

Herefordshire Homelessness Forum Charter

This is Herefordshire's Homelessness Forums' Charter. This Charter seeks to improve the way organisations and individuals work together to tackle homelessness in Herefordshire, by harnessing the enthusiasm of those who want to make a difference. The Charter sets out our vision and provides the aims, values, and actions that can be shared by all of those working to prevent homelessness in the county, and to support those affected by homelessness.

This Charter sets out a series of principles and pledges that Herefordshire Homelessness Forum is asking statutory bodies, including health and other public sector bodies and partner agencies, landlords, charities, faith groups and businesses to sign up to and to adopt the Charter's pledges and to implement them through improved working practices.

Our Vision

Herefordshire's Homelessness Forum Charter is intended to bring organisations together, to work towards the shared goal of making homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring. This Charter recognises that everyone has the right to:

- A safe, secure home.
- People are able to make safe choices about their own lives, which are respected.
- The appropriate level of support to create a good quality of life and wellbeing, where needed.
- A voice and involvement in determining the solutions to their own issues, to homelessness generally, and in wider society.
- Tell their own story, be listened to, feel that their experience is valued and not be stigmatised through being homeless.
- To be safe from violence, abuse, theft and discrimination, and benefit from the full protection of the law.
- Equality of access to information and services.
- Equality of opportunity to employment, training, volunteering, leisure and creative activities.

Aims of our Homelessness Charter

- Provide for multi-sector leadership and a shared vision to end homelessness.
- Communicate a clear vision to the wider public, businesses and partners.
 - Harness and enable partnership working.
 - Gain a greater understanding of the purposes, expertise and capabilities of those involved in the forum.
 - Improve communication between charter supporters.
 - Develop an inclusive approach, including the views of those who have experience of homelessness.
 - Provide a framework for learning, improvement and sharing experiences between charter supporters and to enable and monitor change.
 - Enable charter supporters to support and advise one another.
 - Develop and recognise evidence-based standards for homelessness services achieving effective outcomes and solutions.
 - Raise awareness of services providing support and work to prevent homelessness locally.
 - Provide the public with advice and signposting to charter signatory organisations.
 - Provide a focus for the co-ordination of homelessness work.

- Identify areas for joint action and then work together to design solutions and tackle challenges.

Our Values

Herefordshire Homeless Forum recognises that only by working together will the best outcomes be achieved, by sharing resources, information, and expertise.

Signatories to this charter agree that:

- Agree to listen to new ideas and share views.
- Everyone is open to receiving, and providing, feedback that is honest and constructive.
- There will be active encouragement of each other to make things happen.
- Everyone has their part to play in ending homelessness
- They will listen and utilise the voice of those with lived experience of homelessness in their services.
- Everyone has the right to have their voice heard and to participate in decisions that affect them.
- People will be treated with dignity and respect with a good standard of service everywhere