

# Doorstep

*"Opening doors for homeless families"*



Clacton on Sea

*Annual Report 2025 and Accounts 2024-2025*

## **Director's Report**

2025 opened with excitement and recognition for Doorstep when we were invited to meet the King and Queen at a celebration honouring Muslim women's achievements and marking the start of Ramadan. The event was hosted by a restaurant who had generously donated Iftar meals to our families in previous years. It was a privilege to attend with some of the families we support, and to witness the King and Queen helping to pack boxes of food that were later donated to our families and to key workers.

It was also a year when the number of children living in temporary accommodation, both in Camden and nationally, reached an all-time high. Doorstep's expertise—after more than forty years of supporting homeless families—and, even more importantly, the insight of families with lived experience, were increasingly sought to help shape planning and policy to tackle the crisis head on. We were invited to speak to the full council about what life is like for families and children in temporary accommodation, and we contributed to research by the Centre for Homelessness Impact as well as to the development of Camden's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025–2030.

While we welcome the publication of the government's National Plan to End Homelessness and the issues it seeks to address, it will take time before the promised investment in affordable and social housing translates into meaningful change. In the meantime, with no measures in place to reduce rents or make housing more affordable in the current economic climate, it is likely that the number of people experiencing homelessness will continue to rise.

This year we also began the recruitment process for a Play & Youth Lead. Although we did not find the right candidate in the first round, we re-advertised in December and are hopeful that we will have someone in post by March 2026. Once this role is filled, we will begin recruiting for our new Operations Coordinator position, strengthening our capacity to meet growing needs.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our Chair, Ali Jabeen, and to all our trustees—both longstanding and more recently appointed—for their unwavering commitment and guidance. Doorstep remains a small team, but one defined by dedication, compassion, and a deep belief in the potential of every family we support. Together, we work to lessen the profound impact that living in temporary accommodation has on children's health, wellbeing, and future opportunities.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our partners, funders, and donors for recognising the value of our work and standing alongside us. And we remain deeply appreciative of our patron, Victoria Coren Mitchell, for her continued support.

As we look ahead, we do so with optimism and determination. We are excited to see what the coming year will bring, and we remain resolute in our mission to ensure that every family who walks through our doors feels supported, empowered, and hopeful.

**Vicky Fox**

## **When it can be anything but temporary – how do we support families living in temporary accommodation?** Vicky Fox (CHI Blog December 9th 2025)

For more than 35 years, I've been part of the [Doorstep](#) community here in Camden, North London. And in that time, I've watched the number of households in temporary accommodation reach record levels.

Temporary accommodation is meant to provide a valuable safety net for those at risk of homelessness. But, what's meant to be a short-term solution often becomes a long-term reality. This often means raising children in unsuitable, overcrowded spaces for far too long. The strain it puts on families can be immense.

At Doorstep, we're here to make that experience a little more bearable. To offer families not just practical help, but also dignity, joy, and connection. We currently have space for around 50 families in the hostel above our family centre, which means at any given time, there are up to 130 children calling Doorstep their home. While some move on quickly, others spend significant parts of their childhood here. Often uprooted from some of their social or support networks, our focus has always been on creating a space where families can feel safe, supported, and part of a community.

### **The importance of play**

Challenges in temporary accommodation, such as unsuitable living spaces, can limit children's ability to play. We know that play is essential for a child's development, impacting physical, social and emotional growth - particularly in a child's formative years. This was highlighted in [CHI's recent Evidence Note](#), which found that facilitating play and organising social activities can also improve wellbeing and create stronger friendships.

We see the difference that targeted, compassionate support can make. Our programmes are designed to respond to what families tell us they need - from age-appropriate after-school and holiday clubs that give children a chance to play and learn, to celebrations that make every birthday special.

We've also introduced practical services that make everyday life a bit easier: industrial washing facilities, a weekly bazaar offering free clothes, toys, and books, and one-to-one support with complex matters like school applications, benefits, and official paperwork. These things may seem small, but they help reduce stress, build confidence, and create moments of normality and connection.

