



Bethany Christian Trust: *“Ending homelessness in Scotland one person at a time”*: Possilpark, Glasgow: February 2024 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 £65,216 (@Feb2024). These grants have helped to support the creation of a community cafe as part of the programme.

February ‘24 Update:

Continuing into a new year:

Having had a great run up to Christmas and the new year, the Clay Café team are delighted to continue serving the local community in Possilpark into a new year. The week before Christmas was really busy, with lots of people coming in with families and meeting friends. The adult work placements did a fantastic job of covering the Thursdays whilst the youth placements were on school holidays, and we were also able to invite some of the people previously in youth placements to come back for a shift or two.

The first week of January was quieter, but still saw an increase in new people attending the café by themselves. These individuals were mostly older, lonely people with one mentioning that they hadn’t seen anyone since Christmas Day. It was lovely to be able to welcome them in and provide some company and conversation. The café has also continued the ‘Fare Share’ table – providing free food that would otherwise be wasted. This has been especially helpful after Christmas, where many people are struggling with meeting rising costs and bills.

Bridge to Freedom



Bethany’s Recovery & Resettlement Workers are seeing lives transformed and people set free from their addictions in our communities. The Bridge to Freedom¹ recovery programme is being delivered in several locations in and around Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness with the support of local church volunteers. The programme’s 45 sessions are complemented by one-to-ones with staff and volunteers.

Jamie is Bethany’s Recovery & Resettlement Worker responsible for The Bridge to Freedom recovery group in Possilpark. The group meets at Clay Café including enjoying eating together, with adult work placement staff helping to cook the food. A participant from the group has also led a quiz, which provided not only new knowledge, but also some friendly competition and lots of laughter.

New opportunity:

The Clay Café team have had some fantastic news about their newest adult work placement staff member. She had been looking for part-time paid employment after building her confidence dur-

¹ <https://www.bethanychristiantrust.com/service/bridge-to-freedom-recovery-group-possilpark-glasgow/>

ing shifts at the café, and she had an interview for a local cleaning job. She was successful getting the role and started soon after. She has already been given key-holder responsibilities and is especially happy that her hours allow her to continue her volunteer placements at Clay Café.

These accounts from Bethany Christian Trust's work in Possilpark are great examples of supporting those often considered least in our society. Recognising and celebrating success, builds confidence and self worth. By walking alongside people for the long term, 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>).