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## **Queen's Birthday Honours List recognises local homelessness charity's Chief Executive by awarding an MBE**

IHAG is delighted to announce that their Chief Executive of 26 years, Halford Hewitt, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2018 Birthday Honours List in recognition of his service to homeless people in Ipswich and Suffolk.

Ipswich Housing Action Group has been serving the community of Ipswich for the last 40 years. In that time, IHAG has supported over 25,000 marginalised and vulnerable adults to get back on their feet.

Based and working predominantly in Ipswich, IHAG not only supports individuals who are homeless but actively supports many organisations working with homeless people by bringing them together to work collaboratively and thus be more effective.

IHAG's aims to "do nothing separately that can't be done better together" and Halford has played a leading role in turning this aspiration into a reality.

Halford said: "This award is really for the work of IHAG; a small local organisation which has been dedicated to serving vulnerable people in the community of Ipswich for over 40 years."

"IHAG staff are incredibly dedicated, hard-working and skilled; it is their efforts that have earned me this award, and I am proud and honoured to be their Chief Executive. It is they who allow IHAG to 'punch above its weight'".

"What keeps me going is the difference IHAG can make to people's lives even though it can take some time. For example, 'John' whom we worked with for several years before finally helping him to settle into his own home where he has now been successfully living for the last 4 years. He still drops by every so often to say hello".

IHAG is working with over 2,000 vulnerable and marginalised adults every year through its housing, money advice and day Centre services.

As Halford says: "With continuing cuts in public services and funding, it is small local organisations like IHAG that end up taking the strain; we need the support of the community more than ever if we are to be able to continue to help the most vulnerable in our society".

"IHAG will continue to make a difference and is looking for new Trustees and a Chair to guide the organisation over the next few years".

**– Ends –**



**Halford 1**



**Halford 2**

## **Notes to Editors**

**Personally I prefer the one with a coffee cup as I am well known for insisting on real, fair trade coffee at meetings!**

## **About IHAG**

Ipswich Housing Action Group Ltd (IHAG) is a small, independent, local Charity with a voluntary management committee of 10 Trustees, 32 paid staff and about 15 volunteers.

IHAG started life in 1976 in response to concern about the lack of accommodation for single people in Ipswich. Today IHAG operates a dispersed hostel of 14 houses, has a busy Money Advice Service which helps about 900 individuals each year deal with their debt, budgets and welfare benefits and runs the IHAG Chapman Centre – a day advice centre for homelessness services in Ipswich.

The IHAG Chapman Centre services over 1100 excluded/self-excluded and hard-to-reach service users annually and provides a variety of services: walk-in advice & support, welfare benefits, housing advice, money advice, lunches, shower facilities, food parcels, post collection, phones, computers, pathway to drug & alcohol services, health clinics, meaningful activities and training sessions.

IHAG's Street Outreach team works closely with the Chapman Centre and works directly with people living on the streets of Ipswich – [See here for IHAG's latest campaign about rough sleepers](#).

The Chapman Centre is the base for the Ipswich Locality Homelessness Partnership – a network of over 30 organisations joined together to magnify their impact.

[www.ihag.co.uk](http://www.ihag.co.uk)

[Twitter.com/IHAG\\_homeless](https://twitter.com/IHAG_homeless)

[Facebook.com/ChapmanCentre](https://facebook.com/ChapmanCentre)

## **Media enquiries:**

Halford Hewitt

Phone: 0777 1862 595

[halford@ihag.co.uk](mailto:halford@ihag.co.uk)