Over the years, we've adapted to meet changing needs but the core of what families want hasn't changed at all. Every parent I meet simply wants what any of us would: a safe, stable place to call home, and the chance to build a better future for their children.

We know that the long-term solution lies in ensuring families spend as little time as possible in temporary accommodation, and can move quickly into permanent homes. Until that becomes reality, however, we would like to see more evidence highlighting the crucial role of services such as Doorstep, and greater support for them. That way we can help families not just survive, but find moments of happiness, belonging, and hope.

Here are some of the things our clients said about Doorstep:

*“We lived in temporary accommodation near Doorstep which had just one room and a kitchen for nearly two years - myself, my husband, our two teenage children, and our eldest daughter who is 23. It was an incredibly difficult time. When we heard about Doorstep, we were so happy, as we were facing many challenges. The organisation helped us with everything from daily needs to more complex matters, and it gave us hope and comfort during a tough period. My children really enjoyed receiving birthday presents, taking part in activities, and simply having a place where they could relax and feel part of a community.*

**– Jryna, mum of three, went on to volunteer for Doorstep and is now working**

*“From our very first week as residents, we started using the services at Doorstep. We love the crèche, the outdoor activities, such as the beach trips during the holidays, and the weekly bazaar. The support they provided has been essential for my emotional and mental well-being - I truly felt cared for.”*

**- Ana, mum and Doorstep volunteer**



The kids love cooking

## Our services

Our services have been developed over the years in direct response to the needs that families have expressed. They run throughout the year with additional seasonal activities and events:

- ★ Opportunities for children and young people to play, learn and develop at our after school club, crèches, Youth Project and drop-ins.
- ★ Joint activities with the partner organisations.
- ★ Regular creative & educational activities for adults.
- ★ Information, support and guidance for parents.
- ★ A programme of special activities and outings during the summer and school holidays.
- ★ A weekly 'bazaar' giving access to free essential goods donated by the wider community.
- ★ Free daily access to laundry facilities.
- ★ Supermarket gift vouchers, hygiene products, healthy snacks and meals

## *Highlights Through the Year*

**January- March** - In February we were incredibly excited to be invited to meet the King and Queen. Their Majesties helped to fill boxes of delicious food, which were donated by the Darjeeling Express restaurant to our families and key workers. Meeting the Queen, one of Doorstep's children gave a spontaneous curtsy while shaking her hand. The Queen asked : "How long have you been practising that? That's a very good curtsy." Heading back to Doorstep the little girl said to me : *"That was the best day of my life!"*



Picture- The Evening Standard

During half term week Bell Group hired an entire screen for all our children to enjoy a trip to the cinema.

**April - June** -We ran a programme for the children during the Easter holidays and held a party. All children were given an Easter egg to take home. On June 12th we celebrated Eid with parties for all age groups. Each family received a £50 supermarket voucher and the children received gifts.



Celebrating Eid

**July-September-** We ran a four week summer programme of activities and outings from July 29th until August 23rd. On site we ran different indoor and outdoor sessions with a mix of fun and educational activities for the different ages. Water fights in the garden on hot days was a particular favourite. Once a week we hired coaches and went to the beach. We visited Clacton on Sea and Southend, where we provided children and parents with entrance to unlimited rides on the pier funfairs. We also went to two award-winning sandy beaches we hadn't visited before at Frinton and Southbourne. Families really enjoyed the trips, spending quality time as a family and making memories.

