



Gloucestershire Nightstop and Stagecoach West's groundbreaking partnership shortlisted for UK Bus Award

Following Gloucestershire Nightstop's groundbreaking partnership with Stagecoach West, the two organisations have been shortlisted for the Bus and the Community Award, sponsored by Heathrow, at the UK Bus Awards 2023.

Elaine Pearson-Scott, Executive Director of Gloucestershire Nightstop, said:

"At Gloucestershire Nightstop, we aim to provide more than a bed for the night, with wrap-around support services that provide young people who are, or are at risk of, homelessness a strong foundation on which they can build a stable and successful life.

"Over 20 years, we've helped thousands of young people prepare for and gain their independence. A huge part of this is making sure they can still get around. If our young people can travel, they might be able to continue in education, maintain employment, keep their relationships from breaking down. All of this makes a recovery from homelessness quicker and improves their chances of long-term success. We'd like to thank Stagecoach West for their enthusiasm and commitment, and we look forward to seeing where our partnership goes next."

In Nightstop's 20th Anniversary year, a wide-ranging partnership was formed with Stagecoach West to help prevent and end homelessness for 16 to 25-year-olds in Gloucestershire. So far, the partnership has seen all of Nightstop's young people get free county-wide bus travel, joint recruitment campaigns, a back of bus advert and the sponsorship of our half-marathon running teams. In addition, Karen Coventry, Commercial and Marketing Director for Stagecoach West has joined the charity's Board of Trustees.

Karen Coventry, Commercial and Marketing Director, Stagecoach West says:

"Establishing this close working relationship with Nightstop will enable us to

continually look for more ways we can work with them so that our support isn't superficial, but multi-layered, providing alternative sources of value.

"Being shortlisted at the National Bus Awards is wonderful news and pays testament to the great work Gloucestershire Nightstop does in helping vulnerable young people across the county"

Gloucestershire Nightstop provides emergency accommodation for homeless 16- to 25-year-olds in the spare rooms of volunteer hosts, alongside a range of holistic support and advice services.

Jacob Bradfield, Vice-Chair of the Board of Gloucestershire Nightstop and former service user, said: "We're already seeing the enormous benefits of this partnership with Stagecoach. Not only are our young people benefiting right now, but we're noticing a tangible impact in awareness in the public sphere about youth homelessness and ourselves as an organisation.

"I'd like to thank Stagecoach West for their support, which is helping us embed the amazing progress we've made in recovering from the pandemic. Partnerships across our community are essential to achieving long-term results in the fight to end youth homelessness for good, something that we continue to focus efforts on through our ongoing collaborative research and partnerships programme."

To meet increases in demand on our services of around 50%, Gloucestershire Nightstop are looking for more people in the community to offer their spare room to a young person in need. Our existing hosts have found this experience incredibly enriching and there is no pressure, you host when you can, and you don't when you can't. Visit gloucestershirenightstop.org.uk to find out more.

The awards will be presented at Troxy in London on Tuesday 28th November 2023.

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