



March 2018

“for all concerned about homelessness”

Plan to end rough sleeping

A Greater Manchester Homelessness Network set up by Mayor Andy Burnham aims to end GM rough sleeping by 2020 with a 10-year vision for tackling homelessness. Figures show **a Greater Manchester increase in rough sleeping of**



42% compared with 14% nationally This is the first UK city region with a unified plan to tackle rough sleeping through charities, businesses, local authorities, faith communities, and other appropriate people. Andy says “There is real progress - £9 million pounds to help the homeless with All sectors working more closely together There is emergency support in the freezing weather with 1,000 extra beds this winter. But so much more to do!”

The Plan summary is four ‘R’s:

Reduction: *prevent rough sleeping in the future by finding solutions for new people at risk and for existing rough sleepers, to prevent a return to the street.*

Respite: *safe places for people off the street.*

Recovery: *manage issues, stabilise individuals, work towards independence through support, wellbeing, life skills and steps to employment, volunteering, training and education.*

Reconnection: *To enable individuals to lead meaningful lives with choice and agency in our community.*

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- GM ‘End Homelessness’ Plan
- Thank you, Peter Galvin!
- The On-Line Street Support Network
- Listening to Women Survivors
- Rochdale Town Centre Initiative
- HARP: Petrus & Bond Board Project
- New Oldham Petrus Project
- ‘Petrus Pedals’ bike project
- Farewell to Tommy Ocego

A 37-point action plan will be monitored by academics, charities and policy experts.

A new business network chaired by Tim Heatley, co-owner of Manchester property developer Capital & Centric, enhances the private sector’s role and hopes for 200 Greater Manchester businesses to enrol by 2020.

Tim says “Our business leaders have creativity, determination and ingenuity and Manchester’s industries are on the world stage. These talents could transform the lives of our homeless. It’s a big ask, but one I’m sure we’re capable of it”

3 star award for Regenda !

The
Regenda
Group



Congratulations to The Regenda group of which Petrus is part-**7th in the top 100 not-for-profit organisations to work for**, at the prestigious Sunday Times Best Companies Awards 2018.

Prestigious Gold Investors In People

status for 



It is a huge achievement to reach this standard. IIP Gold is acknowledged internationally as evidence of being a good employer and investing in developing its staff and services. It also provides assurance to external bodies and partner agencies. To celebrate this event Petrus staff had a social evening at the Baum in Rochdale and under the golden lights a good evening was had by all!

Peter's commitment, interest, compassion and sense of humour have all helped contribute greatly to the life and development of the organisation.

This has all been undertaken in addition to being actively involved many other activities and groups within the Borough of Rochdale.

Lynda Robinson writes: I have worked alongside Peter for many years and he will be greatly missed by the Trustees of Petrus. He has been a very valued and active member of the Board of Trustees.

He has given thousands of hours of his time on a voluntary basis and always remained focused on the reason why he has been involved with Petrus and that is to make a difference for service users of whom he knew many.

A huge thank you Peter for all you have done and I'm sure we will see you again at a Petrus event in the future!

THANK YOU, PETER GALVIN!



Denis Skelton writes: Peter Galvin, a well-known and respected member of Rochdale's community has retired as a Petrus Trustee after serving over 25 years on the Council of Management and holding the office of Vice-Chair for over

10 years.

Peter has been active in all aspects of the charity's life and has given much time to help support and develop its work. Peter's involvement has ranged from chairing many meetings and working parties, to public speaking as well as volunteering at the Petrus Hub and Community Store.

ZEN Internet donates £14500 to



After a year's fundraising including a sponsored sleep out in Manchester, Local ISP service provider from Sandbrook Park Zen gave Petrus a huge donation recently. It's a tribute to the great charitable mission of Zen which incidentally gives every employee 2 days off per annum for voluntary work in the community.

THE STREET SUPPORT NETWORK

by  Volunteer



The Street Support Network is a new online resource addressing homelessness issues in Greater Manchester and other UK cities.

This idea arose from a conversation between founder Ms Viv Slack and a local homeless man. Then a number of homelessness projects, often involving Mr Gary Dunstan from "Doing Good Digital", were discussed. On one significant occasion, Gary asked David, an experienced homelessness outreach worker... "If you could do one thing to make the situation for homeless people better, what would it be?" reply was to form Street Support, to help and co-ordinate groups helping the homeless.