*"The weather was so beautiful, it was such a beautiful beach. My kids asked me if we could come back to the beach again. My kids enjoyed swimming, digging a hole and pouring water and collecting water from the sea, having lunch and sharing with friends. The children had lots of fun. Thank you so much."* FC

*"My children and I enjoyed riding different rides and the weather was good. Thank you for taking my family. If Doorstep did not take me and my three children we would not do anything because we can not afford to do any activities. We would be at home and I have three teenagers which is very expensive if I say we do activities together so I appreciate Doorstep and the people who fund Doorstep to spend money to take families to the seaside."* SH



Southbourne Beach

In September we received the welcome news that the installation of WiFi throughout the hostel, which the kids from our Youth Group campaigned for and Camden agreed to in July 2003, was finally going ahead. Not only that but each family would receive a gift of a smart TV, donated by Camden's business partners. We also hosted a consultation meeting at which seventeen families contributed their views for the development of Camden's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-2030

**October - December** - We held a Halloween party and three Christmas parties to cater for the different age groups. The Wifi-installation was completed and families received their TVs in time for Christmas. We distributed gifts to 100+ children and every family received a £50 supermarket voucher.

Once again, through the year, we provided every child and young person with a birthday gift and thanks to volunteer bakers at Free Cakes for Kids Camden they all received a beautiful customised cake. Beauty Banks donated toiletries and pre-loved clothing collections were donated by JW3, Village School, Jeannine Manuel school and Southbank International School, as well as many individuals in the wider community.

## *Some examples of the impact of our work*

### Case Study 1- Parent

Ana moved into the hostel with her baby daughter in 2023. She made use of Doorstep's services and her daughter attended the creche sessions. Ana was studying and when her daughter became old enough to attend nursery she started volunteering in Doorstep's creches to gain work experience. Eventually she was successful in gaining a full time job as a Nursery Practitioner and Doorstep was able to provide her with a reference. Ana sent the following after securing her job.

*I am writing to share with you that I will start to work next week.*

*I find myself at a loss for words when it comes to expressing my deep gratitude for everything I've experienced alongside you during my time as a volunteer (of course, without forgetting my time living in the hostel). These months have been filled with learning, growth, and, above all, a warm sense of belonging.*

*Taking on the challenge of caring for and educating the children was, for me, a reconnection with my passion for helping and looking after others. This role, which came at a very special time in my life—when I was returning to the workforce after dedicating four years to motherhood—has been a true source of fulfilment. Even though it's in a field different from my initial training, I've realised how much it has filled me with a unique and joyful sense of purpose.*

*The care, dedication, and support I've received from each of you not only made the experience smooth and enjoyable but also helped me to regain my confidence and reconnect with my professional essence. Working with the children and being part of such a wonderful team has been fundamental to my new beginning, bringing results I know will stay with me on my journey, both in my career and in my personal life.*

*You have taught me more than you can imagine, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be part of something so transformative. My heart is filled with gratitude for every moment shared.*

*With warmth and eternal thanks- Ana Pereira de Oliveira*



Creche Play Session

## Case Study 2

Luis is eight years old and is on the autism spectrum. He attends the after school group and holiday programmes. He found it difficult to engage in group activities and to articulate his needs and feelings. If he got upset he would try to open the door and leave. We gave him one to one support and provided him with a quiet space where he could sit. We also encouraged him to go to a staff member to let them know if he was feeling upset. He learned to be able to sit with a team member until he felt able to try and explain what had happened to upset him. Giving him a predictable routine with activities and resources he enjoyed helped him find it easier to engage. He now knows where all the toys and games are and will take a staff member's hand to show them what toy or game he wants to play with. He has gained self confidence in the setting-even correcting staff when his name was misspelt!

## Case study 3

Amina is 2 years old and found it very difficult to settle in the creche. Even after an extended settling in period, when Mum stayed with her, she would still become very upset if her Mum tried to leave. She wouldn't make eye contact and wouldn't play or engage with any activities, but just cry even when staff tried to comfort her. We asked Mum to go and sit in another room reassuring Amina that she could go to see her Mum whenever she wanted. Gradually, we progressed to Mum leaving the building for a very short period and coming back. We gradually increased the time. We asked Mum to not go too far away and we promised Amina that if she was upset we would call Mum who would come straight back. We did this over a period of time until Amina learned to trust that her Mum would always come back. She now enjoys playing with the toys and joining in the activities with the other children.



