SASSY Smiles: HomelessNest.org Launches Weekend Dental Clinics to Restore Dignity and Health for People Experiencing Homelessness

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London, UK – [23rd November, 2025]

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Summary

HomelessNest.org, a registered charity (1214974) supporting people who are homeless or vulnerably housed, has launched Smile Again Saturday Sunday You (SASSY), a series of weekend dental clinics designed to tackle the severe oral health crisis faced by people experiencing homelessness. The initiative offers free essential dental care, restoring dignity, confidence, and wellbeing for those who have long been excluded from mainstream services.

A Smile Restored: Stories of Hope

For many, a smile is ordinary.

For others, it's the first fragile step toward hope.

On a cold Saturday morning in West Sussex, James*, a rough sleeper in his 30s, joined the line outside Beach Road Dental. Years on the street had damaged his health — especially his teeth. His appearance was worn, his confidence shaken. He hadn't eaten properly in a week, and smiling felt impossible.

*"I hadn't smiled in years because of the pain and shame from my teeth. Walking into the clinic, I felt nervous, but when they treated me with kindness and gave me back my smile, it felt like I was human again. For the first time in a long time, I have hope." James**

But that changed today.

This is the heart of Smile Again Saturday Sunday You (SASSY), a weekend dental initiative created by HomelessNest.org. The charity supports society's most vulnerable — tackling a crisis often ignored: the devastating impact of poor oral health among people experiencing homelessness.

"For far too long, people experiencing homelessness have been invisible in healthcare," says Emily Carter, Administrator at HomelessNest.org.

"SASSY is about restoring dignity. It's not just teeth — it's confidence, humanity, and hope."

A Community Effort

The first two SASSY clinics were hosted at Beach Road Dental. The practice generously offered the premises, and volunteer dentists, hygienists, and staff donated their time. Thanks to their generosity, dozens of people received care, some for the first time in years.

Yet these clinics still demand resources: consumables, lab tests, staffing, and operations. To scale SASSY and make it a regular service, HomelessNest.org is now appealing for ongoing funding and public support.

Overcoming Stigma

A major barrier is the stigma around homelessness. Many dental practices hesitate to serve homeless people due to misconceptions or fear of disruption.

“This hesitation highlights a larger societal issue,” says Carter. “These are people in need of compassion and care — exactly like anyone else.”

The Urgent Need

There’s a stark link between poverty and oral health. Many people rely on cheap, high-carbohydrate diets that accelerate decay. Without preventative care, small problems escalate, resulting in infections, malnutrition, and pain. Some die in their 40s from preventable health issues.

The NHS cannot keep up. Homeless individuals often end up in A&E for emergency extractions — rather than receiving regular check-ups.

“Poor dental health destroys confidence,” Carter adds. “It stops people from applying for jobs, education, or even holding their head high. A missing tooth is more than a health issue — it’s a barrier.”

A National Vision

HomelessNest.org aims to replicate SASSY across the UK. Conversations are already underway with clinics in multiple towns and cities, inspired by Beach Road Dental’s commitment.

“SASSY is more than dentistry,” says Ingrid Grey, Practice Manager at Beach Road Dental.

“It helps people look in the mirror and feel worthy again. Every restored tooth, every smile — it’s a small victory in the fight against poverty.”

The demand is already clear: queues around the block, many accessing care for the first time in years. The impact was immediate — gratitude, relief, smiles.

By the Numbers

- Over 280,000 people are currently homeless in the UK.
- Poor oral health contributes directly to malnutrition, chronic illness, and increased emergency hospital visits.
- Emergency dental care for homeless populations costs the NHS millions annually—costs that could be dramatically reduced with preventive care like SASSY.

How You Can Help

With the next SASSY clinic coming before Christmas, HomelessNest.org is calling on the public to support this vital work:

- Donate via our crowdfunding page: https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/homelessnest
- Volunteer your time
- Share our story with your network

“*People may think a smile is small,” says Carter, “but for someone forgotten, it can be life-changing. It’s the first step toward dignity, hope, and a new beginning.”*

About HomelessNest.org

HomelessNest.org is a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity No. 1214974), supporting individuals and families who are homeless, vulnerably housed, or otherwise at risk through grants, essential items, and practical services to help rebuild lives.

For further information, contact: admin@homelessnest.org

About Beach Road Dental

Beach Road Dental is a trusted, family-friendly dental practice based in Littlehampton, West Sussex, with access to sessional clinic rooms across the UK and abroad to support wider patient care. The practice offers affordable, pain-free dental care for patients of all ages. With decades of combined clinical experience, the team is dedicated to a patient-first approach, modern technology, and promoting

community wellbeing

For further information, please contact: contact@beachroadclinic.com

About SASSY

Smile Again Saturday Sunday You (SASSY) is a HomelessNest initiative inviting dental clinics across the UK to open their doors during free weekend hours to provide essential dental care to vulnerable individuals.

For further information, contact: Logan@homelessnest.org

Notes to Editors

*James's name has been changed for privacy.

High-resolution images and interviews available on request.

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