

Changing attitudes,
changing lives



Nearly 50 years supporting homeless people in Kent



“Porchlight really opened the door for me. Now I live a more fulfilling life.”

Andrew

In 2015, we received £500k from the National Lottery Community Fund, allowing our helpline and rough sleeper service to be there for even more people



We launched the BeYou Project to support young LGBTQ+ people, a group at high risk of homelessness

2015 We won a major contract to deliver mental health services



In 2019, we were donated new property

2007 Supported housing in Canterbury, Ashford, Dover & Thanet



We prevent homelessness by working in communities, helping people who are struggling to stay well and manage their own lives



2020 We started investing in our own property

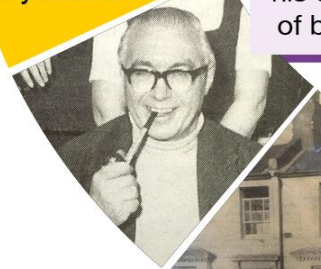
We expanded our rough sleeper team to cover new areas and meet the growing need in Kent



1974 The charity was set up under the name Canterbury Cyrenians

Founder Tom Gifford was motivated by his own experience of being homeless

1997 We had 18 full-time staff and beds for 70 people



We started with a single hostel in Canterbury

1987 We had 3 full-time staff and beds for 17 people



In the 1990s, the charity took over two new properties in Canterbury

In 2008, we changed our name to Porchlight



Last year, we supported more than 8,300 people in Kent and Medway





Outreach services

- Rough sleeper teams with specialist support for **women, young people and those with high mental health needs**
- New roles in **harm reduction** and **domestic abuse**
- Expertise in **modern day slavery**
- **Flexible roles** that meet the needs of each district or borough





Supported housing

- Properties **across Kent**
- **Strengths-based** and **trauma informed** approach: our staff work with clients to recover and take control of their lives
- **Collaboration:** access to mental health/drug & alcohol services and help with tenancies, debt and employment
- The **right support** – focused on the individual and their needs





Communities and mental health

- Teams in Kent's **most deprived communities**, helping to tackle the mental health inequalities that have been intensified by the pandemic
- Supporting people with **complex health and social care needs** through Live Well Kent & Medway and our Porchlight Open Door project
- Expansion of **adolescent wellbeing services** in response to the higher number of young people experiencing mental ill health
- Specialist service for **LGBTQ+ young people**.





Quality and safety

- Developed **occupational standards** and **Standard Operating Procedures** in homelessness and mental health
- **Quality and Safety Group** – works like clinical governance – provides oversight
- New focus on **building multidisciplinary teams** to improve the quality of our services (MH, Substance use, specific support)
- **Pilot at QEQM** in Margate, supporting homeless hospital patients





Our vision for the future

- Housing-related support that **fits people's needs and preferences** (evidence points to own front door, tailored support and MDT working)
- Building **support around the person and their goals**, and working with partners to bring housing and health services together
- Fits with new **Ending Rough Sleeping for Good** funding





Partnership working

- Homelessness, complex needs and the need for support **is increasing**
- By working together we can help to ensure that vulnerable people get the **treatment, care and support they need**
- Help ensure that **vital services are not overstretched** with demand





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