Making miniature gardens

# *The Bigger Picture—Addressing the crisis*

## **Housing Communities & Local Government Committee- First Report of Session 2024-2025**

### **England's Homeless Children: The Crisis in Temporary Accommodation**

This report focuses on the sharp end of England's housing crisis: the rising demand for temporary accommodation provision among families, which is seeing dire outcomes for homeless children and unsustainable cost pressures for some local authorities. Over 164,000 homeless children are currently living in temporary accommodation across England—the highest number on record.

Temporary accommodation is intended to be short-term housing to support vulnerable households with shelter and security when they become homeless, until they can find more settled accommodation. Yet we were concerned to hear cases of temporary accommodation provision which was completely unsuitable for families, with egregious hazards including serious damp and mould, excessive cold, and mice infestations. Temporary accommodation is frequently overcrowded. Older children must share beds with their parents or siblings, and babies do not have space to crawl or learn to walk due to lack of floor space. Some temporary accommodation sourced by local authorities is of such poor quality that it may pose a severe risk to children's health. It is shocking that in the last five years temporary accommodation has been a contributing factor to the deaths of at least 74 children, of whom 58 were under the age of one.

For many families, life in temporary accommodation is far from 'temporary'. Some families are placed in temporary accommodation for years without an offer of a more settled home, due to the chronic shortage of social and affordable housing. This same shortage has led many local authorities to use B&Bs and other accommodation with shared facilities, meaning families are often forced to live out of suitcases, uncertain as to when they may be required to pack up and move without notice. A growing number of families are also being placed in B&Bs for prolonged periods unlawfully, as local authorities are failing to adhere to the statutory six-week limit on such placements. We were alarmed to hear examples of families housed in temporary accommodation sharing communal facilities with strangers with a history of domestic abuse, posing a potential safeguarding risk to children.

Local authorities' monitoring of their temporary accommodation provision is inconsistent and inadequate. There is currently no requirement for local authorities to carry out any inspections of the quality of their temporary accommodation. We recommend that local authorities should be carrying out mandatory inspections of housing before it is first used as temporary accommodation, and whenever new residents are placed in the property.

Rising demand for temporary accommodation has led some local authorities to resort to relocating families, placing them in temporary accommodation 'out-of-area'. Out-of-area placements have a devastating impact on families, leaving them far from their extended family, friends, and support network, and causing disruption to children's education. Some local authorities are falling short of their legal duties with regard to out-of-area temporary accommodation, by failing to notify the host local authority appropriately when placing residents. The Government should introduce a new requirement for local authorities to notify the host authority before they make an out-of-area placement.

The Government must bring about a more joined-up approach between public services to support families experiencing homelessness. Schools, GPs, and other public bodies may be unaware when children in their care become homeless or change school due to a move into temporary accommodation. This prevents schools from offering additional support which homeless children may require. The Government should establish a formalised notification system, so that a child's school and GP are alerted when they move into temporary accommodation. This should be introduced alongside a focus on improving data reporting and sharing between public services, to fully understand the health and educational impacts of temporary accommodation on children.

Temporary accommodation costs are adding to the unprecedented financial strain facing local authorities across the country. Local authorities spent around £2.29 billion on temporary accommodation in 2023/24, while London boroughs alone spend a combined total of £4 million per day on temporary accommodation. Local authorities in Greater Manchester spend over £75 million per year on temporary accommodation rents. Whilst we welcome the Government's decision to increase homelessness funding for 2025/26, including a £192.9 million uplift to the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG), the Government must consider how this funding is allocated to bring about more effective homelessness prevention. The Government should also extend its support for local authorities to acquire their own temporary accommodation stock to reduce reliance on extortionate B&Bs and nightly paid accommodation, and evaluate the link between welfare reforms and homelessness, particularly regarding its decision to re-freeze Local Housing Allowance rates.

