, volunteering in our projects and partnering with us on new initiatives. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to SPEAR.

Sadly, our work is as important today as it was in 1987: the number of people coming through our doors has increased every year for the last five years. We continue to see more people with complex health and social issues; a lack of affordable accommodation makes finding routes out of homelessness very difficult. At the same time, a climate of financial uncertainty and cuts in services means we are having to do more work with less money. If recent trends continue, the demand for our services will continue to rise.

Our new strategic objectives will help us overcome these challenges. Over the coming years, we will increase accommodation options for people experiencing homelessness; we will continue to improve people’s health, skills and employability; we will develop more partnerships and innovative services to respond to changing needs; we will invest in our staff; and we will involve the people who use our services in everything we do. By reaching these goals, we can continue to transform the lives of the people we work with, for as long as our services are needed.

"SPEAR gave me hope and a second chance in life"
- Joe -

www.spearlondon.org
## LIVES
SPEAR understands that every person is different. We help people with every aspect of their life, so they can fulfill their hopes and ambitions.

- **500 people accessed SPEAR’s services in 2016/17**
  - 20% female
  - 80% male

## ACCOMMODATION
SPEAR provides different types of accommodation, with varying levels of support, suited to the individual needs of each person.

- **170 supported tenancies and 90% of people maintained their accommodation**
- **167 rough sleepers in Richmond**
- **107 rough sleepers in Sutton**

## HEALTH
SPEAR helps people to improve their mental and physical health. Our Homeless Health Link service supports people to overcome the barriers they might face in accessing health care. We undertook an evaluation of the service in September 2016. Since it started in April 2015:

- **200 people were supported with their health**
- **100 GP Registrations**
- **1 in 6 people gained a qualification from an external provider**

## YOUNG PEOPLE’S LIVES
SPEAR provides accommodation and support for young people affected by homelessness. Our goal is to equip young people with the skills and tools to live and work successfully in the future.

- **62% of young people were supported into education, training or employment**
- **53 young people a home**

## SKILLS
SPEAR recognises that gaining new skills and building confidence is crucial for a positive future.

- **1 in 5 people in SPEAR accommodation gave something back through volunteering**
- **1 in 4 people working with SPEAR’s Skills Development team gained employment**

## WOMEN’S LIVES
Women experiencing homelessness have often had different experiences to men. A tailored approach to supporting women is therefore essential. In 2016/2017:

- **15 women were supported to overcome the trauma of domestic violence with specialist counselling and accommodation**
- **53 women a home**

*In Richmond, we classify new rough sleepers as those who are sleeping on the streets. In Sutton, we work with both those sleeping rough on the streets and other places, such as sofa surfing.*

## SERVICE USER INVOLVEMENT
SPEAR’s Service User Involvement Group gives people the chance to get involved in running SPEAR, design their own activities and support their peers.

- **19 people completed a volunteering placement or peer mentoring course**
- **86% said they were happy with the service they received, and felt they were being supported well**

We asked all the people using and delivering SPEAR’s services for feedback. 35 people responded to this service-user survey.

## OUR STAFF
SPEAR values the skills, experience and diversity of our staff. We offer a wide range of training opportunities to help people develop a rewarding career.

- **1 in 6 SPEAR employees has experienced homelessness**
- **8 out of 9 SPEAR trainee workers have gone on to professional roles in the social care sector**
Who's Who?

Patron
The Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable
Leader of the Liberal Democrats
and MP for Twickenham;
appointed Patron of
SPEAR in 2016

Executive Team
Stuart Nevill, Chief Executive
Lesleigh Bounds, Director of Operations
Syed Ali Naqi, Finance Director

Fundraising
This year, lots of brave supporters took on challenges for SPEAR. Events included Swimathon, Run to the Somme, the Brighton Marathon,
Hackney Half Marathon and Ride London

Volunteering
Volunteers' roles included IT, literacy and maths tutors; SPEAR ambassadors; receptionists at SPEAR projects; and volunteer fundraisers

What are the things I’m most proud of from this year?
* Moving towards asset-based working, to explore people’s strengths and abilities
* Improved data collection with new service user and fundraising databases
* We were awarded ISO 9001, which shows our commitment to delivering quality services
* Becoming a London Living Wage employer
* We developed an early intervention model for working with households at risk of homelessness
- Lesleigh Bounds, Operations Director -

Community Involvement
We reached over 4,000 people in the local community through presentations on homelessness to local councils, health and social care professionals, schools, community groups, faith groups and local fairs

Volunteers what we do
Kate and Sarah are a stylist and a de-clutter expert respectively. They help people to build confidence through professional styling with donated clothes

Would you like to get involved?
To become a SPEAR ambassador, please contact supporters@spearlondon.org
To donate to SPEAR, please go to www.justgiving.com/SPEARLondon
To volunteer for the charity, please contact volunteer@spearlondon.org

How your money can help
£50 could pay for an outreach worker to work a shift, to help find people sleeping rough and make them safe
£100 could buy four thermal sleeping bags, keeping rough sleepers warm during cold winter nights
£250 could fund a new home-starter kit full of essential items for someone moving into a new property
£500 could support nearly 20 people to receive a thorough health assessment
£1000 could support one person to develop new skills and find a job, turning their lives around for good

Finances
Over the past 5 years, SPEAR has increased revenue by nearly 50%. In 2016/2017, revenue exceeded £2million. Growth is largely as a result of our statutory and charitable partners investing in our programmes. Thanks to their funding, we are able to effectively respond to the increasing need for homelessness services.

Investments
£5,606
Donations and legacies
£441,434
Raising funds
£119,741

£2.2m Income
Charitable activities
£1,722,295

£2.2m Expenditure
Charitable activities
£2,003,171

*Cost worked out by looking at average salaries for each type of role
Thank you for every donation of time, energy, financial support and gifts in kind given to SPEAR in 2016/17. Over 400 companies, individuals, community groups, schools, faith groups, charitable trusts and foundations supported us. We cannot list you all, but your support is greatly appreciated.

Rob’s Story

I used to have a good job, good friends and a home. Then a few years ago, my life imploded. I was drinking and losing everyone around me. After I left the place I shared with my girlfriend, I quickly ran out of money and had nowhere to stay.

Luckily, my ex still cared and got in touch with SPEAR. They moved me into a place in Twickenham. I thought I was moving there to die. I kept on drinking, lost all confidence and the ability to cope with life. There were more ambulances, more hospitals, more worry.

But SPEAR persevered. They were patient with me. They gave me a plan. Eventually I woke up and chose life. I chose to accept help. I chose the future, not the past. I went to AA and counselling and stopped drinking. Hour by hour, day by day, week by week, I worked at it and slowly won back the trust of the people I had hurt.

SPEAR have helped me learn to love life. I have ambitious plans now. Rob 2.0 will be a better version of the Rob that was at his best before all this. Between the time I was sat outside a building, on the street, drinking, sitting in urine, dressed in hospital ‘lost and found’ clothing and with life ebbing away, and a meeting yesterday with Google, there was a bridge. That bridge was SPEAR. I can never thank them enough.