

SPEAR

homelessness to independence



Impact Report **2017/18**

SPEAR

homelessness to independence

www.spearlondon.org

Registered charity: 1122206

"SPEAR are the 4th emergency service - they are life savers"

- SPEAR client -

Our Services

SPEAR is a charity for people experiencing homelessness in South-West London. We build communities in which everyone has a place to call home and provide the help needed to lead a fulfilling life. We recognise that homelessness is much more than just a housing issue, so we provide a range of accommodation and support services to help people reach their full potential

SPEAR's services were in high demand in 2017/18. We continued to see a rise in rough sleeping and increasing numbers of people with complex issues related to their health and wellbeing. The wider housing and social issues that cause people to become homeless did not abate.

In this challenging climate, we welcomed investment at a national level in tackling homelessness and the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act. Following this, SPEAR began its first homelessness prevention service and expanded support to rough sleepers across South West London.

The Charity Commission's agreement to SPEAR and Quintus Housing Trust 'unifying direction' was another significant development for SPEAR. This enables both organisations to work towards the same charitable objectives. Together, we are in a stronger position to reach a broader group of people, offer more accommodation options and deliver greater impact.

We continue our commitment to our core values: working together with our service users and partners to deliver the best possible outcomes; aspiring to the highest standards of support; being respectful of everyone we work alongside; determined to break down the barriers people face; and being visionary in our approach.

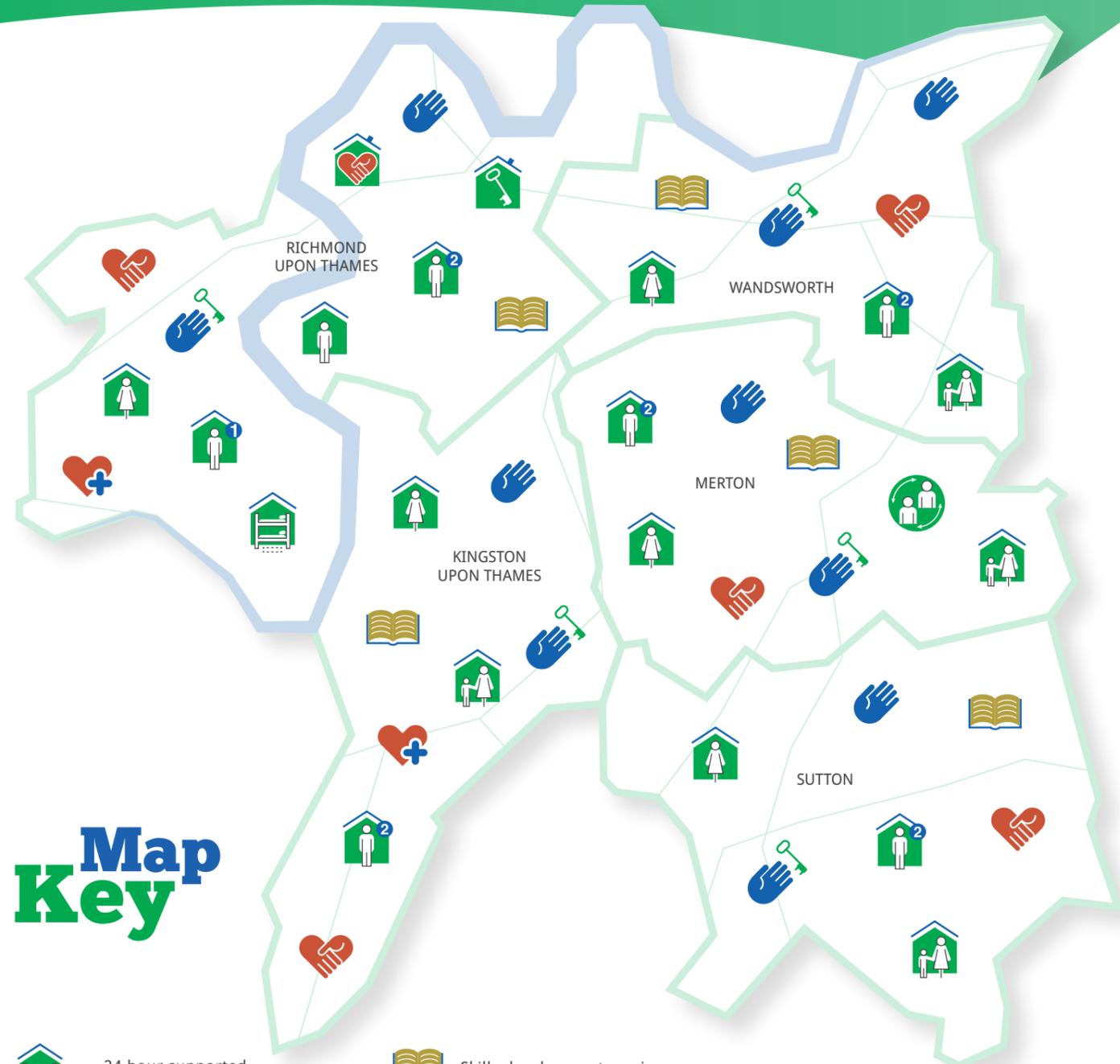
We remain grateful for the many volunteers and supporters, partners and funders who make our work possible. It is a privilege to work alongside you to help more people on their journey from homelessness to independence.



