

2016/2017

SPEAR

homelessness to independence



30 Years of Transforming Lives

www.spearlondon.org
Registered charity: 1122206



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

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 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.

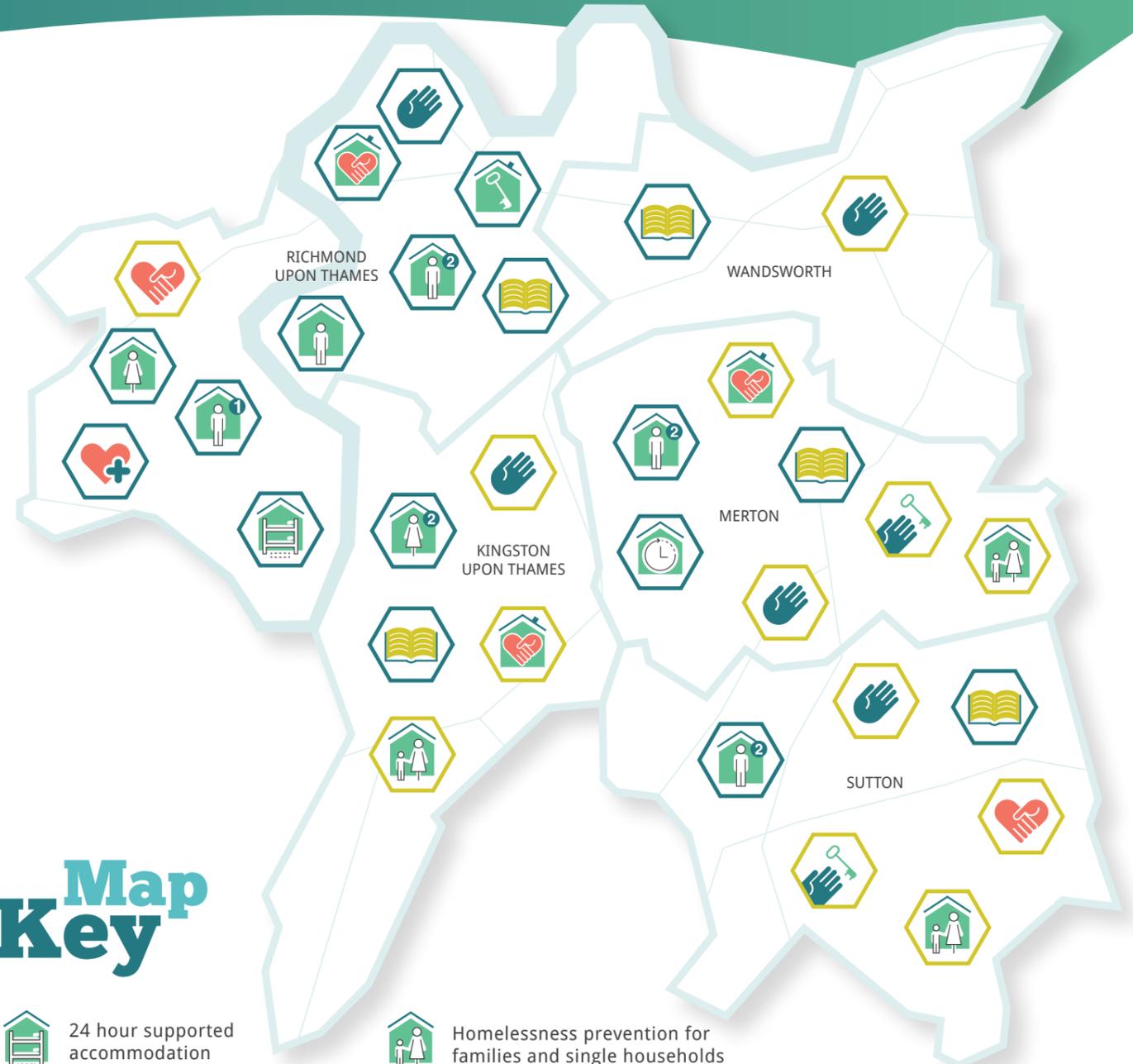
Our new strategic objectives will help us overcome these challenges. Over the coming years, we will increase accommodation options for people experiencing homelessness; we will continue to improve people's health, skills and employability; we will develop more partnerships and innovative services to 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.



