

# NEWS

## Manchester's mayor sees results of year of homeless support and shelter

March 2020



A Manchester housing service providing accommodation for rough sleepers has marked its first year of operation with a visit from Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham.

Sanctuary Supported Living's Stanley Grove first opened its doors in March last year as part of Mr Burnham and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's A Bed Every Night initiative, which was launched in November 2018 to provide a bed plus targeted support for every person sleeping rough in the city-region.

The service provides accommodation for up to 20 adults, including those with limited

mobility and wheelchair users. It also offers separate accommodation, access and facilities for vulnerable women.

Mr Burnham met with residents to hear about how the service has helped provide them with stable accommodation and tailored support to prepare them for the transition to living independently.

Local service manager John Cluskey provided the mayor with a tour of the service and explanation of how it helps residents, while head of growth and business development David Shaw and Sanctuary Group chief executive Craig Moule were on hand to discuss Sanctuary's wider operations.

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Whilst there, Mr Burnham had the chance to observe residents taking part in a video production skills workshop with ReelMCR. The activity offers residents the chance to work towards a PEARL Award qualification and is one of a number of workshops held on the service's premises, with others including drumming and arts and crafts.

Speaking at Stanley Grove during his visit, Mr Burnham said: "I've heard a lot about Stanley Grove -it's been one of our major locations for A Bed Every Night. When you come here, and you see the quality of the environment, the difference it's made for people here, well, all the good reports I've heard are true.

"I'm very proud of the team here, everything they're doing, the difference that they're making for people, they're helping turn people's lives around. That's why we created A Bed Every Night - it's doing everything we hoped it would. I had a fantastic time meeting the men and women who have benefited from Stanley Grove, not just through a roof over their heads, but through the support that will help them move on to a place of their own and not back out to the streets."

"We deal with some of the most complex cases in the city, some of whom have had no form of ID or a bank account, and therefore can't access other essential housing or health services. It can take months to resolve some of these issues but, while they're staying with us, we try to help them rediscover the joy of life by reigniting forgotten hobbies, passions and skills."

Sanctuary Group chief executive Craig Moule said: "Establishing this service has meant dozens of people who were sleeping rough currently have a roof over their heads - we're extremely grateful to Mr Burnham for taking the time to come and see this first-hand. I am immensely proud of the work our team at Stanley Grove have done and the role they play in supporting A Bed Every Night. Services like Stanley Grove and other forms of supported accommodation through Sanctuary Supported Living play an essential part of our role as a housing provider."

Sanctuary Supported Living also manages a further four services in the Manchester region, comprising three supported housing services, providing up to 23 beds between them, and a further floating support operation.

