

# HULL LIGHTHOUSE

[www.hulllighthouse.co.uk](http://www.hulllighthouse.co.uk)



June 2021

## **What we've been doing**

Melanie has been developing a Green Spaces group and have acquired two allotment spaces at the Community Gardens opposite us on Beverley Road. We are working alongside Hull Community Diggers and have had a number of women helping us get started by planting vegetables and painting our plots. Our aim is to grow our own vegetables so we can pick fresh produce and cook. We will also be mixing with the wider community and a spot of gardening can be quite physical so everyone involved is getting healthy exercise. Melanie has also been making the outside area at the rear of our building more attractive by creating a seating area and making large planters with flowers and bird feeders. All we need now is plenty of sunshine!

Jen has been busy preparing the new Living Room space for the groups restarting and putting all her ideas into practice. Activities have started and we have managed to meet for a picnic and a walk around the Marina and over the new bridge. It's great to be meeting up together again and getting much needed community.

We want to make sure that all the extra space we now have is put to good use, so we are delighted that the Homeless Pathways Team organised a covid vaccine session for those women who are homeless/vulnerably housed and are likely to have been overlooked in the vaccine roll out programme.

## **Meet Anna, a Volunteer**

My work in Hull over many years has included working in Hull Prison and as a practice nurse at The Quays. Currently, I am the Lead Nurse of the Homeless Pathway Team. We support safe discharge from hospital for people experiencing homelessness, address their needs and refer to support services if needed. I describe our team as a safety net trying to catch people and their needs, working with them to help get the best outcome from a health perspective. We spend a lot of time picking up the pieces for our clients often shattered and chaotic lives. Key to any work we do is our love for our clients. We describe ourselves as walking alongside our people on their path and this very much reflects the work of Lighthouse.

I've volunteered at Lighthouse for 3 years and it was my first experience of street outreach. I'd classed myself as an experience practitioner around inclusion health, but Lighthouse had much more to teach me.

I remember my first shift engaging with a woman who disclosed she was pregnant and sleeping in a car, I couldn't sleep that night. We chatted in that warm, kind way that is so familiar to those who go out with Lighthouse and as we went through all the options for help it became obvious that for this woman her priority had to be scoring for her and her partner who was across the road watching on. Walking away that night will haunt me for ever.

Nothing has ever taught me more about addiction and the lack of control our women can have in their lives. I took from the experience the kindness, empathy and calm accepting way we engaged with this situation. The understanding that change is about what the women can manage, not about my desperate need for them to be safe in the systems we have available. They often have no safe attachments and their experiences of building those attachments are negative, so being accepted for who they are and where they are is so important.

As we stood another evening with a woman who had been assaulted, the feeling of helplessness in the situation flooded over me. However, if we hadn't been there, she would have been all alone with her sadness and despair. We gave her a drink, listened and tried to sort the little bits we could...which is what it is all about and holds so much value...women reaching out to women with warmth and compassion is as important and useful as any referral into any service and is the first of the baby steps towards a new direction for the women.

### **Funding**

We have been extremely blessed over the last few months by a number of generous grants. We are very grateful to:- **ROSA UK** who have given us a second grant to cover the costs of setting up the shower and laundry facilities when developed. The money will also provide toiletries and underwear.

And of course, a big thank you to all those people who have sent us regular or one off private donations as well as supporting us through fundraising platforms such as Easy Fundraising and PayPal Giving.

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### **The Trustees:**

Jane Honey—Chair  
Claire Thomas  
Jane Buckley  
Janice Farley  
Shirley Ross  
Steph Barnes

### **The Team:**

Yvonne Watson, Project Manager  
Kath Singleton, Evening Outreach  
Melanie Watson, Outreach Worker  
Jen Davies, Outreach Worker  
Claire Maxey, Administration

A reminder that you can support the work of Hull Lighthouse Project when you shop online. There are over 3,000 shops and sites where you can shop and in return they give a donation to our charity. Just go onto [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hullighthouse](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hullighthouse) and join up for free and then every time you shop, go to the online store via easyfundraising.

We are also one of the registered Charities with PayPal Giving, so people can safely donate via PayPal transactions.

**We are always looking for fresh ways to fundraise, so if you have any ideas or feel inspired to organise an event, please come and speak to us.**

### ***Don't forget to check us out on Social Media***

Facebook — **Lighthouse Project Hull**

Twitter — **@LighthouseHull**

### **PRAYER POINTS**

*We are looking for an outreach worker to cover maternity leave, so please pray that we find the right person for the job — someone who is dedicated to supporting vulnerable women, compassionate, and non-judgemental.*

*Please pray for wisdom as we start opening up the building and meeting face to face again and with the planning of stepping in to new ventures and utilising the space we have been blessed with.*

*Please also pray for continued good health of the staff so we can carry on supporting the women and of course, the good health of the women themselves.*

### **We appreciate all the support from all our current funders:-**

The Joseph and Annie Cattle Trust / Sir James Reckitt Charity / Wharfedale Foundation / The Henry Smith Charity / The Joseph Rank Trust / ROSA UK

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