

# SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE

## GREEN VISION What we are aiming for overall

Everyone should be able to live with dignity with access to social activities and essential support services when needed.

In Worcester, we see homelessness and dependence on food banks increasing and this must end. Nobody should have to sleep rough, choose between heating and eating, or be stigmatised by poverty, disability, or mental ill health.

Councillors cannot solve these deep social problems on their own, but they can make a difference, by listening to people with lived experience of social exclusion and advocating for equality, diversity and inclusivity. We will support the local voluntary sector to access funding and resources and work to improve the accessibility of Worcester to meet specific local needs.

## GREEN PRIORITIES What we will try to do in the next four years

- Support organisations that help people and families to access accommodation and other services to overcome problems that can lead to homelessness.
- Support community centres, parish halls and sports and arts organisations, which provide vital activities for young, vulnerable and older people.
- Respond to the mental health crisis, for example, by partnering with voluntary sector organisations who are working to address this.
- Stand up for refugees and asylum seekers, welcoming them to our district, and working for Worcester to be a City of Sanctuary.
- Sign up to the Age Friendly Community process to become a district where all people are able to live healthy and active later lives.
- Support the Open Doors campaign by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

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## GREEN ACTION

### What we have already done

Through working collaboratively across the city council, we have:

- Set up and led a cost-of-living group, which obtained funding to provide free school meals during school holidays.
- Supported the Worcester Food Bank.
- Set up a fund to cover the costs of pest control and free bulky waste collection for people on low incomes.
- Reduced impact of increasing allotment costs to the lowest income residents.

As community campaigners:

- Councillors have organised and led countless food collections for the Food Bank.
- Cllr Hannah Cooper sits on the board of Disability Sport Worcester.
- Leisa Taylor was one of the initiators of local Reclaim the Night marches.
- Hannah Cooper paid for staff at the Museum and Art Gallery to have deafness awareness training.
- Candidate Alex Mace has raised money for Only A Pavement Away, a charity that helps homeless people into work.
- Candidates Jon Bodenham and Leisa Taylor are members of the Diglis Hub group, which aims to have a community building for residents.
- Karen Lewing has supported the Family Space that provides play and a nutritious hot meal in a warm space in the Arboretum.



Supporting Worcester Food Bank



Cllr Elena Round highlighting the importance of inclusive well-maintained play spaces