

# Transcript for St Basils Evesham Homelessness Project video

*( man appears on screen outside the door of a house. Caption identifies the man as Sam Crump, Progression Coordinator for St Basils )*

**Sam Crump:** Welcome to Basils new project in Evesham. It's a residential project for 16 to 25 -year-olds who find themselves homeless in the Wychavon district.

*( Sam opens the door to the house and walks down the corridor )*

It's a newly renovated property and will house 10 to 12 young people at a time. All the referrals will be coming through Wychavon District Council so it is very much a partnership project.

*( Sam opens the door to a living room with a dining table, chairs, a sofa and television in the corner )*

Here we have the communal space that we've developed for young people. We'll do some life skills work with them, in the kitchen teaching them how to cook. While they are here we will also teach them about their budgeting, to make sure all their benefits are in place properly, teach them a little bit about tenancy readiness and various other things that they will need to move on to live independently, successfully, without further support once they leave us.

*( Sam passes through the kitchen area before opening a door and climbing some stairs where he opens the door to a bedroom which has a bed and some shelving in it )*

We are just in the process of getting the bedrooms finally fixed up, but they will come fully furnished with all the bedding a young person needs.

We also work with local food banks and local supermarkets when they arrive – if they have absolutely nothing that's fine we can cope with that and help them to get established here.

They should be here for on average six to eight months, maybe up to a year before they are completely ready to move on in their own independent properties with the help of Wychavon District Council.

*( Sam leaves the bedroom, walks down a corridor and up another flight of stairs and through another door. It is a flat with a sofa on one side, a kitchen area on the far wall and through another door is a bedroom with an en-suite bathroom and shower )*

We also have the facility of two completely independent flats. When young people are practically ready to move on into independent living, they will be moved into one

of these flats as a reward for getting that far and further preparation for living independently as they will have to pay some extra bills and Council Tax and other bits and pieces.

*( shots of the kitchen area downstairs and the garden area outside play while Sam's voice can be heard )*

St Basils as a larger charity runs three other projects in Worcestershire, we have got one in Kidderminster, one in Bromsgrove and one in Redditch. We also have properties that we run like this in Warwickshire and Coventry and in Leamington Spa and across the whole of Birmingham there is approximately 30 other projects with young people living in them.

*( Shot of a man with glasses sitting on a sofa in the living room. The caption identifies him as Cllr Chris Day, Executive Board Member for Housing, health and well-being on Wychavon District Council )*

**Cllr Day:** Wychavon wanted to invest in this project because currently we don't have any dedicated housing for supporting young people who have been homeless.

We hope that by living in supported accommodation like this and getting support in terms of their health and wellbeing, their training, their education and their employment opportunities, young people will be able to move forward with their lives. That's our key motivation, really.

Wychavon hasn't got anything like this in the district and that's why this is a really exciting moment for us. It's a real milestone that we've now got something dedicated to support this particular group and we consider it a really important moment for 2021 that it's now opening.

*( cut to Sam Crump sat on a sofa in the living room talking to the camera )*

**Sam Crump:** For the young people who come to live with us for a very short period of time, the idea is that they can consolidate their lives in a constructive and productive way so that they can get their mental health sorted out, they can get their benefits sorted out, their finances sorted out and be really, really stable and ready to live independently. Some some people we've worked with would possibly go as far as saying, you know, we've saved their life from a mental health problem. We're a psychologically informed environment organisation, so we really do understand the impact of mental health and work with our young people to develop themselves in confidence and in their skills and abilities.

*(Sam Crump and Cllr Chris Day stood in front of the main door to the accommodation which has a red ribbon tied across it. Cllr Day is holding a pair of large scissors).*

**Cllr Day:** So, on behalf of Wychavon District Council and our partners St Basils, it gives me great pleasure to open Merstow Place, our new supported accommodation for young people.

*( Cllr Day cuts the ribbon with the scissors. Cheering and clapping )*

**ENDS**