On the streetsupport.net website there is a wide range of information for people seeking help and for others wishing to donate resources. There is also news, and personal stories for those wanting enlightenment on the subject of homelessness

Organisations offering services are welcomed to put details on the streetsupport.net/register link. Questions to admin@streetsupport.net



The more UK homelessness organisations registering the greater the streetsupport.net service will become. Whether accessed via the computer website or the smartphone app, the perennial issue of homelessness now has a problem-tackling resource up in the "cloud". Check it out!

LISTENING TO WOMEN SURVIVORS

by Louise Sever (*Rochdale's Victims' Services Coordinator for Greater Manchester Police*) and Charlotte Hand (*Administrator, Voices Of Survivors Project*)

The project called 'Voices of Survivors: Hearing Women for Change' has been holding road show events in every borough of Greater Manchester; open to women who have experienced sexual violence, professionals, or anyone interested in supporting women survivors. The Rochdale event was on 12th February 2018 at Rochdale Connections Trust on 60 Drake Street. The events give free training by Rape Crisis on



responding to disclosure, with a face-to-face setting where women complete a questionnaire whilst being supported, for many women the online questionnaire is not suitable. This will help build a network of support across GM.

1 in 5 women experience sexual violence and there are few specialist services, although lots of agencies are providing fantastic support. Voices of Survivors is a Lloyds Bank Foundation funded partnership of three women's charities: Manchester Action on Street Health (MASH), Manchester Rape Crisis and Trafford Rape Crisis. They work closely with Manchester Metropolitan University to research the needs of female survivors of sexual violence and exploitation. The aim is to ensure that voices of the women are heard and, by bringing together frontline agencies, to create a network of high quality support across G. Manchester. They believe that by listening to the voices of survivors and coming together as organisations that work with women they can make a real difference to the support offered to female survivors.

Louise Sever is based at Rochdale Police Station.

Email: louise.sever@gmp.pnn.police.uk

Follow on Twitter: @gmpolice

Charlotte Hand is based at MASH: 0161 273 4555
www.vosgm.org.uk



Rob and Julie

Petrus have succeeded in contracting with Rochdale Council to provide staff for the Rochdale Town centre Initiative - the Council strategy to tackle homelessness, begging, substance misuse and general anti-social behaviour. Petrus' role supports the homeless, the vulnerable and those with multiple needs.

Two members of staff for this pilot project includes Julie Hegarty a Petrus Hub worker who says "This is a unique, exciting opportunity to support the hardest to reach, and collaborate with partner agencies to give more street support to help those who are in need"

The second member of staff recruited is Rob Rowe a volunteer for Petrus and other caring agencies. He brings a wealth of lived experience. Petrus is committed to service user involvement and to 'co- production', where 'lived experience' helps to shape and deliver its services to people in housing need. Welcome to the team Rob He says "Change comes from within. The tongue can be the venom but can also be the antidote; the voice can paint a love song but can also start a war. I'm really looking forward to my next chapter with Petrus and in my life"

Julie and Rob will work in a network with the Police, Town Centre Enforcement and RMBC Homelessness linking in with statutory and commissioned services, accommodation, supported housing and landlords, churches and mosques and relevant voluntary and community groups

Please contact Julie or Rob at Petrus for further advice or information.

Liz Varey writes "based at the Petrus Hub the team spends a large amount of the week doing welfare walks which allows them to build relationships with those who are rough sleeping and begging. They are working alongside organisations such as Great Places to include people on the SIB (social investment bond) programme. To date the TCI team have referred 10 individuals with multiple and complex needs to the programme which will allow them to receive support for three years and be moved in to appropriate and sustainable accommodation."

HARP

by Alison Eastwood, Bond Board



HARP is a Big Lottery funded partnership between The Bond Board and Petrus, to support disadvantaged, excluded private rented tenants and those without a home. Service includes

- Immediate practical assistance for people in crisis without a roof or food.
- Intensive 1-1 support.
- A Welfare Rights Service- advocacy and representation with all benefit issues.
- An innovative, peer-led Sustainable Livelihoods research project- service users are helped to research the issues and barriers, strategies to cope and move on.

