



# CHAT NEWS

*CHAT believes that everyone is entitled to decent, secure and affordable accommodation - somewhere to call 'home'*



**I am writing to ask if you would like to take part or, please promote it to your friends and family and make this the weekend, the most people sleeping, in aid of CHAT ever! A great challenge & some FUNraising too! (Please tell your friends about it on Facebook/ NextDoor/ everywhere!)**

**'Homeless 4 A Night'** will take place on a night between **Friday 8th to Sunday 10th May 2020**

While we are all stuck at home, how about taking a fun adventure to your back garden for the night and sleep under the stars (or your sofa if you prefer). Our community challenge is to sleep

under the stars (you can use a tent if you wish) for the night and raise some vital money for those who may not have a roof over their heads. **(Please DO NOT sleep in any public places)**

Even MORE fun! - make a cardboard creation (A Princess castle, house, or something else) decorate it & then sleep in it. Send in your photos to [events@chatmid.co.uk](mailto:events@chatmid.co.uk) with the heading 'Competition' and be entered into a prize draw to win £25 voucher and the best cardboard construction will win £15. Good luck!

It would be great if everyone could register with us and please aim to raise a target of £25 sponsorship (as it is our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) all to support those who are homeless in Mid Devon.

**Everything you need** - We have a fundraising pack & sponsor form - please visit our webpage for all the information you need: <https://chatmid.org/homeless4anight/>

**We hope you can join in & make it the biggest sleep out EVER! Good luck.**

## Calling all Shoppers!

**It will come as no surprise to you that we have experienced an unusual level of demand on our foodbank in the last few weeks. Due to the donations (both food and money) we have been able to help 131 households and made a total of 250 deliveries.**

As well as our volunteers we have been working with some of the Tiverton Volunteer Force, alongside British Gas and MDDC who have allowed us to use their staff and vans. We were able to manage the increase due to the community responding generously, but also because of the system that our regular volunteers have had in place for collecting, sorting and managing the flow of stock. We want to thank those businesses that have given us good prices for stock, given us their surplus food or used their community budgets to contribute to the food bank.

Tiverton Town Council and Devon Community Foundation have given generous grants so we are also in the process of offering booster packs to some of the families who are struggling at this difficult time. The economic impact of the pandemic and lockdown will be affecting households for a while yet and your continued generosity will mean we can respond.

If you are able to donate food please keep an eye on our facebook page and website for our most needed items. We don't want to encourage you to leave your house more than necessary so please leave donations at our local collection points in Tesco, Morrisons or Reapers whilst out shopping. If you are using online shopping, and are not able to deliver items please let us know and we can arrange collection whilst we are out delivering.

## Thank You

**...for everything everyone has done to support us in this challenging time, with money from individuals and businesses, with donations to our Foodbank, and the volunteers and other organisations helping to deliver, every little bit goes such a long way to helping those who really do need us at this time.**



## Who are the ‘hidden homeless’?

**You don't have to be sleeping rough to be homeless and you may have heard the phrase 'hidden homeless' on the news recently.**

Those experiencing “hidden homelessness” are people who become homeless but find a temporary solution by staying with family members or friends, living in squats or other insecure accommodation – otherwise known as ‘sofa surfers’ and they are often excluded from official statistics. At the end of 2019 Shelter estimated that there were 320,000 hidden homeless in the UK and although that sounds like a high figure our experience is that a significant

proportion of our clients are, or have, experienced this. They may be sofa surfing, living out of a bag hopping from one family member or friend to another and their quality of life is often poor and their mental health suffering. Clients can feel vulnerable in these situations and there may be an element of abuse to those most vulnerable and desperate for a bed for the night. They may need to leave the home during certain hours of the day, have nowhere to store their belongings and you can

imagine that sleep can be disturbed with very little privacy. More usually, these are younger clients, but in recent months we have seen people of all ages who do not have a permanent home.

It is difficult to predict accurately what the situation will be in the coming months but we anticipate more people being in this situation. At CHAT we believe that everyone is entitled to decent, secure and affordable accommodation; somewhere to call ‘home’ and we will continue to work hard to make that possible wherever we can.

**living out of a bag hopping from one family member or friend to another**

### If you need our support or can help please contact us

- We are unable to see clients in person at the moment. However if you need Support and Advice with housing you can call us on 01884 255606 between 9:30-4:30 Monday – Friday or contact us via our website [www.chatmid.org](http://www.chatmid.org) or email [theooffice@chatmid.co.uk](mailto:theooffice@chatmid.co.uk)

- If you need help with food please call 01884 255606 between 10-12 Monday – Friday for a telephone assessment.

See our facebook page @CHATMidDevon or [www.chatmid.org](http://www.chatmid.org) for further details and any changes to the services we offer.

If you can help by donating food, items can be dropped off at Morrisons, Tesco or Reapers.

If you are able to help financially please scan here to donate or visit <https://chatmid.org/donating/>



Become a **Giver of Hope**  
a regular gift can **change**  
a vulnerable person's life



Donate to our **foodbank** to  
enable us to **feed** someone in  
**crisis**



Keep up to date with our latest  
news, events and needs on our  
**facebook** @CHATMidDevon

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