



Bury Drop In: Our vision and strategy

Bury Drop In is a Christian organisation, supported broadly by churches across the town, that exists to serve the homeless and vulnerably housed in Bury St. Edmunds. Our Strategic Plan describes the approach we will take to achieve this.

Our plan covers a three year period from 2021-2023. It reflects the changing landscape in which we operate, bringing together our vision and values to set out in clear terms how Bury Drop In will play a part in challenging homelessness locally.

We believe homelessness is not inevitable. With the right intervention, homelessness can be successfully addressed. We aspire to be a catalyst in bringing together agencies, organisations, churches, and local government bodies to maximise our combined impact on homelessness in Bury St. Edmunds.

Who we serve

Bury Drop In serves people who are homeless and vulnerably housed. Our guests include the street homeless, rough sleepers, and 'sofa-surfers.' We also care for those in temporary accommodation (e.g. hotels and hostels) and people who were homeless and guests at BDI but need some support to avoid falling back into homelessness. Our focus is therefore not towards people who are permanently housed, lonely, or struggling with wellbeing or addictions.

Our mission

In Christian love, to provide effective access to a wide range of services to homeless or vulnerably housed individuals and families in Bury St.

Edmunds so they may experience a brighter future.

Our vision

To care for and inspire homeless people as we work to ensure everyone has a place to call home.

Our values

Loving God: God loves us, and He gives our lives hope and meaning. We are passionate about loving God and demonstrating His love as we interact with others at the Drop In.

Esteeming People: We value the uniqueness, potential, and worth of every person, treating all with sensitivity, respect, and dignity.

Working as a Team: We value the knowledge, experience, and skills of all team members. We also rely on a network of partners: churches, the local authority, caring agencies, and town and national businesses.

Serving with Excellence: We provide the highest quality service for our co-workers, partners, and guests, placing a premium on reliability, trust, honesty, and safety. We are good stewards of our resources and care for the environment.

Our ministry principles

In order to accomplish our vision we will:

Identify the needs of homeless and vulnerably housed people. By our own observations, talking to homeless people, and input from other agencies, we will identify key needs we can meet or signpost guests to organisations that can help.

Recruit compassionate people to care for those we serve. We will continuously build and maintain a dedicated team of highly capable and motivated volunteers and paid staff.

Provide hospitality and compassion. We will offer a simple but nutritious meal,

compassionate friendship, and basic practical help to build trusting relationships with our guests.

Partner with other groups that serve the homeless. We recognise that to achieve our goals, we must work effectively with caring organisations, government agencies, businesses, and churches, serving as a catalyst to bring these groups together to maximise our combined impact on homelessness in Bury St. Edmunds.

Our 2021-2023 strategic aims

- To emerge from the pandemic well, serving homeless and vulnerably housed people.
- To be clearly focussed on our core purpose and avoid 'mission creep'.
- To recruit, train and encourage volunteers and staff effectively.
- To review and clarify the roles of trustees and staff and appoint additional staff when possible to develop the effectiveness and reach of the organisation.
- To work collaboratively with other agencies, churches and local government to address homelessness.

Our future

The next few years will be an important time for the Bury Drop In. The changing state of homelessness in the town and the challenges of operating a reduced programme throughout the pandemic will combine to push the

If we remain true to our mission, values, and vision, we will continue to provide excellent care to those in need in our community. As we focus on our ministry principles, we can achieve our goals and develop the agility to meet the needs of the homeless and vulnerably housed in Bury St. Edmunds, whatever challenges may appear on the horizon.