Petrus staff work with service users with immediate needs and those needing intensive 1-1 support. The Bond Board provides further specialist support and advice about welfare rights and benefits, eg. support with benefit appeals and representation at tribunals.

The Bond Board works with Edge Hill University developing the Sustainable Livelihoods research project focussing on the lived experiences of people and organisations.

Harp (cont from page 4)

It gives service users a voice and helps to design services promoting meaningful engagement. Work with homeless and vulnerable households attending 'Quids In' groups helps them to map some of their support networks discussing where they get money from and where they find a sense of community. The project will grow over the next year. Clients lead the research talking about issues, barriers and coping strategies.

Young Thomas raises money for Petrus

Angela and Hywel Williams from Rochdale write

"Our son, Thomas Joseph Williams, took part in the Tenby Boxing Day swim. He is only six years old but is very concerned about issues regarding homelessness so he decided he wanted to raise money for Petrus. He managed to raise £410 exactly from sponsorship from approx. 40 people. "



His parents are very proud of him, because he is a kind boy.

NEW OLDHAM PETRUS PROJECT

by David Landreth

Petrus in partnership with Regenda is proud to have our second Oldham project in Oldham. **325 Hollins Road** open since the 26th January 2018. housing both male and female residents who were homelessness and with low-level housing support needs. It is fully furnished and has five large two-bedroom flats, a shared kitchen, living room and bathroom.

It has 37 hours staff support from Claire Taylor, Assistant Project Leader, and the Long Street team; telephone link is from other projects out-of-hours.

Management support is by myself and with Coppice Street and The Limehurst Green Spaces Service is Petrus's Oldham portfolio. Social work students and partner agencies will also help.

It is primarily for under 35's unable to get their own home due to changes in housing benefit laws. They may be socially isolated and require general housing management support and help in budgeting, advocacy, managing income/benefits and debt issues. There are Move-on housing links with R.M.B.C. and the Bond Board tenancies.

People will have

1 **access to a safe, secure tenancy**, learning key skills in sharing a tenancy and how to obtain a suitable move-on property in the borough.

2. **group activity sessions** to improve their general life skills, personal resilience and coping with crises.

3. **gained an employability qualification and increased their key skills** to access pathways to volunteering/becoming a community champion-coaching and inducting other volunteers. Work placements with partner agencies MANTRA and University of Manchester will be a big goal.

4. **More company, be less lonely, less socially isolated with improved mental & physical health.**

We are all excited by this new development and are notifying other services in the borough. *If you would like to refer anybody please contact Petrus Hollins Road on 07904 959074 or use the referral pack at www.petrus.org.uk.*

PETRUS PEDALS HELPS MAN GET JOB

by Martin Topham

Petrus Bike Kitchen has helped a Rochdale Man s returned to a new job. He popped in to the Bike Kitchen at the Exchange Shopping Centre in Rochdale to say he had a new job but public transport did not go close enough and it cost so much.

The man asked if we could help him out with a bike. I as project manager was only too happy to help and found a Giant Mountain Bike which was passed on to him at minimal cost. He subsequently got in touch to say:

"Hi, thank you very much for your help with the bike. It has really made a big difference- helped me get to work and to stay in work."

Another great success for Petrus Pedals and Bike Kitchen!



SERVICE USER SPEAKS:

I wanted to give you feedback about Petrus Pedals as I have never done anything like this before, didn't think I could do it, perhaps it wouldn't be for me.

But I was so wrong. I really enjoyed it and actually learnt a lot which I found I could do. The group was good as it was small (7) and I didn't have to do anything if I didn't want to. I could just watch. The man explained it all really clearly and he knew that I didn't have any experience of bikes only having learnt to ride one when I was younger and lived with my mum. When I went to foster placements, I moved around a bit and never really had any confidence and didn't feel I fit in so never joined in anything or ride a bike since being in care.

By the end of the session I could take off the wheel, take the inner tube out, repair the puncture, put the wheel back on the bike. I also know how to look after the different parts. I am going to go along to the bike workshop on a Thursday - to build a bike and attend the road safety bike courses.

