

THE MEETING ROOM UPDATE



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



As we celebrate our 10th birthday in 2026, it's a good moment to reflect on our work and the many people and organisations that make it possible.

The Meeting Room was founded to help those most in need; people who were falling between the cracks of social services and other agencies. Ten years on, we're supporting more people than ever, and the need for our services continues to grow.

My heartfelt thanks go to all our supporters and volunteers. To those who have stood by us for many years, we are deeply grateful for your kindness and generosity.

To our newer benefactors, thank you for joining our extended family and helping us support vulnerable people in our community.

Looking ahead to 2026, we're excited to launch new initiatives that build on our strong foundations, and we hope you'll continue to share in our journey.

Paul Adair
Chairman of Trustees

Contents

A Week in the Life

2025 in Numbers

Highlights of the Year

Moving Forward



“The Meeting Room is often the first port of call for the homeless, those struggling with poverty or with addictions and those for whom social exclusion and loneliness is an everyday reality.”

A WEEK IN THE LIFE

IF YOU WANT KNOW WHAT WE GET UP TO AT THE MEETING ROOM, HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THINGS THAT MAKE UP A TYPICAL WEEK FOR OUR CHARITY



Our Drop-ins

In a typical week, over 60 people visit our lunchtime drop-ins in Leatherhead, Ashted and Epsom, and enjoy a delicious home-cooked hot meal. Some come to alleviate loneliness, while others seek help from our staff and volunteers depending on their situation. All are welcome, no-one is ever turned away.



Activities & Events

We run regular activities including day trips, overnight camping stays, and visits to the cinema and theatre as well as special events such as the Christmas Party. For those in poverty and in social isolation, these activities are an essential lifeline of well-being.

Working in Partnerships

We're proud to connect with many organisations, including hosting talks from the Samaritans, Arthritis UK, and working with GPs, Job Centres, local churches, and faith groups. We also receive groceries from partners such as M&S and Sainsbury's.

Solving Problems

For vulnerable people in difficult situations, even routine tasks are challenging. Helping with benefits, working with social housing providers, debt management companies, and assisting with medical issues are just a few of the areas where we help.



Crisis Management

Supporting our clients in times of crisis is one of our major focus areas. 75% of our work is carried out outside of our drop-ins and this includes liaising with police, social services, local authorities and more. We also help with temporary accommodation or providing financial support.



2025 IN NUMBERS



**3,410
visits**

to our 3 drop-in
locations



**1,600
hours**

of dedicated
support



**265
clients**

regularly use
our services



**155
hours**

of specialist
counselling



**105
people**

newly onboarded
as clients



**5,100
hot meals**

cooked & served
at our drop-ins

.. and don't forget all the cups of tea consumed, crafting projects finished, activities completed, countryside walks taken, friendships made, laughs had and so many lives changed for the better.

HOW CAN YOU HELP US

In the current economic environment, no charity can afford to stand still.

We want to continue to support as many people as possible in our local community and help them to lead more stable and sustainable lives.

This means working with our clients over a longer period, working in partnership with other providers and endeavouring to ensure our impact and our outcomes are a positive benefit to our community.

Please consider how you could support The Meeting Room moving forward. We are in huge need of both volunteers and monetary donations to support our clients and to ensure our charity continues its vital work.



Buys a hot meal
for someone in
need



Funds a week
of gas and
electricity



Provides two
counselling
sessions



Allows someone
to go on an
organised trip

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE AMAZING THINGS
THAT HAVE HAPPENED RECENTLY

John O'Groats to Land's End

The wonderful Carol Rossell walked from John O'Groats to Land's End from May to August this year, raising over £5,000. She is an inspiration to us all!



Poppies in Leatherhead

We are particularly proud of five of our clients who in May 2025 crafted over 160 giant poppies (each 30 cm wide) that were displayed around Leatherhead to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

Chosen Charity

We are delighted to be the chosen charity of both Squires Garden Centre in Cobham and the American Women of Surrey International Group for 2025-26. We are thankful for the patronage, generosity and community spirit.



Partnership with NESOCOT

We're partnering with the North East Surrey College of Technology in Epsom to provide students taking their Public Services course with essential work experience interacting with vulnerable adults.

MOVING FORWARD

If you would like to discuss anything or are considering making a gift, please email us or visit our website at **www.themeetingroom.org.uk**.

We rely on the generosity of our wonderful volunteers to keep doing what we do. We have a huge range of roles available, so if you are interested, please contact **volunteer@themeetingroom.org.uk**

Follow us on Facebook:

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