

Harbour AGM Chair's Report 2023



Harbour Drop-in centre opens each Monday and Wednesday and is staffed by Trustees and Volunteers. Our clients are offered support and company, a hot meal & drink, take-away provisions and access to clean clothing, tents, and bedding. Our services are open to everyone in a non-judgmental environment meeting all our clients at their point of need.

Our Clients will always be the foundation of what we do and this year we have developed other services to add to that of the Diner. We worked closely with Public Health England offering various health clinics ranging from oral hygiene, vaccination & screening clinics, sexual health & podiatry. More recently we have been working with Together Devon, offering a weekly Needle Exchange and Counselling Clinic and working with The Reds Rowing Club to offer a weekly shower facility. We are grateful to these organisations for their support.

We have also been helping others in the community on a short-term basis – these people and groups will not necessarily access us from our Queen Street facility but need friendship and support all the same. This need is often identified to us by other organisations like Churches and Schools, and allows us to put back into a system that already supports us. We have offered support in Bideford, Hartland, Northam, Shebbear, Buckland Brewer and Appledore.

We are looking at other ways of utilizing our premises and run a monthly Art Group, Vaccination & Health Clinics, and use of the Diner to other local Groups, including for lunches and coffee mornings.

This year we have worked with young people by hosting school visits with activities embracing the topics of being different, kindness, empathy, and shelter. It is hoped that we can develop these visits and relationships with schools and clubs.

The effects of the Covid -19 pandemic and cost of living crisis have seen numbers visiting the Diner increase as we recorded nearly 2,300 hot meals given to our clients in 2023 alone. We have also committed to running a Warm Space Lunch in the colder months on a Tuesday.

The biggest asset that Harbour has continues to be its Volunteers – they freely, cheerfully, and tirelessly give their time and are responsible for the efficient day to day running of the centre.

Thanks to everyone associated with Harbour – Trustees, Volunteers and Supporters – because of you and your support, Harbour continues to be able offer human contact and compassion and it remains a place of kindness, safety, and respect.

Sarah Richards (Chair)