

Southwark's Homelessness Charter

We support Southwark's Homelessness Charter and have pledged to:

1. Involve people with experience of homelessness and use our services to develop new models of delivery and decisions about homelessness services.
2. Provide organisational support and representation to develop and sustain the Quarterly Homelessness Forum, chaired by Southwark Law Centre, as a new way of working together.
3. Promote fundraising opportunities.

Homelessness Charter marks a new approach to tackling homelessness in Southwark.

The Homelessness Charter, developed by groups working alongside people affected by homelessness, with their voices at its core, is Southwark's new approach to tackling homelessness.

Southwark's Homelessness Charter has brought together key leaders, faith groups, businesses, the voluntary sector, street charities, Metropolitan Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Southwark's Clinical Commissioning Groups, and Southwark Council in a united front to tackle the problem of homelessness in Southwark.

The creation of the Charter has been led by local partner agencies and has involved extensive consultation with numerous people who have personally experienced homelessness, as well as dozens of other organisations working in the homelessness sector across Southwark.

It outlines the principles that establish how people experiencing homelessness should be treated and how the borough intends to deal with the problem.

It calls for action from those who agree to adopt the charter values to make a pledge to demonstrate their support.

All pledges will be expected to involve making a commitment to doing something new to tackle homelessness in Southwark.

Pledges could include financial contributions, donating in-kind resources such as volunteers, products, skills or expertise, or supporting employment projects by offering entry level jobs, with the aim of working together to reduce homelessness and ultimately to eliminate it.

Alternatively pledges could include a commitment to join one of a number of 'action groups' being set up to look at specific priority issues that have been identified as presenting the greatest problems to those who are homeless.

Some of the priority areas already identified include, improving mental health provision, increasing emergency accommodation for rough sleepers, creating an indoor evening provision for rough sleepers, increasing employment opportunities and improving sub-standard temporary accommodation.