In short, there is a crisis in temporary accommodation in England. At its centre are homeless children and their families, who are too often voiceless, out of sight, and stuck in completely unsuitable accommodation. Ultimately, the crisis in temporary accommodation is a symptom of England's wider housing crisis. We reiterate the conclusion of our predecessor committees: that a failure of successive governments over decades to deliver enough new homes is to blame for the current shortage of affordable housing across all tenures. As a long-term solution to the crisis in temporary accommodation, the Government must fulfil its ambition to deliver 1.5 million new homes during this Parliament. However, there is an urgent need for further interventions to support families living in temporary accommodation immediately. We hope that our recommendations will provide effective proposals on how the Government may go further to offer this support, including in its forthcoming strategy on ending homelessness. We believe the Government must publish its strategy on ending homelessness by July 2025—before the

summer recess. This will ensure the Government, homelessness organisations, and local authorities can make meaningful progress towards tackling the crisis in temporary accommodation during this Parliament.



After School Club- Making houses

*In response to the above report the government published a plan to end homelessness on December 11th 2025*

## A summary of the National Plan to End Homelessness

In December 2025, the Government published its National Plan to End Homelessness (the Plan), detailing its strategy to create a better future for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This Plan refers to England since housing and homelessness duties are devolved across the UK.

The Plan's long-term goal is for homelessness to be rare, brief and non-recurring. The Government sets out how it will support councils and public services to shift from crisis to prevention and tackle the most intransigent forms of homelessness. A key mechanism of this plan will involve collaboration across government departments.

### The five pillars of the strategy:

1. **Universal Prevention:** Long-term systemic fixes to make homelessness rare.

- **Housing supply:** A 10-year Social and Affordable Homes Programme supported by £2.5 billion in loans and social rent settlement (CPI +1%).
- **Tenancy security:** The *Renters' Rights Act* will abolish “no-fault” evictions and rental bidding.
- **Income support:** Reviewing Local Housing Allowance and creating a Crisis and Resilience Fund to tackle poverty.
- **Allocations policy:** Plans to update social housing allocations guidance, addressing key barriers to fair access to social housing.

2. **Targeted prevention:** Addressing specific high-risk groups.

- A new “**duty to collaborate**” for public services.
- Specific targets to prevent homelessness for those leaving institutions such as care or prison.

3. **Preventing crisis:** Immediate intervention for those at imminent risk.

- **Funding:** £3.5 billion allocated for 2026–2029.
- **Early detection:** Using AI and the Ending Rough Sleeping Risk Assessment Tool to identify at-risk households and prioritise person-centred support.
- **Legal support:** “Know your rights” materials and increased legal aid to help tenants stay in their homes.

4. **Emergency Response (Brief):** Mitigating the impact of active homelessness.

- **Child Welfare:** New duties for councils to notify schools and GPs when a child is in temporary accommodation (TA).
- **Temporary Accommodation reform:** A national target to eliminate the use of B&Bs for families (limiting stay to 6 weeks) and applying the Decent Homes Standard to temporary housing.

#### 5. **Recovery & Stability (Non-recurring):** Making homelessness “non-recurring.”

- **Rough Sleeping:** A goal to halve long-term rough sleeping and repeal the Vagrancy Act by Spring 2026.
- **Support Services:** Linking housing with mental health, substance use, and employment support.

## **Expectations on the Government and partner organisations**

### **1. Planning and accountability**

- **Local councils:** Must publish a specific **Action Plan** to accompany their local homelessness strategy. This plan must include local targets that align with the national **Outcomes Framework**.
- **Mayors and Regional Leaders:** Are expected to drive high-level coordination and collaboration across their regions. They will receive specific funding to facilitate this multi-agency work.
- **National Oversight:** Progress will be monitored by the **Inter-Ministerial Group**, with formal progress reports published every two years to ensure the strategy stays on track.