DEATH OF PETRUS'S OLDEST RESIDENT

Tommy Ocego was given a grand send-off at Rochdale's magnificent parish church, St Chad's, on the hill overlooking Rochdale and its imposing Town Hall. Revd. Mark Coleman, Vicar of Rochdale and former Petrus Trustee presided; and Chris Blackwell, founding trustee, delivered readings the theme being Paradise. Tommy's life-story included amusing anecdotes culled from fellow service-users and staff in the Petrus family. Referring to the Christian hope of life-after-death, Mark said that for many Petrus was a little bit of Paradise-on-earth.

Tommy died aged 81 on 2nd February. He lived at our house on Beswicke Royds Street. **He had lived as a member of the Petrus family since the day it was formed in December 1972.** For many years he lived at our River Street house which (ironically) was built on the site of the Dickensian private lodging house whose closure in December 1972 displaced the men who formed Petrus's first community.

These men slept initially on mattresses on the floor Mitchell Street Methodist Church Hall. A few weeks later they moved to the former police and fire station building on the site where a few years later Rochdale's Municipal Offices – the Black Box – was built.

Chris Jones, a Petrus Assistant Project Leader, writes "*Tommy was universally liked by all service-users at River Street and Beswicke for his calm persona and his often-brilliant one-liners. Tommy had a unique personality. A particular habit was to call all Petrus staff and most people he met by the wrong name. However, he always used that same wrong name...he knew your real name, but he just enjoyed this game with you!. Tommy will be sadly and genuinely missed by all who knew him.*"



The Petrus Choir performing in St Chad's Church at the Petrus Carol Service

For the first time at St Chad's Parish Church a choir made up of Petrus staff and service users sang Christmas carols at a service before Christmas 2017.

It was such a success that plans are going ahead for this to be an annual event every Christmas.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on 25 May 2018. We will closely follow its guidelines on how personal information is processed. Everyone has the right to know what stored information is used for and who we share it with We're reviewing all the personal information we hold and refreshing the Privacy Notice on our website

 **PROJECT ADDRESSES**

Registered Office: Craig Lee House 25 Church Lane, Rochdale OL16 1 NR
Tel : 01706 345844 Fax: 01706 713151 Email : petrus@petrus.org.uk

Co-ordinator: Denis Skelton – email: denis.skelton@petrus.org.uk

Deputy Co-ordinator: Phil Foster – email: phil.foster@petrus.org.uk

Volunteering Co-ordinator: Liz Varey –
email: volunteers@petrus.org.uk

CHEVIOT HOUSE
Greave Avenue
Rochdale
OL11 5EN
Tel: 01706 655690
Email: cheviot.house@petrus.org.uk

PETRUS HUB
73 Great George Street
Rochdale
OL16 1QG
Tel: 01706 526289
Email: petrus.hub@petrus.org.uk

FALINGE
81 Falinge Road
Rochdale
OL12 6LB
Tel: 01706 354826
Email: falinge.road@petrus.org.uk

BESWICKE ROYDS STREET
90 Beswicke Royds Street
Rochdale
OL16 2XD
Tel: 01706 646925
Email: broyd.street@petrus.org.uk

GREAVE
Greave Avenue
Rochdale
OL11 5EQ
Tel: 01706 658559
Email: ssgreavehouse@rochdale.gov.uk

HOWCROFT HOUSE
240 Rooley Moor Road
Rochdale
OL12 7EA
Tel: 01706 342133
Email: howcroft.house@petrus.org.uk

LONG STREET
64 Long Street
Middleton
M24 6DN
Tel: 0161 654 8279
Email: long.street@petrus.org.uk

RUTH HOUSE
70 Spotland Road
Rochdale
OL12 6PQ
Tel: 01706 358400
Email: ruth.house@petrus.org.uk

WELLFIELD STREET
20 Wellfield Street
Rochdale
OL11 1AW
Tel: 01706 354 166
Email: wellfield.street@petrus.org.uk

MOUNT PLEASANT
Stud Brow
Whitworth, Rossendale
OL12 8LU
Tel: 01706 853 887
Email: mount.pleasant@petrus.org.uk

COPPICE STREET
152 Coppice Street
Oldham
OL8 BJ
Tel 0161 627 5490
Email: coppice.street@petrus.org.uk

EGERTON
4 Egerton Crescent
Heywood
OL10 1HH
Tel: 01706 626004
Email: egerton.crescent@petrus.org.uk