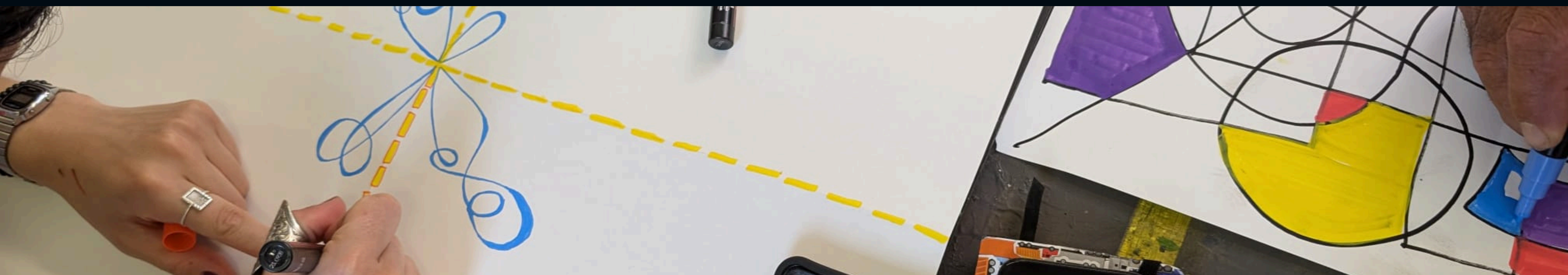


sct

April 2024 to March 2025

IMPACT REPORT









60 YEARS OF LIFE BEYOND HOMELESSNESS AND ADDICTION



SIXTY YEARS OF LIFE BEYOND HOMELESSNESS AND ADDICTION

Sixty years ago, Christ Church Spitalfields opened its crypt to provide a night shelter and soup kitchen for men experiencing homelessness. This simple yet radical act of kindness marked the beginning of Spitalfields Crypt Trust (SCT), a charity dedicated to helping people find life beyond homelessness and addiction.

Today, as an independent charity each year we enable people to break the cycle of homelessness and addiction; we enable people to rebuild lives, and we enable people to establish a lasting recovery



1965

1975









1985

1995

2005

2015

2025





*I've learned to believe in myself,
to enjoy the freedom I've gained."*

- SCT Student

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

200+

People supported

52

People accepted onto our residential
treatment programme

578

Training and Development
sessions delivered

83

People who would otherwise be
homeless provided with
accommodation and support



OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS: RETAIL

SCT Charity Shops

“We have sold more items than ever and made more impact socially and environmentally this year. We couldn’t do any of it without our incredible supporters”

- Leah Johnson, Director of Retail

290,849

Items saved from landfill

£453,000

Raised to fund our services

£44m

Social return
on investment

70

Volunteers in our
community



THE CRISIS IN NUMBERS

“When you're caught in the cycle of addiction and homelessness, even basic tasks feel impossible. Everything else becomes unbearably difficult.”

- SCT Resident

13,321

People seen sleeping on the streets in London

Ref: P16 / 1

1,611 DEATHS

A 9% rise in the number of people dying while experiencing homelessness

Ref: P16 / 3

68%

Experiencing unmet drug, alcohol and/or mental health needs

Ref: P16 / 2

94%

Experienced at least one traumatic event in childhood

Ref: P16 / 4

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

No one chooses a life of addiction, and no one chooses to be homeless. Often rooted in childhood trauma, multiple exclusion and experiences of abuse and violence, both the causes and solutions of addiction and homelessness are complex.

In London alone, over 13,000 people were found sleeping on the streets during the past year, with the majority reported to have substance misuse and/or mental health needs.

We support people to transform their lives, working with some of the most multiply disadvantaged people in society. People who, all too often, don't have the means to access the services they desperately need.

Those who use our services describe them as life-changing, and with the average age of death of people who die while homeless standing at just 44 years old, our work is often lifesaving.

Our residential recovery programme, which provides intensive addictions counselling coupled with tenancy sustainment support, our Training and Development programme, supported housing, and Housing First services, all provide opportunities for people to find lasting recovery. Without our intervention, many of the people we support would remain in an almost impossible-to-escape cycle of homelessness and addiction.

