

Part A - General Information

Charity Name

Street Storage

Charity Type/Structure

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Charity Registration Number

1184447

Project Name (if same as Charity Name, please leave this blank)

N/A

Lead Contact

Rachel Woolf

Email

rachel.woolf@streetstorage.org

Website

<https://www.streetstorage.org/>

Social media handles (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram etc):

Twitter - street_storage
Facebook - LondonStreetStorage
Instagram- streetstorage
LinkedIn - Street Storage

Part B - Project Proposal

Project Mission: A snapshot of the project's intention (50 words max)

We are the only UK charity providing free, accessible storage units for people experiencing homelessness. We offer short term and long term storage across London, conduct emergency and targeted outreach as well as undertake one to one signposting and advocacy/key work and campaign across the UK.

Situation (250 words)

COVID19 has had, and will have, a detrimental effect on those in poverty and experiencing homelessness which we predict will last for a number of years following the pandemic. We are already seeing a change in the demographics of the people being referred to us - with more and more referrals from prisons/local authorities and post-eviction needs. Services are closing and fewer people have access to basic needs like food and showers. We are responding to these changes that will grow and develop over a 3-5 year period in the aftermath of COVID as more and more people experience working poverty and street homelessness in four main ways:

- 1 - securing a large, manned unit in London for post-eviction storage (furniture, bedding, white goods) as well as transport funding to move items
- 2 - units across the UK to start to support those on the street across the country with free storage in the aftermath of COVID
- 3 - conduct full time street outreach providing essential items such as food and period products alongside organisations providing essential care.
- 4 - develop our advocacy and one to one signposting with people to connect them with services throughout their time with us.

Complication (250 words)

We work with people experiencing homelessness: those sleeping out or in vulnerable housing and leaving violent and inhabitable situations. We store their possessions while they work with support services to gain and maintain secure housing and employment, reconnect with family and re-engage with training and education . Traveling with all your possessions creates multiple underlying problems for someone on the street.

We alleviate the suffering and judgement that comes from having your things with you at all times and have front line staff who work with people to find solutions for their lives. You can't have a place to call

home if you have to drag your 'home' around with you every day and night. You can't have a place to call home if your possessions are not safe. You can't have a place to call home if your 'home' gets burnt, urinated on, stolen or damaged on the streets.

Having your life with you at all times creates a huge barrier to services and perpetuates the cycle of homelessness. We solve this with immediate impact and clients leave us feeling physically and mentally lighter from day one.

Solution (250 words)

Street Storage is unique, low cost and easily replicable across the UK. We have had interest from eight UK cities to grow the charity across the country because we are needed wherever people sleep out or are vulnerably housed. People come to us and a problem is immediately solved - something that is almost unheard of in the homelessness sector, where people are moved from service to service with endless wait times and forms. We give people freedom from the date of their appointment by taking the concern and weight of their things off them, and help them break the cycle of homelessness through advocacy and support throughout their time with us.

In two years, Street Storage has gone from a tiny organisation with one staff member, one unit and 20 people referred, with an income of <£25k, to employing a staff team of four with two London units, 250+ individual referrals and an income of just under £200k. We have secured office space and two storage units, developed street outreach, been involved front line in the response to COVID and have developed a one to one advocacy service.

We plan to secure a third unit in London that is much larger - so post-eviction storage of bedding and furniture/white goods as we are seeing more and more referrals of this kind. We then plan to replicate the Street Storage model across the UK - with current bids in for property in Sheffield and Manchester.

Part C - Wider Support

How would the Stephen Lloyd Award network of partners' support be beneficial to your project? (250 words max)

Because we are growing quickly, the Stephen Lloyd Network of Partners could be invaluable. We are currently well supported in HR and with pro bono legal help, but have significant need for systems volunteers and pro bono support around accounting and finance. As we continue to grow, we would also hugely benefit from partners able to provide Business Strategy and Mentoring.

For Street Storage, winning a Stephen Lloyd Award would further increase our reputation and presence in the charity sector through contact and introductions with tens of partners across the UK. As we grow, we need to network further out of London across the country to tell people who we are, what we do and why it is so desperately needed.

