

## Moat goes homeless for charity

Employees from Moat, a housing association based in Dartford, Kent, will be braving freezing temperatures to host a sponsored 12 hour overnight sleepout on Friday 20 January, to help raise £50,000 in Moat's 50<sup>th</sup> year for five charities.

The fight against homelessness is increasingly important and plummeting temperatures mean the winter months are some of the hardest and most dangerous times to be homeless. Just days ago Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan announced the opening of emergency cold weather shelters for London's homeless this winter. At the end of 2016, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ken Loach's Cathy Come Home inspired the #HomesForCathy campaign, encouraging people to help prevent homelessness in any way they can. And now Moat wants to play its part

Moat staff, partners and contractors will be sleeping out in the car park at Moat's central office in Dartford, to experience for one night what many face on a daily basis. The event carries huge importance in raising awareness and charity fundraising, but the night will also be filled with a real sense of community spirit. Every participant will be sleeping in a cardboard box, having been encouraged to decorate them creatively.

Elizabeth Austerberry, Chief Executive at Moat, says: "As a housing association, we strongly believe that everyone has the right to a safe and stable place to live, but that is not the reality for many. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to take part with us or agreed to donate to the event. I really hope that everyone involved takes something personal from the experience, underlining how important it is to help people find a place to call home."

The money raised will be split equally across five charities that work to improve lives and enhance opportunities, including two homeless charities: Centrepoin, which works mainly in London, and Kent-based Porchlight. Partners from both charities will be in attendance educating the sleepers about homelessness and how it can be prevented.

You can make a donation or find out more about the event online at [JustGiving.com](http://JustGiving.com) by searching for 'Moat Sleepout'.

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### About Moat

Moat is a housing association working across South East England to provide high quality homes and services to around 20,000 homes. For fifty years we have sought to help people in housing need to have somewhere they can call home; somewhere they can be proud of.

### About #Moat50for50

To mark its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, Moat is raising £50,000 to be split across five charities that share its values and ambitions, they are: Centrepoin, Porchlight, Swale Action to End Domestic Abuse (SATEDA), Children of Choba and Moat Foundation (Moat's charitable arm). Full details of the five charities are available online at [Moat.co.uk/5050](http://Moat.co.uk/5050) and information on the fundraising challenge itself can be found on [JustGiving.com](http://JustGiving.com) by searching for '[Moat 50 for 50](http://Moat.co.uk/5050)'. Updates on events and fundraising progress can be tracked on Twitter and Facebook via #Moat50for50.

### More information

If you have any queries relating to this release, please email [media@moat.co.uk](mailto:media@moat.co.uk) or call Dean Woolf, Corporate Communications Manager, on 0845 359 6357.