### **2. Workforce development**

- **Training & Skills:** Organisations will have access to a new **National Workforce Programme**. This provides essential training, specialist housing/homelessness advice, and professional development for frontline staff.
- **Expert Support:** Councils facing severe challenges will receive **targeted expert support** and closer monitoring to help improve their delivery.

### **3. Collaboration and engagement**

- **Cross-Sector duty:** Public services, charities, and local authorities are expected to work more closely together, moving away from “siloes” working toward a shared prevention model.

- **Lived experience:** Organisations must incorporate insights from the **Lived Experience Forum and Expert Group** to ensure that services are actually working for those who use them and to help adapt interventions over time.

#### 4. Data and innovation

- **Test and learn:** Organisations are encouraged to trial **innovative practices**. Successful local pilots will be rolled out nationally and shared as best practice.
- **Evidence-based decisions:** There is a heavy focus on using **high-quality data** to track outcomes rather than just measuring activities.

*Emma Croft, Policy and Research Officer, Campbell Tickell ( Blog January 12th 2026)*



Christmas party Games

*I love coming to Doorstep-the activities, the beaches, the staff, the snacks, the ice creams, the toys-its boring at home. YS-aged 9*

## **Financial Report**

The financial statements for Doorstep (or 'the charity') cover the financial year ending 31 March 2025.

The fiscal year 2025 ended in a secure position, with the reserve carried forward being sufficient to support the running of the charity for a minimum of six months. The management committee and director recognise the need for, and remain committed to, pursuing multi-year funding both to minimise the risk of disruption to the charity's services, for example in the event of a downturn in one or more areas of external funding

Careful financial and operating records have been kept throughout the financial year ending on 31 March 2025. The accounts for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2025 have been examined by an independent accountancy firm. Detailed records of financial documents are available and may be requested from Doorstep Homeless Families Project, 13A Broadhurst Gardens, London NW6 3QX.

The Management Committee members are satisfied that Doorstep is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year in accordance with section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Management Committee members acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- 1- Ensuring that the charity keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- 2- Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity as at the end of the financial year 2024 and of its profit or loss for the aforementioned financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on 31/08/2025 and were signed on their behalf by the chair, Ali Jabeen.

**Ali Jabeen**  
**Chair**

**DOORSTEP**  
**COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
<b><u>Income From</u></b>							
Donations and grants	2	136,988	11,000	<b>147,988</b>	113,719	51,507	165,226
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>136,988</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>147,988</b>	113,719	51,507	165,226
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>							
Fundraising	3	4,924	-	<b>4,924</b>	4,736	-	4,736
Charitable activities	3	115,190	10,000	<b>125,190</b>	88,636	51,507	140,143
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>120,114</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>130,114</b>	93,372	51,507	144,879
<b>Net income for the year</b>	4	<b>16,874</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>17,874</b>	20,347	-	20,347
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	8	<b>16,874</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>17,874</b>	20,347	-	20,347
Funds brought forward		162,421	3,000	<b>165,421</b>	142,074	3,000	145,074
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>179,295</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>183,295</b>	162,421	3,000	165,421

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.  
There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.  
The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

**DOORSTEP  
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

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	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible Assets	6	-	300
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>221,426</u>	<u>172,217</u>
		221,426	172,217
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>			
	7	<u>(38,131)</u>	<u>(7,096)</u>
Net current assets		<u>183,295</u>	<u>165,121</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>183,295</u>	<u>165,421</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted Funds	8	4,000	3,000
General funds	8	<u>179,295</u>	<u>162,421</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>183,295</u>	<u>165,421</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the charitable company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on  
and signed on its behalf by:

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**Ali Jabeen (Chair)**

**Company Registration No. 02476922**

The attached notes form part of the financial statements.

## **Chair's report**

This year has been one of both celebration and transition for Doorstep. We began 2025 with a sense of excitement and recognition, as our Director, Vicky Fox, was honoured to attend a remarkable event marking the start of Ramadan, where she met the King and Queen alongside some of our resident families and their children.

