

## Christmas Cheer provided to our supported individuals



It's not been the best year for anyone, however here at Aspire we wanted to give the supported individuals who have been living in the Travelodge Hotel a little Christmas cheer. We started looking for a venue back in September which was within easy access from the Travelodge and a big enough space to hold a socially distanced Christmas dinner.

Helen McMillan, Support Coordinator, put out a post on Twitter/Facebook asking for recommendations and we were thrilled when Helenor from The Malin Group @ The Rotunda South got in touch to offer us their building for this occasion. We visited the building and it was perfect; large enough to socially distance, had it's own kitchen facility and was a good bright space. Helenor offered to decorate the area with Christmas Tree and other decorations and also offered to nominate 50 gift bags for those attending. It was perfect.

A little set back on 19<sup>th</sup> December, however, when the final decision re Christmas changes was broadcast. In honour not to disappoint (where possible) we wanted to ensure that we could still safely provide dinner. We visited the facility again to risk assess that we could absolutely dine whilst socially distancing and put in a comprehensive risk assessment detailing measures put in place re wearing of PPE, social distancing, hygiene and cleaning and 2 sittings to keep numbers low. Laura Wright, Regional Manager consulted with CI and PHPU and was so pleased to

announce that on Christmas Eve this was all going to safely go ahead.

Our colleague Helen McMillan and her volunteer Group Help The Homeless Glasgow's volunteers made the day super special as they did all the cooking, donated lovely gifts, cleaned and helped with the serving. Our support staff at Aspire Travelodge were also a great help on the day and everyone's shared goal was to ensure the supported individuals had a great time, got out their rooms, a great meal and well deserved lovely gifts.

### A traditional Christmas meal with all the trimmings was enjoyed by all – photos overleaf

From money kindly donated by The Celtic Foundation food and donations to external services were possible. As a result of Aspire's Helen McMillan and posts on her facebook and twitter pages donations of gifts were given by the general public. Tesco Community Initiative, Amazon and The Malin Group also contributed with gifts and gift bags.

**A fabulous 576 gift bags were distributed to supported individuals within Aspire services and externally.**

#### Receiving Tesco/Asda Vouchers:

Aspire Garscube: 7 Males 3 Females (Tesco/Asda Vouchers)	Aspire Travelodge 51 males 13 females	Aspire Outreach 31 males 24 females
Aspire Belleisle 17 females	Aspire QMD 12 males 6 females	Aspire PRW 18 males 1 female
Blue Triangle Holland Street 22 males 1 female	Blue Triangle sauchiehall street 22 males 3 females	Blue Triangle summerset place 7 male 1 female
Chara project 27 Female	Elpis 18 females	Elder Street 23 Females
Housing First 58 Males 22 Females	James McLean House 8 male 8 Female	Rodney Street 29 Males
SA Huntershill Project 14 Males	SA Wallace of campsie 52 Males	SA William Hunter house 26 Male 4 female

#### Other:

Gowrie Care Queen Mary Avenue 8 Females	Gowrie Care Portman Street 30 Males	Gowrie Care Edinburgh Service 10 Males
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### Thanks to everyone who came along to the dinner and made everything possible

#### Volunteers: Rotunda Sit-Down Meal

Carol Quinn	Elizabeth Gilchrist	Marjorie Collins	Jennifer Lyden	David McMillan
Megan Cook	Katelyn Roberts	Ronnie Hall	Victoria Helen	
Karen White	Carol James	Nicola McConnell	Katrina Walker	Laura Wright
Charlene, Caitlin & Jasmine (Travelodge Staff)				

<b>Volunteers: Garscube Road</b>				
Maureen Eden	Gillian Eden	Alice Wheeler	Matthew Wheeler	Sam Wheeler
Elizabeth Hutton		Lea-anne Stevenson & Jamie Smith (Garscube Staff)		

**Social Distance Christmas Dinner (2 sittings)**