Part D - Financial Justification

In general terms, please explain how the funding would be used to carry out your project. (50 words max)

The funding granted through a Stephen Lloyd Award would be put towards funding our first Referral Manager/Outreach Worker in a unit outside of London.

Part E - Supporting Information

Governing Documents: Where relevant, please upload any recent charity accounts and governing documents as attachments.

- [Street-Storage-SOFA-2020-1184447.pdf](#)

Team: We would like to learn a little more about the individual or team invested into the project. What are your individual credentials? Is there a story behind how you or your team all came together to support the project? (75 words max)

Rachel Woolf - Founder

Rachel started Street Storage in November 2018 after seeing a visible need for the service in the city and in the sector.

Caroline Allouf - Referral Manager/Outreach Worker

As Street Storage's Referral Manager and Outreach Worker, Caroline manages all referrals to our London units as well as reaching out to people who have used or may wish to use Street Storage to ensure that

the service is as accessible as possible.

Michal J - Unit Security Guard

Michal is a core member of the Street Storage team. Initially coming on board as a volunteer while sleeping on the street himself, he joined the team as a member of staff in November 2019 and is now housed in North London. A trained and licensed Security Guard, it's his job to keep our staff, volunteers and clients safe during appointments.

Ben Ferris - Marketing and Fundraising Manager

Ben manages Street Storage's fundraising, impact reporting, marketing and social media as well as running exciting new fundraising campaigns and events.

YouTube Video

<https://youtu.be/6q-svSBNpTI>

Additional References: You are welcome to provide a list of up to 5 links with relevant supporting material as further reference.

<https://www.streetstorage.org/endorsements>

Anonymous

Islington Street Sleeper

"A secure and safe space to store my gear is an absolute Godsend to me because it is exhausting continually carrying a massive load on my back. It wears you down and depletes your energy - you are constantly having to worry about stuff being nicked in day centres or elsewhere. Also, I have a soft tissue injury in my knee which has never been able to heal because of the load that I am carrying.

Recently, I was stopped coming out of an IKEA store where I had used their cafe - I looked perfectly respectable but was stopped because of my rucksack, which they wanted to search. Also, many people who are homeless make a point of trying to carry on a normal life with normal activities, which bring us into contact with people who might offer work or accommodation. In my case I am doing some research for something I am trying to write, which means that I need to use the British Library and the Wellcome Library. I can't take a rucksack into these places, which means I usually have to ask a friend - which is very time-consuming and puts strain on the friendship. Also, I have stuff stored in several different places in London. Not ideal, but I have nowhere else to put it."

Sarah Turley

Islington Council Street Population Coordinator

"Street Storage is a great concept – especially for rough sleepers who have difficulties in engaging with traditional services and who are resistant to come inside. It offers an opportunity to engage with the person where they are in control – i.e. they come to the storage unit and this small amount of time allows the opportunity to build a trusting relationship where brief interventions can happen, which can be built upon. It also means that people can store their documents safely – which is a major issue that prolongs people's homelessness if they have to apply for replacements. We are excited by this pilot in Islington and hope that the pilot can be expanded in order to support more people."

Daniela Sbrisny

Crisis Services Supervisor, The Margins Project

"The most common thing they (rough sleepers) speak about is losing or being robbed of their belongings. As people need to carry all/often the most important documents with, then they are not very safe. Lost IDs etc mean expensive replacements, which people often cannot afford, and it really holds them up from achieving goals, finding work, being referred to shelters or temporary accommodation and/or applying for benefits."

Janet McKnight

Lead Worker Safe Connections, ThamesReach

"I think the service, you and the organisation Street Storage is amazing, and I commend all those for making it happen. Too often items of importance are lost almost as a by-product of homelessness."

Ron Overton

Founder, Transitions UK

I really love what you are doing and it clearly is a very simple way of supporting vulnerable people where they are. The ability to leave our belongings safe and so we can use them again in good condition and for our warmth and comfort is something most of us take for granted. It's an immediate response which demonstrates care, support and affirms their individual worth without requiring them to leap through hoops to get it. Simple and Powerful. Great stuff.