This occasion not only recognised the achievements of Muslim women but also highlighted the generosity of our community, with Iftar meals donated to families and key workers. The joy and pride felt by our families at this event was a testament to the spirit of Doorstep and the wider community.

A significant milestone was achieved in our ongoing commitment to resident wellbeing: the installation of WiFi throughout the hostel, long campaigned for by our Youth Group, was completed. An appeal for televisions for families, to break the tedium of cramped living conditions, resulted in a generous donation of smart TVs, ensuring that every resident now has a television in their room. These meaningful improvements have brought comfort and a sense of normality to many, especially during challenging times. Further enhancing the quality of life for our families.

This year also marked a moment of transition as we bid farewell to our longstanding trustee and board member, Lesley Adams, who stood down after seven years of dedicated service. We are deeply grateful for all the support, guidance, and generosity Lesley has shown over the years. Her commitment has helped shape mission and impact, and we wish her all the best for the future.

Throughout the year, Doorstep's expertise and the lived experience of our families have been sought to inform planning and policy, as the number of children living in temporary accommodation reached a staggering 164,000. Our team's dedication, compassion, and belief in every family's potential remain at the heart of our work. We contributed to research, spoke at council meetings, and played a role in shaping Camden's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025–2030. Our services continued to adapt to the needs of families, providing not just practical support but also moments of joy, dignity, and connection.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our amazing director, Vicky Fox and the staff team, as well as our trustees, partners, funders, and donors for their unwavering support. We are especially grateful to our patron, Victoria Coren Mitchell, for her continued encouragement and generosity. Looking ahead, we do so with optimism and determination, committed to ensuring that every family who walks through our doors feels supported, empowered, and hopeful. At Doorstep, children can enjoy a safe, welcoming space and garden where they can play, have fun, and thrive.

On behalf of the Board, thank you to everyone who has contributed to Doorstep's work this year. Together, we will continue to create lasting positive change for those who need it most.

**Ali.F.Jabeen**

**We give our most sincere and grateful thanks to the following organisations for their support of Doorstep and our families:**

Accordion  
AKO Foundation  
Arriva  
Barnett & Sylvia Shine Charity  
Beauty Banks  
Bell Group  
Benevity  
Camden Council  
Camden Giving  
Caravel  
Crucible Foundation  
Darjeeling Express  
Devonshire Hill School  
First Give  
Fitzdale Trust  
Free Cakes for Kids Camden  
Hampstead Wells & Campden Trust  
Jeannine Manuel School

JW3  
London Community Foundation  
John Lyons Trust  
Kajatawa Foundation  
McLaren Group  
Payne Greenburgh Trust  
Philips  
Preston Manor High School  
Reel Fund  
South Hampstead High School  
Southbank International School  
St Mary's Church  
StreetSmart  
The American School in London  
The Village School  
Voluntary Action Camden  
Waitrose & Partners  
Young Camden Foundation

**Also, to the very many kind and generous individuals who donated money, food, toys, clothes, books, and their time.**

### **The Management Committee**

**Ali Jabeen- Chair**

**Reena Malharkar-Treasurer**

**Judith Trounson-Secretary**

**Jess Reddell**

**Roger Burgess**

**Rakesh Vithalani**

**Lesley Adams** Resigned-08/07/2025

**Tsedey Yilala**

## **The Staff Team**

**Vicky Fox** - Director

**Khadra Mohamed** - Children's Worker (part time)

**Belkize Banjica** - Housekeeping & sessional play support (part time)

**Dilly Hira** - Children's Worker (part time)

**Iryna Hulam**- Sessional play support

## **Volunteers**

ASL teachers & Students

Bell Team

Danyal Parvez

Mazin Salih

Ana Pereira de Oliveira

Sabah Negash

## **Our Patron**

**Victoria Coren-Mitchell**

**Not forgetting the hundreds of other individuals who took part in occasional projects- we give our sincere thanks to each and every one!**



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