



New chief at leading homelessness charity

Providence Row, a leading London homelessness charity, has appointed a new chief executive.

Pamela Orchard (pictured) will lead a team of over 60 staff and volunteers at the East End charity which works with some of London's most vulnerable adults.

Most recently Pam served as Deputy CEO at Edinburgh Cyrenians. She has over 20 years' experience in the sector, specialising in volunteer development and corporate community responsibility at the Volunteer Centre in Edinburgh. She was previously the training programmes manager at the YMCA.

Pam said, 'I am very much looking forward to my new role with Providence Row and my return to London. It's an exciting time for the charity and I am delighted to lead the team. We will continue to develop Providence Row's vital work supporting some of London's most vulnerable and excluded people, helping them move from crisis into a more stable, secure life.'

The charity is currently building a new activity centre, due for completion in January 2012. One of Pam's first projects will be to lead the development of the new centre which is planned as a training facility and workshop space, to help people to gain skills for employment. This is the first of a range of exciting developments planned by the charity in the coming five years.

Providence Row tackles the root causes of homelessness to help people get off, and stay off, the street. Last year it helped over 6,000 people. As homelessness figures increase so does the need for its services. Homelessness in the capital has gone up almost 10% in the last year as many vulnerable adults are faced with a triple threat of rising living costs, cuts to benefits and a lack of suitable and affordable accommodation.

The charity offers crucial help with mental health support and housing and also runs trainee schemes to help homeless and ex-homeless people such as Charles to build their self esteem. After a long period of unemployment, Charles said his time as a trainee 'makes me feel like I am part of the world again'. It has also given him the confidence to go on to champion the scheme and its benefits to other groups of homeless people.

For more information on Providence Row visit www.providencerow.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

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- For an interview with Pam Orchard or more case studies please contact Dipika Kulkarni, communications officer, on the details above.
- Increase in homelessness by almost 10% from the Broadway '[Street to Home' Annual Report 2010/11](#). Figures are taken from the 'Combined Homelessness and Information Network' (CHAIN), a London wide database used to record homelessness.