



## **ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS IN POOLE: KEY DATES**

- 1990s** Poole churches start a soup kitchen in Vanguard Street
- 2000** R2R opens its first Drop-Ins to bring the homeless off the streets for a few hours
- 2002** R2R becomes a registered charity
- 2003** R2R employs a part-time Outreach Worker to work with the rough sleepers
- 2005** The R2R Outreach Worker becomes full-time to develop a more proactive and assertive outreach role
- 2007** R2R employs a part-time Administrator to support the Trustees and Executive Committee and the Outreach Worker
- 2008** R2R pilots a Befriending Teams project in partnership with Quaker Homeless Action to assist those who are placed in accommodation to remain in their tenancy
- 2009** R2R forms the Poole Outreach and Support Team (POST) in partnership with Bournemouth Churches Housing Association to actively seek out the homeless and make sure they are safe and know where to access help and support
- 2009** R2R works with Dorset Wildlife Trust to offer homeless people the opportunity to develop skills doing conservation work on Brownsea Island during the Summer
- 2010** R2R establishes the provision of a hot breakfast for rough sleepers in winter through The Fisherman Café on Poole Quay
- 2011** R2R sets up its own Befriending scheme to provide more opportunities for its clients, accompanied by a befriender, to engage in meaningful outdoor activities and projects
- 2011** POST (R2R and BCHA), funded by the Borough of Poole, sets up a Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) for rough sleepers to access immediate shelter
- 2012** R2R works with Holton Lee to offer the homeless outdoor conservation work
- 2013** R2R becomes an allotment holder at Holton Lee with clients planning and growing fruit and vegetables for the Drop-Ins
- 2014** R2R centralises all its Drop-In and office activities at Skinner Street URC  
R2R becomes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)  
R2R confines its early morning outreach to breakfast provision in winter as Poole Council joins with Bournemouth to look after the rest of the POST and SWEP activities
- 2015** With the support of Green Pastures, R2R opens its first supported housing for rough sleepers in Poole, Amos House, accommodating three homeless clients  
New services offered at the Drop-Ins include advice sessions with Poole Citizens Advice and health sessions through HealthWatch Dorset
- 2016** The Poole Addictions Community Team (PACT) provides a weekly harm minimisation clinic at the Drop-Ins
- 2017** Drop-In outreach services now include EDAS (Essential Drugs & Alcohol Services) replacing PACT which is disbanded, a mental health nurse from Poole Community Mental Health Team, a Pivotal supported accommodation outreach worker and St Mungo's rough sleeper outreach team

- 2018** R2R opens a third afternoon Drop-In on Wednesdays and, through local churches, offers a Sunday lunch fortnightly  
Afternoon Drop-In hours are extended to allow more time for clients to stay indoors and to access the outreach services provided, which now include Poole Housing advisors  
R2R recruits a second part-timer as Volunteer coordinator and to oversee the Drop-Ins  
R2R provides a shower facility at Skinner St during Drop-In hours  
The first three rough sleepers accommodated in Amos House move into independent housing and a further three take their places  
Through its volunteer chiropodist, R2R provides new waterproof shoes for verified rough sleepers
- 2019** In partnership with Hope to Hope, R2R arranges for a mobile laundry to attend Wednesday drop-ins so rough sleepers can have their clothing washed and dried  
R2R makes a successful bid for the purchase of the former Hill Street Baptist Church with the aim of converting it into a centre for all help to the homeless and vulnerably housed in Poole
- 2020** R2R completes purchase of the Church and begins the process of refurbishment and renovation  
During the various stages of the Covid pandemic R2R is forced to close its drop-ins at times and, when allowed to open, only serves lunches with no outreach services
- 2021** Renovation of the newly named Genesis Centre continues throughout the year and R2R maintains five weekday lunchtime drop-ins when allowed to open with the return of some outreach services
- 2022** R2R celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and moves all its operations to Genesis Centre in March  
R2R appoints a full-time Manager for Genesis Centre to include the role of Volunteer coordinator