



ABOUT THE OASIS CENTRE

Below is a brief outline of who we are and what we do. I would also recommend that you have a good look at our website which goes into more detail at www.oasisgorton.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oasis Centre is a Christian charity that aims to bring about lasting positive change in the lives of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged adults in Gorton, East Manchester. It was established in 2001 and became a charitable trust in 2006. The charity operates a community day centre from a Methodist church hall, less than 4 miles from the city centre. We offer four support sessions (10am to 2pm) each week.

The Oasis Centre works directly with a broad cross-section of marginalised and 'hard to reach' adults in one of the most deprived communities in Britain. The Centre is a lifeline for well over 100 people a week including families living on benefits, long-term unemployed, asylum seekers and refugees, homeless people, ex-offenders and those struggling with social isolation, alcohol and drug problems or mental illness. Since 2001 over 7000 individuals and approximately 3000 families in Gorton and East Manchester have benefited from our services. We act as a vital 'first rung on the ladder' for the most disadvantaged and a route into mainstream services which many are unable to access owing both to distrust of statutory providers and a deficit in the basic life-skills required to successfully navigate these services. We also address both their immediate needs and the, often complex issues, behind these needs and we provide holistic support to meet their physical, social and economic needs in one easily accessible location.

OUR VISION

Our Vision is to see God given transformation for the people of East Manchester – from chaos, isolation and hopelessness to stability, community and fullness of life.

OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to provide unconditional love, care and support required to enable people in our community to overcome the deprivation around them and to live peaceful, productive and fulfilling lives. We provide an essential 'first rung on the ladder' for those that are hardest to reach; people whose lives are characterised by crisis, loneliness and despair. We enable people to address the often-complex issues behind their immediate needs with compassion and respect.

OUR VALUES

We are:

Ambitious: We have high aspirations for our clients and our community. We challenge assumptions and provide the support required to achieve lasting change.

Committed: We are in for the long haul. Complex and ingrained issues often take time to address and healing can take many years, so perseverance is essential.

Compassionate: We champion mutual respect, tolerance and kindness; all of which begin with self-awareness and self-respect.

Tailored: We adapt the support we give to recognise the unique physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of each client.

Pragmatic: We aim to apply the most efficient and cost-effective working methods, always looking to innovate and improve our service.

Resourceful: We make the most of our resources and look to work in partnership with likeminded organisations.

OUR ETHOS

Our values and our motivation to serve both spring from our Christian faith. Our inspiration and model is the example of Jesus Christ, who demonstrated practical compassion to the most marginalised and desperate in society. His call is our call, to those in dire need: ***“Are you tired and worn out? Come to me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a rest. Walk with me and watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”*** (a précis of Matthew 11:28 - The Message). All our services are available to people of any faith and those with none.

OUR ACTIVITIES

Through our long-term day to day work and on-going consultations with local people in Gorton and East Manchester, it became clear that in order for vulnerable and disadvantaged residents to break the cycle of deprivation and progress to become more thriving members of the community, there is a real need for them to develop personal stability, integration, life skills, aspirations and employability skills. For every person that arrives needing help, we offer access to carefully structured support through five linked projects:



RE-BUILD

RE-ENGAGE

RE-SKILL

NEXT STEP

RE-START

RE-BUILD: Crisis support - moving from chaos to stability

E-ENGAGE: Well-being programme - moving from isolation to inclusion

RE-SKILL: Basic education programme - moving from hopelessness to aspiration

NEXT STEP: Client Volunteer programme - moving from inexperience to volunteering

RE-START: Employability skills programme - moving from worklessness to employment

BACKGROUND

The Oasis Centre was established in 2001 by Victoria Armstrong who, having become shocked and troubled by the deprivation she found when she moved into Gorton as a student in the 1990s, developed a vision to establish a centre fully embedded within the community offering a wide range of welfare and education services. These services are delivered by the Centre Manager, 4 coordinators, support workers, session workers and a dedicated and skilled team of volunteers working directly with the general public. Whilst The Oasis Centre is a small charity that has grown steadily over the last 18 years, it has always been our vision to establish a prominent, purpose built day centre in Gorton serving the communities of

East Manchester. In 2015 we embarked on an ambitious £1 million capital project to build our own day centre increasing our opening hours, services and people supported. We expect to be in our new centre by January 2020.

THE FUTURE

Our vision for the future is to end the cycle of deprivation and see our East Manchester communities reach their God given potential through the provision of a prominent new purpose-built centre in which those with multiple and severe needs can enjoy holistic support in one easy to access safe place.

Our state-of-the-art new day centre will be open 5 days per week including:

A dedicated education and employment suite.

A focused and tailor-made retail and catering training scheme

An on-site health drop-in, including GP, nurse and health/wellbeing support.

A purpose-built crisis and emergency provision area.

A community health and wellbeing space.

The new centre will enable us to:

Extend our opening hours – helping us support double the amount of people.

Double our space – helping us expand and develop our vital services.

Provide new facilities – helping us provide a safe, easily accessible and welcoming environment for the most vulnerable.