In our sixtieth year, our resolve is stronger than ever. Like many in our sector, we face financial insecurity, rising costs, increased demand and a challenging fundraising environment. We have taken some difficult decisions to safeguard our future, including the restructure of our retail and operational teams. This decisive action has helped create the conditions for improved financial performance going forward.

Despite these obstacles, there is much to celebrate. We ensured that funding for our Housing First service is sustainable, the dedication of our gardening volunteers was recognised with another Green Flag Award, and our annual Art Exhibition continued to grow in popularity. We are also proud that our retail operations continued to thrive.

Community is at the heart of what we do. We are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated community of staff and volunteers who have shown resilience through difficult times.

We don't receive any direct government funding, and are very grateful to all our donors, fundraisers and supporters who have continued to be part of SCT by providing vital funds. We couldn't support and enable people to transform their lives without this support.

Louisa Snow

Chief Executive Officer



CASE STUDY: LEARNING TO WALK AGAIN

“In 2020, I was out of control. Too many late nights. Too much bad living. Too much alcohol. I woke up every morning rattling with anxiety, feeling out of control and needing another drink to keep me from reeling.

“I hit the deck. I lost my wife. I lost my home. I even lost my dog. I was on the streets, spiritually dead and finding it difficult to find reasons to live. I was crying out for help, knocking on doors and making phone calls. I fell deeper into despair, and at times, suicide beckoned.

“Then I got a place at Acorn House, the home of SCT’s residential addictions recovery programme. I felt a huge sense of relief.

“I spent eight months in Acorn House, attending counselling sessions, participating in the group work programme, joining training and development activities and learning to stand on my feet again. There were tears, laughter and a sense of growth. I began to rediscover myself.

“I moved into SCT’s move-on house and volunteered in Restoration Station, helping to give donated pre-loved furniture a new lease of life. I felt like I was learning to walk and talk again, as I left the pain of addiction behind.

“Today I’m living in my a flat, going to AA and giving back to the community that helped me turn my life around. And for three years and one month, I have stayed away from the juice.”



RESIDENTIAL ADDICTIONS RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Between April 2024 and March 2025 almost half of those accepted onto our six-month programme stayed free from drugs and/or alcohol. Most of those we support have spent years, often decades, in active addiction.

Our residential programme supports people to work through the issues that led to addiction and homelessness and to build strong foundations for a lasting recovery.

Facilitated by a team of Addictions Counsellors, people are supported in addressing the causes of addiction, in managing traumatic experiences, and learning skills that build foundations for a lasting recovery.

The programme offers a combination of one-to-one counselling sessions and group work, focusing on issues such as cross-addiction, trauma and relapse prevention.

Alongside a named counsellor, everyone taking part in the programme is assigned a support worker from our Supported Housing Team.

People are guided to manage finances and access debt advice, claim benefits and access vital health care service, as well as manage criminal justice issues. They are also supported in developing the skills to maintain a tenancy and help secure long-term housing.

Upon graduation from the programme, residents are eligible to access our 'Move-On' accommodation to continue their recovery, while others return to their families or choose to other housing options.

Our support doesn't end when people complete our residential programme. Many take part in our aftercare sessions and attend Training and Development sessions.

“We recognise the link between homelessness, addiction and reoffending. To help break that cycle over the past year we’ve been improving our links with prisons, to increase the number of people who join us directly from custody.” Dave Yianni, Director of Services



TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

From April 2024 to March 2025 we hosted 528 Training and Development sessions.

Addiction recovery can be isolating, and it's easy for people to feel like they are on their own. Many people also have had a negative experience of mainstream education.

Training and Development sessions provide people with the opportunity to join a community, connect with others who've had similar experiences, develop existing skills, discover new ones and improve self-confidence and self-esteem. All are vital for building strong foundations for a lasting recovery from homelessness and addiction.

Our highly accessible sessions in Art, Digital Skills, Gardening and Woodworking are available to anyone who accesses SCT's residential services and people in the local community who have experienced addiction and homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.

Choices: long term recovery community

Our peer-led recovery group, 'Choices', provides a friendly and social space for people to meet, share ideas and experiences and take part in creative activities. It supports mental well-being, connects people with others in recovery and helps prevent people from feeling isolated.

