



Bethany Christian Trust: “Ending homelessness in Scotland one person at a time”: Possilpark, Glasgow: November 2022 Update

Context:

Possilpark is one of the most deprived areas in Glasgow: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 identifies two Possilpark data zones as being within the top 10 most deprived areas in Glasgow. Perhaps most concerning is that it currently has the lowest life expectancy of all neighbourhoods in Glasgow for both males and females.

The Trusted Executive Charitable Foundation (TTECF) has been supporting Bethany Christian Trust’s community development programme in Possilpark since January 2019 with a series of grants totalling £50,216 (@Aug2022). These grants have helped to support the creation of a community cafe as part of the programme.

November ‘22 Update:

Partnering with local businesses, creating opportunity:

“The Grove” is a shopfront on Saracen Street (A879) which is one of the main arterial roads from the north into Glasgow city centre; it’s in the heart of Possilpark and it’s a well established hub for Bethany Christian Trust. During Covid it had to close but November saw its grand reopening as an exciting new Social Enterprise space.

The Grove is enabling Bethany Christian Trust and their partner church - Clay Community Church - to work closely with local businesses, and other groups within the community to harness local energy and expertise and so create new opportunities for sustainable transformation. One of the local businesses Róis Scottish Sea Glass (“*Making treasure out of the broken pieces*” <https://roisseaglass.co.uk/>) is already using studio space to make beautiful jewellery with sea glass found around Scotlands beaches. Other groups in the community have been using the space for individual working or meetings and Bethany hope to see more local enterprises and businesses regularly using the space. Part of the vision is to create a network of local businesses supporting one another and creating opportunities for skills transfer and jobs for local people.

Starting a road to recovery:

After a few months of outreach, Jamie - Bethany’s recovery outreach worker - has a group of people who are interested in starting their recovery journey in the community. He will continue to keep up one to one contact with them before starting a new “Bridge to Freedom” course in January. One of Bethany’s youth apprentices has volunteered to help out each week with lunches and drinks prior to the group meeting and two others who completed the course last year are returning to support others whilst maintaining their own recovery.

These accounts from Bethany Christian Trust’s work in Possilpark are great examples of working in partnership with other players in the local community. They also demonstrate a willingness to be creative and to give selflessly to build trusted relationships. Bethany are working to transform the community one life at a time and creating resilience through a spirit of hope and generosity. Their care and commitment is demonstrating: the ability to be consistent, and to deliver with kindness & humility (some of the “Nine Habits of Trust” <https://trustedexecutive.com/nine-habits-of-trust>).