

Dear Trustees,

I wanted to give you a quick update on Hope into Action by sharing some notes and photos from our conference last week written by our Executive Director, Ed Walker (see below).

Hope into Action is all about enabling churches to house the homeless and success to us is church members engaging in the lives of our tenants and the tenants feeling loved. Although our tenants come from totally different backgrounds and circumstances, almost all of our tenants have mental health issues and have experienced trauma.

We invited external speakers to the conference. One group of women who had the courage to speak about their experience of recovery from prostitution said at the end:

"Thanks again for the privilege in the invitation to share. It was a very different kind of experience to the other kinds of events we've been to. We were all pretty nervous, and were all pretty much immediately soothed by the friendliness of everyone we saw. We found only understanding, encouragement and an eagerness to connect; nothing negative at all."

This sums up our approach to engaging people experiencing mental health trauma and integrating them into the community.

Mental health and vulnerability was an underlying theme of the day and we were delighted to have Elaine Wainana speak who is an expert trauma counsellor, passionate about training people in how to relate to, befriend and listen to those with trauma. A link to her talk is here: <http://hopeintoaction.org.uk/annual-conference-2018/>

We are very grateful to The Dominic Beer Memorial Trust for the financial support we have received and for featuring us on your website.

We are being asked by more and more churches to open houses and train befriending teams as the need for supported housing becomes more and more overwhelming. Funding rather than passion is our limitation!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes
Sarah Vassiliades

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