Progressions

When people in more established recovery are ready to start thinking about education, training or employment, our Progressions service is here to offer guidance.

We offer one-to-one coaching on CV-writing, job-hunting and interview techniques as well as education and training options, alongside an opportunity to take part in the Futures Academy, which ran in collaboration with 100 Shoreditch.



TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT IN NUMBERS

- **Art Sessions: 147 sessions**
- **Digital Skills: 83 sessions**
- **Gardening: 166 sessions**
- **Literacy and Creative Writing: 34 sessions**
- **Progressions: 29 people supported and 64 volunteering placements attended**
- **Woodworking and Furniture Restoration: 37 sessions**



HOUSING FIRST

Our highly effective Housing First service supports exceptionally vulnerable adults with experience of long-term homelessness and associated challenges, including complex physical and/or mental health needs, trauma and addiction.

We supported 20 tenancies in 2024/25, and 86% of people have successfully maintained their tenancy since the service was established in 2020. For many people, this is the first time they have been able to sustain a tenancy in their adult lives.

One key to the success of the service is the relationship between our Support Workers and the residents, built on trust and mutual respect. Based in the local community our team offers personalised, trauma and gender-informed support on issues such as benefits and welfare, mental and physical health needs and addiction recovery.

The strength of support from our partners is another key to success. Thanks to the support of Poplar HARCA, people are offered tenancies in well-appointed self-contained flats and studio flats. Our relationships with organisations including Beyond the Streets and Reset Tower Hamlets ensure people can access the support they need to rebuild their lives.

“The workers are like family to me. They have never given up on me.”

Housing First Resident

SCT RETAIL: SUSTAINABLE, CONSCIOUS, AND TRUSTED

RETAIL FOR GOOD

Our nine charity shops and two social enterprises are in some of the most diverse and disadvantaged communities in East London.

Whether people are looking for vintage fashion finds, pre-loved designer bargains or a more conscious and affordable way to shop, we strive to respond to the needs of our local customers.

A dedicated team of staff and volunteers are the lifeblood of our shops. We're especially proud of our shops' volunteering programme that offers people in recovery a meaningful way to gain work experience, give back and be part of a supportive community.

The Charity Retail Association calculates the value of our contribution to our community at over £44,000,000 in social good, measured by how much our customers, donors, volunteers and staff value their role and our impact.



What is a charity shop value beyond the money contributed to the charity?

Find out more about how the true value is calculated at charityretail.org.uk



RETAIL FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

OUR SHOPS ARE GOOD FOR PEOPLE, GOOD FOR COMMUNITIES AND GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

During the past year our shops:

- Created more than 70 meaningful volunteering opportunities which gave people a chance to give back to their local communities.
- Contributed over £450,000 of vital funds which helped more people find a life beyond homelessness and addiction.
- Prevented 290,849 items from entering landfill
- The social return on investment in our places and people translates to £44 million in positive impact in our communities - making a vast difference to the lives of of people in East London's diverse communities.

SCT SHOPPING LIST

How your donations help...

£10	Could provide nutritious cooked meals for two of our residents.
£15	Could contribute to the cost of one hour of coaching that helps someone explore future employment opportunities.
£20	Could contribute to the cost of one hour of addictions counselling.
£50	Could pay for a two-hour training and development session that helps five people discover new skills and build self-confidence.
£250	Could contribute to the cost of a support worker helping a resident develop the skills to sustain a tenancy and secure long-term housing.
£500	Could contribute to the cost of kitting out a Housing First flat, helping to create a stable home for someone who has experienced long-term homelessness.

THANK YOU!

**TO ALL OUR FUNDERS, SUPPORTERS, DONORS AND
VOLUNTEERS WHO SUPPORT LIFE BEYOND
HOMELESSNESS AND ADDICTION. WE COULDN'T DO OUR
VITAL WORK WITHOUT YOUR HELP.**



REFERENCES

1. CHAIN Annual bulletin, Greater London 2024/25
2. CHAIN annual bulletin, Greater London 2024/25
3. Dying Homelessness Project: Museum of Homelessness: 2025
4. Irving and Harding: The Prevalence of Trauma among People who have Experienced Homelessness in England: 2022