



Bethany Christian Trust: “Ending homelessness in Scotland one person at a time”: Possilpark, Glasgow: September 2023 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 (TEECF) has been supporting Bethany Christian Trust’s community development programme in Possilpark since January 2019 with a series of grants totalling £60,216 (@Feb2023). These grants have helped to support the creation of a community cafe as part of the programme.

September ‘23 Update:

Ongoing Development:

With the summer holidays coming to an end, the staff team are focusing on what comes next and taking on opportunities for self-development too.

Emma and Jamie will be starting their training to become Kintsugi Hope ([Home | Kintsugi Hope](#)) Group Leaders, which focuses on mental health and wellbeing. The groups look at issues such as disappointment, loss, anxiety, anger, perfectionism, shame and resilience; encouraging participants to accept themselves, understand their value and learn tools for self-management. We hope that these groups may be a follow-on from Bridge to Freedom and accessible for all in the community, with/without addiction. Zoe will be starting her SVQ3 in Social Services and Health Care in October, which is learning through reflection on interactions and application of policies and procedures.

These are not only chances for the team to expand their knowledge and practice, but a wonderful example to the people we support that development is continual.

Helping to build community:

We were delighted that the Clay Cafe in Possilpark has been able to remain open all summer this year. There is usually a week or two where we would need to shut due to holidays, but this year F has taken on extra shifts and we also have 2 new adult work placements from the local community.

Handover of the Bardowie Street Community Garden next to the Clay Cafe is scheduled for mid September. We are planning on having a Gala day as a big opening for the space. Thankfully there is a good gardener at Clay Community Church and some volunteers who live locally and are keen to give their time to maintaining the garden and growing vegetables too. Emma will be supporting the group by facilitating group sessions and providing support to assist individuals involvement.

Over the summer months Emma has also been helping out with some ‘Special days’ at “Bookbug” – the church’s mother and toddler group. There are very few free groups for mums in possilpark, and the surrounding areas too. Emma hosted a 4th July party with cookie decorat-



ing and a Teddy Bears Picnic in August, both of which were thoroughly enjoyed by the kids and the mums. We had around 15 mums and 18 kids attending each.

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>).