Stuart Nevill, Chief Executive



Jack Stephen, Chair



Map Key

- 24 hour supported accommodation
- Young people's supported accommodation
- First-stage accommodation for men
- Second-stage accommodation for men
- Women's supported accommodation
- Skills development service
- Homelessness prevention for families and single households
- Semi-independent accommodation
- Short-term accommodation for young people
- Home-based support
- Homeless Health Link Service
- Rough sleeper outreach service
- Floating support and tenancy sustainment
- Support to access the private rented sector

Our Impact in 2017/18

YOUNG PEOPLE

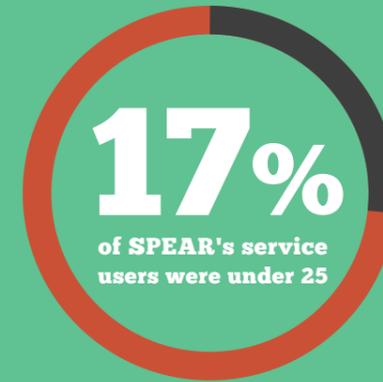
SPEAR provides accommodation and support for young people affected by homelessness. Our goal is to equip people with the skills and tools to live and work successfully in the future.

At SPEAR we understand that every person is different. We help people experiencing homelessness with every aspect of their lives so they can fulfil their hopes and ambitions

620
people accessed
SPEAR's services



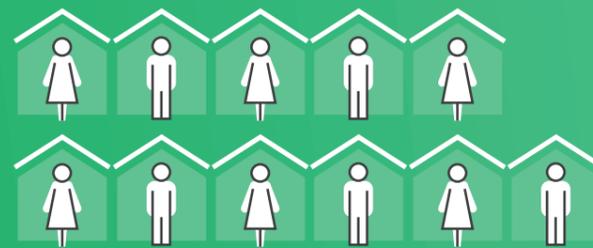
We gave
48
young people
a home



36 young people supported into education, training and employment

ACCOMMODATION

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



we found accommodation for
3 people a week

84%
people successfully
maintained their tenancies

We provided supported housing for
157
people, 48 were women

161 people supported to improve their skills, go into education and find work

SKILLS

We at SPEAR recognise that gaining new skills and building confidence is crucial for a positive future

36
service users
volunteered

24
people gained
a qualification

27
people supported
to find employment

HEALTH

SPEAR helps people to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing. Our Homeless Health Link Service supports people to overcome the barriers they might face in accessing health care

Reduced the use of ambulances by
32%

158
people were supported
with their health

5
people became
qualified Peer
Mentors

SERVICE USER INVOLVEMENT AND PEER MENTORING

SPEAR's Service User Involvement Group gives people the chance to get involved in running SPEAR, run their own activities, support their peers and volunteer in SPEAR services.



8 out of **9** peer mentors from the past two years found volunteering roles and/or paid work

We helped 147 people register with a GP
147 GP
Registrations

We conducted a service user survey to find out what people thought of the support they get at SPEAR, 50 people responded.
95% were happy with the service that they received from their project
90% said they were well supported by their key worker

Board of Trustees

- Jack Stephen, Chair
- Barrie Hatch, Vice Chair
- Charlotta Campanale
- Jonathan Cardy
- Paul Doe
- Alex Doig
- Grant Healy
- Katy Kiely
- Christine Reay
- Duncan Richford
- Rachel Smith

Patron

The Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable
 Leader of the Liberal Democrats
 and MP for Twickenham

Who's Who?

Executive Team

Stuart Nevill, Chief Executive
Lesleigh Bounds, Director of Strategic Operations
Donna Marshall, Finance Director

Our Supporters

Thanks to everyone who donated their time and expertise this year. Volunteer roles included literacy tutors, health support workers, outreach workers, SPEAR ambassadors, volunteer fundraisers and receptionists in SPEAR accommodation projects



132 volunteers gave **4,772** hours worth **£49,869**

20,000 people visited our website

1,600 Twitter followers

What are the things I'm most proud of from this year?

