

PROFILE/INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE

Celebrating 18 years

PADSTONES – providing a lifeline for the young homeless people of High Wycombe

The charity PADSTONES, whose unsung work helps meet the needs and addresses the issues of some of the District's young, single and homeless adults, is coming of age, celebrating 18 years supporting the local community.

Thanks to local authority grants, the Housing associations' Charitable Trust and regular donations from local churches, Parish Councils, businesses and groups, Padstones has provided a safety net for over 800 young people since its conception in 1992.

Today, Padstones provides and manages short to long-term accommodation at two residential units – one in High Wycombe and one in Burnham, South Bucks and operates a support service that fosters its residents through either education or employment. The charity's operations ensure that homeless young people can make the transition from dependence to independence.

Those who benefit are often young adults who have been forced to leave home due to factors such as abuse, neglect, poverty and relationship problems. They arrive at Padstones vulnerable and often with a disrupted education. Padstones aims to offer support, enhance dignity, development and independence and to relieve hardship, need and distress.

Sue Ogden, General Manager of Padstones, says: "We are delighted to be celebrating 18 years. Our services aim to help young adults with difficulties gain the skills, independence, confidence and self-esteem in managing their every day needs. We are committed to developing services for vulnerable young people within our local area."

Those who are accepted as residents at Padstones do not get any easy ride. They have to make a strong commitment to helping solve their problems, by either signing up for education or training or actively seeking work. They must agree to undertake Keywork sessions, which include practical living skills, and abide by the house rules, including a strict curfew.

Padstones is continually seeking support. If you would like to make a donation or offer support, please contact Padstones on 01628 660872 or email sueogden@padstones.org.uk or visit the website www.padstones.org.uk.

Ends

Press information and to arrange interviews.

| Padstones

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