

## The Besom in Dorking Newsletter – Autumn/Winter 2019

Happy New Year to all our friends, volunteers and supporters

I thought I would start off this letter with just a few of the quotes I have received back from referrers and recipients in the last month of the year:

- Delivery of carpet for a living room that had been uncarpeted for years from a referrer:

Thank you so much. This means more than you know as I felt so sorry for the children not being able to play on the floor without getting dirty. You really do change lives.

- From a male recipient who had been sleeping rough for many years and then had a room but no fridge for several months:

So many thanks! Every time I have a cup of tea, with “fresh” milk, I’ll think of you all.

- From a school links worker after provision of table and chairs to a family with children eating off the floor:

I went on a home visit on Friday and mum showed me it. The little girls are very happy about it and thank you so very much.

### Answers to prayer

We have many answers to prayer every week however we have requested prayer on particular items in the year and these also are being answered.

- Carpets – We have managed to make contact with a carpet business which provided us with our first off cut of carpet (with no charge) in December which was enough to cover the open floor in a living room and resulted in the first quote noted above. We expect this relationship to develop in the coming year.
- Fridges – Due to changes in regulations we have been unable to accept many of the fridges that have been offered to us due to them having plastic backs. Due to the generosity of our supporters we were able to buy 3 new fridges in December which were all given away in one week. One resulting in the second quote above.

### Prayer requests

We are currently a little short of lady time givers and would be delighted for any ladies from local churches who might have a passion for the poor and needy. They could help either on a Thursday when collections and deliveries are made or during the week when assessments of recipients are required.

Due to safeguarding standards I cannot do these assessments alone and when delivering to single ladies we need a lady present when we make deliveries.

In the unit the ladies assist in putting together the items required by recipients which range from crockery and kitchen equipment up to larger items of furniture and white goods. This includes on occasion some cleaning of cookers, fridges and as well as polishing furniture which all volunteers help with. The work of measuring bedding and curtains and packing them is an ongoing battle!

We would be delighted to invite any ladies who may be interested to join us on a Thursday at the unit and see what happens or contact me or one of the core team for a chat. Number and email below.

#### **Final numbers for 2019**

Total number of individual households assisted in 2019 ended up at 87 with a few households been visited a number of times to meet the needs.

Thank you again for all your support whether in donations of goods, man power, skills and money or spiritual in the form of prayer.



Besom volunteers enjoying a seasonal end to the year!

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