- Our partnership work with local councils to respond to rising rough sleeping
- Securing funding to continue the vital work we do with vulnerable women
- Transferring to a new database to improve the monitoring and evaluation of our work

- Lesleigh Bounds, Strategic Operations Director -

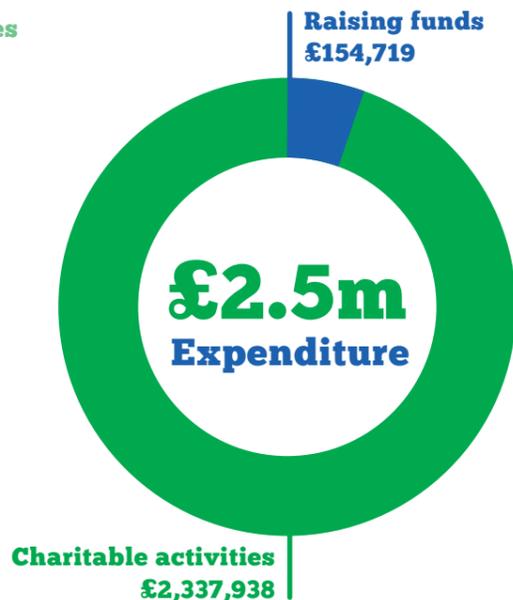
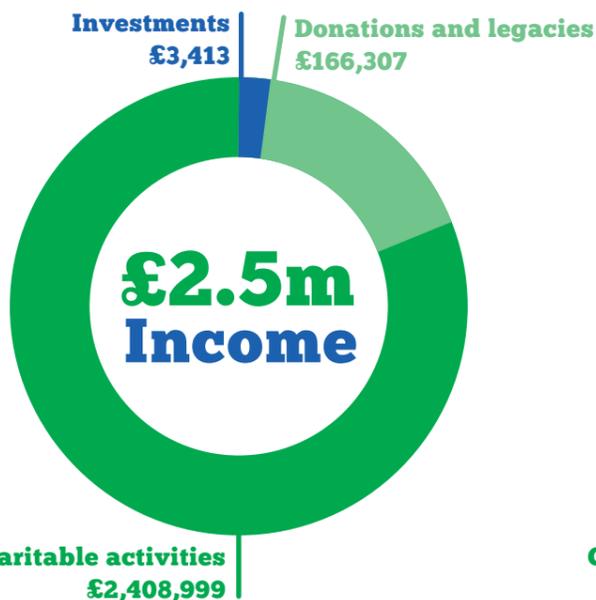


Community and Events

We reached over 5000 people in the local community including local councils, health and social care professionals, schools, community groups, faith groups, local businesses and local residents. Thank you to the brave people who took on challenges for SPEAR: cycling in Ride London, running the Royal Parks Half Marathon and the London Marathon.

Finances

Revenues have increased by 33% over the previous year, thanks to new investment in our programmes from our statutory and charitable partners.



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

Thank You

Thank you for every donation of money, time, energy, expertise and gifts in kind given to **SPEAR** this year. We are grateful for the generosity of the many companies, charitable trusts and foundations, community groups, schools, faith groups and individuals who supported us. We cannot list you all, but your support is hugely appreciated.

All Hallows Church
Barnes Workhouse Fund
Big Lottery Fund
Capstan Limited
Charlotte Wade Charity
Christ Church Teddington
Clare King Charitable Trust
Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity
Hands Fair
Holy Trinity Church Twickenham
Invesco Ltd
Kew Fete
Kew Rotary
Kew Village Market
King's House School
Kingston Round Tables
Orleans Park School
Parish Church of St Anne, Kew
Richmond Choral

Richmond Parish Lands Charity
River Church Sutton
Riverside Vineyard Church
St Andrew's Parish Church Ham
St Elizabeth of Portugal RC Church
St George PLC
St James's Parish Church
Hampton Hill
Surbiton High Girl's Prep School
Stephen Roberts Memorial Trust
The 29th May 1961 Charity
The Albert Hunt Trust

The Berkeley Charitable Foundation
The Drapers' Charitable Fund
The Monument Trust
The Peter Stebbings
Memorial Charity
The Richmond Charities
The Wimbledon Foundation
True Beauty Salon



Thank you also to our partners and commissioners, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, the London Borough of Merton, The London Borough of Richmond, the London Borough of Sutton, the London Borough of Wandsworth.

Daniel's Story

It wasn't just one thing that led me to the streets, but a run of bad luck that snowballed. I crashed my car and wrote it off. After the accident I couldn't work. With no income, I soon lost my flat.

I bedded down on a mate's sofa at first, but I couldn't stay for long. It was his home, not mine. I didn't know who to turn to and the cold weather was really kicking in, so I bought a small tent. It helped keep me dry and I pitched up all over, not wanting to stay too long in one place.

Living on the streets, you never feel safe. You feel people staring at you, wanting you gone. It was so isolating, and my self-esteem was rock bottom. I felt it was my fault, that I should get myself out of this mess.

Then a friend told me about **SPEAR**. I got in touch with them and asked for help. An outreach worker came and found me in my tent one morning. They asked me lots of questions about what I needed and how they could help. They got me somewhere to stay – it was such a relief to have get the keys and somewhere safe to sleep.

Next, I spoke to **SPEAR's** Skills Development team. They put me on a programme that helped build my confidence until I felt ready to look for work again. I found a job working with disabled and young people with special needs. With a salary, I was able to afford a place of my own again.

After a while, a job came up at **SPEAR** in their new homelessness prevention programme. I applied and was over the moon when I got it. After that, I got a job in their

Kingston Outreach team, helping to get people off the streets. It means so much to me to help people who were in my situation. There can't be a better reason to go to work.

