

How you can get involved

“I had begun to think “Why should I care about anyone; no one cares about me.” Then I found that some people - total strangers - did care. It was a turning point for me.” Young person

Nightstop schemes have provided over 60,000 nights of accommodation for over 30,000 young people since they began in 1987. We are always keen to hear from local authorities and people who can help - whether to set up a scheme locally or as a host or volunteer. Or maybe you're a business and would like to work in partnership with us? There are many ways in which you and your employees can get involved.

To find out more, please visit our websites at www.nightstop-uk.org and www.depaultrust.org or contact **01274 533004**

Depaul Trust helps young people around the UK who are homeless, vulnerable and disadvantaged.

We prevent young people from becoming homeless by rebuilding family relationships.

We are passionate about what we do, working in the very heart of local communities.

We provide young people with the chance to fulfil their potential through education, volunteering, training and jobs. In this way, they become part of the community - just like everyone else.

We protect young people who become homeless by finding them a place to call their home. We are open every day and night, offering 100,000 beds each year.

Since we started in 1989, we've made a difference to over 40,000 young people.

Depaul Nightstop UK

www.depaultrust.org



“Every young person deserves a safe place to sleep”

Depaul Nightstop UK

Giving young people a safe stopping place for the night

“I just needed somewhere safe to stay.” Nightstop young person

Every year, up to 250,000 young people experience homelessness - often through no fault of their own.

Why? Sometimes because of family breakdown, abuse, unemployment or drugs - or because they're on a low income or benefits and can't afford a place to live. And sometimes because they've left the care system, prison or hospital.

How Nightstop schemes help

“Nightstop schemes have a crucial role to play in giving young people an opportunity to take stock without gaining the label homeless.”

Rough Sleepers Unit 1999

Thanks to the Nightstop schemes, affiliated to Depaul Nightstop UK, young people aged 16-25 can receive free, safe, emergency accommodation in the homes of approved volunteers. They have a bed in a room of their own, meals, some breathing space and a sympathetic ear. This can be for up to a few nights until permanent housing is arranged or they return home. Schemes may also help through offering tenancy support, family mediation and housing advice.

How Depaul Nightstop UK helps

Depaul Nightstop UK helps current Nightstop schemes by offering:

- Affiliation through monitoring of set standards
- Support and sharing of best practice
- Training and advice
- Support with fundraising

Depaul Nightstop UK helps by:

- Consulting with Local Authorities who are interested in setting up a Nightstop scheme
- Supporting local groups who want to develop a Nightstop scheme
- Promoting the Nightstop model as a key strategy for preventing youth homelessness
- Promoting the development of family mediation, housing advice and tenancy support alongside Nightstop as key support elements to the model

A support network

“Depaul Nightstop UK brings together a national network of local Nightstop schemes in the pursuit of best practice and enables us to learn from each other.” Depaul Nightstop UK member

Nightstop schemes not only support the young homeless but also one another. Schemes can draw on the collective experience of over 700 dedicated volunteers, trustees and fund managers and must meet published affiliation criteria and minimum standards of practice and care. Schemes carry out interviews with volunteers, conduct Criminal Records Bureau checks and obtain references. They also provide ongoing training, support and a 24-hour 'on-call' system.

Who volunteers?

“The hosts were very friendly and made lots of effort to welcome me.”

Bradford Nightstop young person

Nightstop volunteers are ordinary people who want to reduce the problems associated with homelessness amongst young people. They help as hosts, if they have a room that can be used to keep a young person off the street for a night, or in other ways such as telephone contacts, drivers, members of Management Committees and administrative support.