Stuart Nevill,
Chief Executive



Jack Stephen, Chair



Map Key

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | 24 hour supported accommodation | | Homelessness prevention for families and single households | | Rough sleeper outreach service |
| | Young people's supported accommodation | | Semi-independent accommodation | | Floating support and tenancy sustainment |
| | First-stage accommodation for men | | Short-term accommodation for young people | | Support to access the private rented sector |
| | Second-stage accommodation for men | | Home-based support | | Established 2016/2017 or earlier |
| | Women's supported accommodation | | Skills development service | | Established 2017/2018 |
| | Second-stage accommodation for women | | Homeless Health Link Service | | |

Our Impact

Transforming...

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

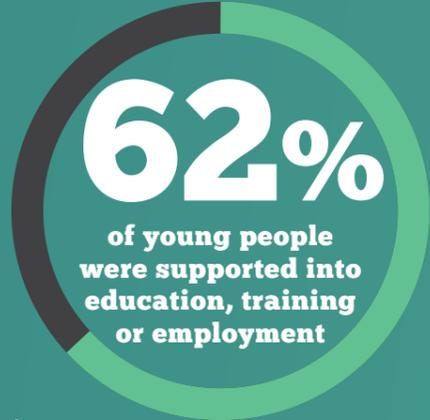
500

people accessed SPEAR's services in 2016/17



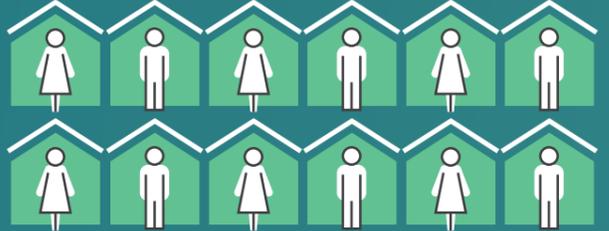
YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES

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



ACCOMMODATION

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

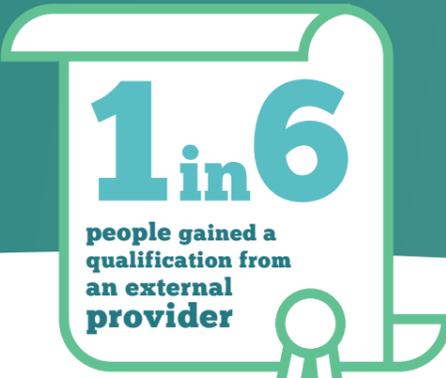


We found accommodation for 12 people a month



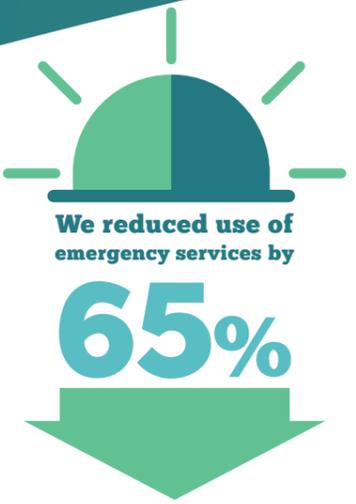
SKILLS

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



HEALTH

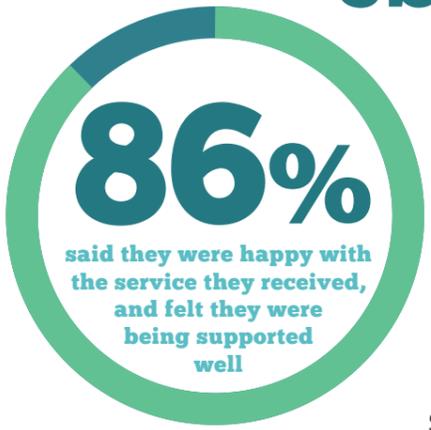
SPEAR helps people to improve their mental and physical health. Our Homeless Health Link service supports people to overcome the barriers they might face in accessing health care. We undertook an evaluation of the service in September 2016. Since it started in April 2015:



SERVICE USER INVOLVEMENT

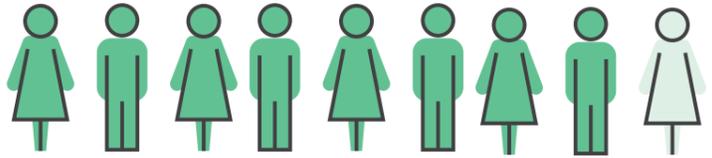
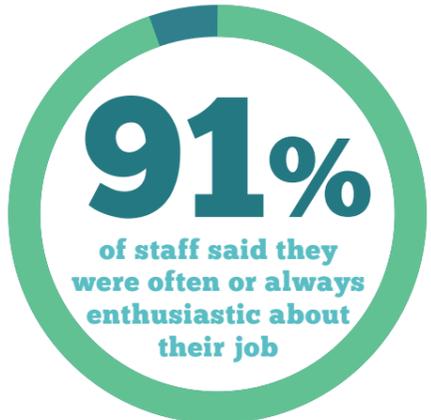
SPEAR's Service User Involvement Group gives people the chance to get involved in running SPEAR, design their own activities and support their peers

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



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:



*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

Board of Trustees

Jack Stephen, Chair
 Barrie Hatch, Vice Chair
 Charlotta Campanale
 Jonathan Cardy
 Alex Doig
 Grant Healy
 Katy Kiely
 Duncan Richford
 Rachel Smith
 Jeremy Theobald

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

Who's Who?

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 -



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

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



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.

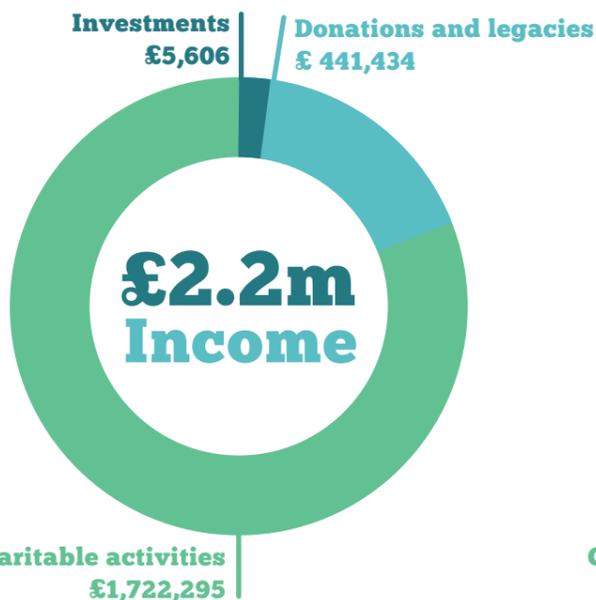
Would you like to get involved?

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

*Cost worked out by looking at average salaries for each type of role



Thank You

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.

All Hallows Church
Barnes Workhouse Fund
Charlotte Wade Charity
Clare King Charitable Trust
Friends of Galsworthy House
Greggs
Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity
Here-East
Kew Fete
Orleans Park School
Raynes Park High School
Richmond Parish Lands Charity
Richmond Team Ministry
Squires Garden Centre
St Elizabeth of Portugal RC Church
St James's Parish Church,
Hampton Hill

St Anne's Church, Kew
St George plc
St Margaret's Fete
Stephen Roberts Memorial Trust
Streetsmart
The 29th May 1961 Charity
The Ashcroft Charitable Trust
The Berkeley Charitable
Foundation
The Double 'O' Charity
The Golden Bottle Trust
The Monument Trust
Twickerati
Try Twickenham
Waitrose



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

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.



Rob, right, with his business partner at Google's offices