



News Release

30th October 2017 – For Immediate Release

Chapman Centre for Homeless in Ipswich Awarded National Lottery Funding

Staff at the IHAG Chapman Centre have been celebrating for the entire month of October following the announcement that the Big Lottery Fund has granted the Centre £350,152 in funding over a three year period. The Chapman Centre is a day centre for homeless individuals in Ipswich.

The funded project at the Chapman Centre, supports individuals who have multiple needs including homelessness, poor mental health, substance misuse and chaotic lifestyles. The work improves individuals' life chances of gaining sustained independent living. A range of meaningful activities provided at the Centre increase self-confidence and self-esteem.

Halford Hewitt, Director of IHAG, said: "The Chapman Centre is the homeless hub of Ipswich where marginalised and vulnerable adults can start their journey back into mainstream society. The Centre staff can call upon a wide range of knowledge, experience and networks to provide a place for positive change. The National Lottery funding is crucial to providing a core service but the Centre still needs more funding if it is to meet its full potential."

John Grierson, Chairman of IHAG Board of Trustees, said: "We are extremely grateful to the Big Lottery Fund for the grant and for their vote of confidence in the vital work of the Chapman Centre. The Centre is a perfect example of Community Action as all the money will be used within the community to help some of its most marginalised members improve their own life chances."

The IHAG Chapman Centre services over 1100 excluded or self-excluded and hard-to-reach individuals annually, and provides a variety of services including walk-in advice and support, welfare benefits, housing advice, money advice, lunches, shower



facilities, food parcels, post collection, phones, computers, pathway to drug and alcohol services, health clinics, meaningful activities, training sessions and outreach to rough sleepers.

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Notes to Editors

Ipswich Housing Action Group Ltd (IHAG)

- IHAG is a small, independent, local Charity with a voluntary management committee (Trustees), 33 paid staff and about 20 volunteers.
- IHAG started in 1976 in response to concern about the lack of accommodation for single homeless people in Ipswich.
- Today IHAG operates a dispersed hostel of 14 houses, runs the IHAG Chapman Centre – a day centre for homelessness services in Ipswich – and has a busy Money Advice Service which helps hundreds of individuals and families each year deal with their debt, budgets and welfare benefits.

Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund uses money raised by National Lottery players to help communities achieve their ambitions. From small, local projects to UK-wide initiatives, its funding brings people together to make a difference to their health, wellbeing and environment. Since June 2004 it has awarded £8.5 billion to projects that improve the lives of millions of people.

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