

# the TAFFY times

The *official* newsletter from The Ashley Foundation -  
the Blackpool charity for the homeless

## Welcome to the first issue of The Taffy Times from The Ashley Foundation.

Although established in 1997, it has taken 7 years to produce issue number 1! The Taffy name is based on the initials of The Ashley Foundation, a registered charity providing accommodation and support to 'single homeless' but not couples or family groups. TAF operate 3 hostels in the Blackpool area and 8 move-on flats. All the buildings are named after trees, (Holly House, Oak House, Elm House, Cedar Lodge and Birch Lodge).

The hostels accommodate 62 persons all having their own bedrooms with meals and utilities provided. Hostel occupancy is always at 95% to 100%. There are many reasons why people end up in a hostel. Some need short term accommodation whilst looking for employment and a permanent home. Some need a roof over their heads after a family fallout. Others because they just can't cope living on their own or simply because they have nowhere else to go. Residents have their own history and TAF don't

judge. Previously TAF were just accommodation providers but had always recognised the need to provide practical and holistic support to residents. Nowadays, TAF don't just offer a room, food, heat and light. With the recent introduction of the Government's Supporting People Initiative, TAF now offer support and resettlement assistance for all hostel residents via a team of committed staff and volunteers. Case histories will be looked at in future issues.

In order to make the Taffy Times of interest to all prospective readers, TAF intend to publish articles ranging from technical homeless sector matters to magazine style stories. There will even be a 'letters to the editor' column! Please write or ring with your comments, complaints, compliments and suggestions. The Taffy Times even invites readers to submit articles for publication.

TAF wish you a merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and interesting reading!

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## LAURA COOPER TAFFY TIMES EDITOR

Laura joined TAF in March 2004 after 9 years with Blackpool Borough Council. With her extensive experience of benefits and her interest in the homeless sector, Laura was keen to move on from the local authority if she could find the right opportunity. When TAF were recruiting for a Housing Benefit specialist, Laura jumped at the chance and is looking forward (with some trepidation!) to editing the Taffy Times.