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Arlington launches charity to help tackle homelessness

Arlington, a high quality accommodation, care and support service for homeless people in London, announces today the launch of its new charity, Arlington Futures. Arlington Futures aims to break the cycle of homelessness in London by raising money to replicate the Arlington model and further its existing support programmes.

Approximately 20% of England's rough sleepers are in London – the highest number in the country according to the Department for Communities and Local Government. Between March and April 2012, over 650 people were sleeping rough in the capital. Arlington is tackling the issues around homelessness and since being re-launched in June 2010, has successfully supported 67 customers into independent living.

Arlington takes a revolutionary approach to tackling homelessness in the UK. Inspired by the Times Square model pioneered by Common Ground in New York, it has created a stimulating mixed community of high quality accommodation for homeless people, social enterprises, businesses and low rent accommodation for young professionals or other low income workers.

The new charity will help Arlington deliver more specialised education, training and creative programmes, as well as placements, apprenticeships and other job opportunities to help residents on their journey back to independent living. Arlington Futures is committed to reducing the rate of homelessness in the capital and has plans to open another Arlington in Central London which will provide accommodation and support for over 100 homeless people.

Kevin Beirne, Director of Housing, Care and Support at One Housing Group said: "This is an excellent step forward for Arlington and our hope to build an Arlington 2.

Our holistic approach to tackling homelessness makes us different. We don't give a 'hand out' we give a 'hand up' through our onsite care and support alongside training and employment opportunities to help residents get back on their feet."

Arlington provides 130 accommodation units, of which 95 are for homeless people who are on the various stages of their journey from homelessness back to independent living. It also features commercial space for start-up social enterprises and a state of the art Conference Centre.

To make a donation and for more information please visit arlington.org.uk

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Notes to editors

Arlington is owned and managed by <u>One Housing Group</u>, a leading provider of affordable housing, care and support across London and the South East. Arlington takes a revolutionary approach to tackling homelessness in the United Kingdom. Arlington is a stimulating mixed community of high quality accommodation for homeless people, social enterprises, low rent accommodation for young professionals and low-income workers; together with a state of the art Conference Centre. It provides 130 accommodation units, of which 95 are for homeless people who are on the various stages of their journey from homelessness back to independent living.

Arlington Futures was established in July 2012 to help raise funds to address the challenges of tackling homelessness.

For further information about Arlington and Arlington Futures please contact Isha Richards on telephone 020 8821 5228 or email irichards@onehousinggroup.co.uk.

Please visit arlington.org.uk for more information.