

**MANCHESTER SCHOOL  
OF ARCHITECTURE**



**WOAH+  
GMHAN**

**WWW.  
WITHOUTAHOME  
.CO.UK**

MANCHESTER  
1824



without a home  
**WOAH**

**MSA  
LIVE 21**

## Team

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## Partners

WOAH [With Out a Home] is an emerging student led collective that has evolved from a pilot program last year to explore broader issues of housing, from policy and legislation to actual fabrication of shelters, pods, clothing and other projects related to homelessness with a particular focus on Manchester. From these initial events and workshops has evolved a more formal organisation, a conscious collective of architecture students, collecting and generating ideas to tackle the issues of homelessness in Manchester.

WOAH raises awareness of the Manchester Homelessness Charter and highlights the most effective ways for staff and students to help homeless or at-risk homelessness. The WOAHP team promote engagement, volunteering, fundraising and other potential projects in support of the charter.

The Greater Manchester Homeless Action Network (GMHAN) is a network for everyone working to end homelessness in Greater Manchester through large scale events aimed at co-designing the homelessness policy and showcasing best practice. This Network brings together different sectors and specialisms involved in this ambition to work together towards a common cause. It operates on a model of community development and co-production, bringing people together to work together as a team rather than alone or in hierarchies.

# Agenda

## WITHOUTAHOME.CO.UK

Group 16 is a collaboration of students from Year 1, 2 and 5 and WOAHP (without a home), a student lead organisation addressing homelessness in Manchester.

Throughout the meetings with our collaborators the decision was made to create a website for WOAHP to raise awareness and make information, support and help more accessible.

The aim of Groups 16's Events 2021 is to get students involved in the design process and content creation for the website as well as investing time to research into homelessness and its underlying issues and causes.

Over the course of the weeks leading up to the two week seminar we focused on creating a session plan to structure the ten days of working together with our team to maximise the output for the website. The overall goal is to set up a functioning website for WOAHP to then continuously build on even after MSA Live.

This includes getting our team involved in the issue of homelessness, researching into its various aspects and other organisations and charities who are supporting people in need. The information and knowledge gained from the research will then be used for creating content on the website as well as blog posts in a separate section.

Our team will learn how to structure a website, create hierarchy to make the navigation easier and more user friendly and are taught the skills to expand the site as well as update it over time.

Group 16 is fortunate to have two members of our collaborator WOAHP working on the project as members of the group. This will help on important decision making, as well as focusing the output directly to the client's wishes for the website as well as letting everyone in our team incorporate their ideas and creativity.

Each member will play an important role in creating and adding to the website, its design, layout and its content. As the client is very open to any type of website no limiting decisions have been made previously and our group will be able to help build this website based on their ideas and visions.

## Domain

“ www. withoutahome.co.uk ”

Domain stands as the most important aspect of the website as it is required to access the website and serves to make a first impression. The domain we have chosen was designed in collaboration with WOAHA to be minimal and easy to type and understand when needing to access the website. Considerations were also made to ensure that the domain would be easy to say, as such, we chose to forgo any hyphens in the domain. We chose the top level domain “.co.uk” over “.com”, “.org”, or any other options as it is simple, professional, and contextualises the organisation to the region it serves, i.e. the United Kingdom.

## Web Hosting

“ www. wix.com ”

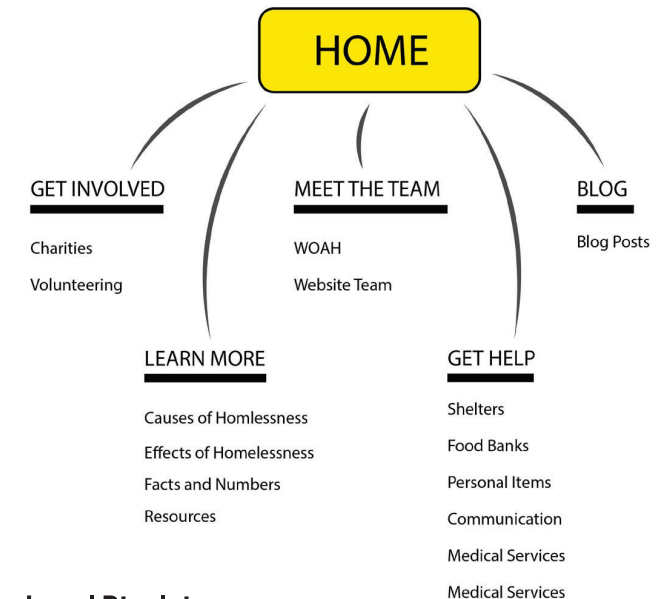
Understanding the goal of the website, it is important for the technical solution to be one that is simple to use, and can be easily carried forward by members of the WOAHA team post project conclusion. As such, we chose to use the web hosting service from WIX.com. WIX also provides a graphic user interface akin to Adobe Illustrator. This ensures that members of WOAHA likely have easily transferable skill from their studies, into the building and editing of the website. This was established with the WOAHA team and agreed upon as a way to ensure we can build a sustainable website which can be continuously appended to as the organisation develops

## Project Management Framework

Throughout the duration of the project, and as a method for the WOAHA team to continue collaborating on website design, we established a minimalistic but functional project management framework using MIRO.com and HOURS.zone. Miro allowed us to collaborate during the idea generation phase of the project, and provides a meaningful solution for the WOAHA team to continue collaborating creatively. A HOURS.zone link was also created as a simple task list management tool where users involved can declare and coordinate their roles and tasks in the development of the website

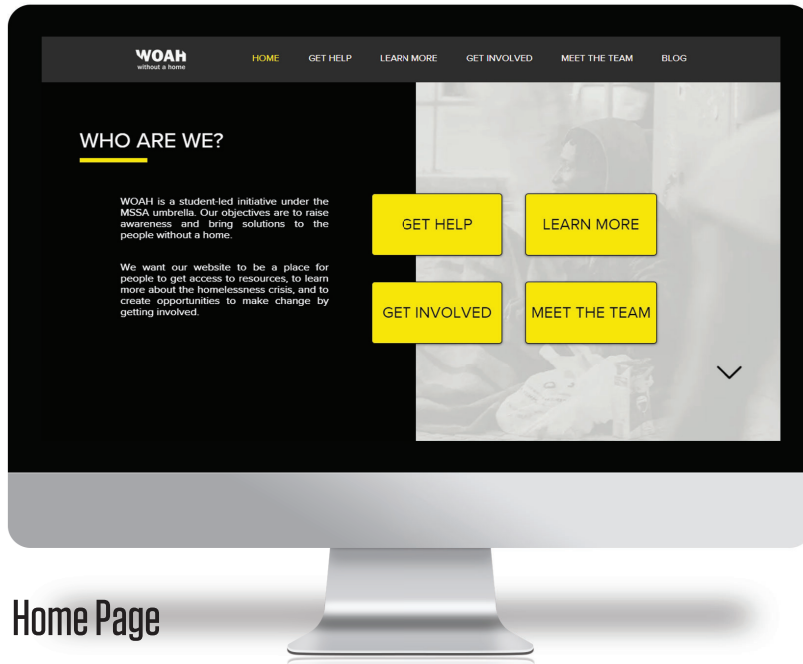
## WEBSITE STRUCTURE

The website was designed with pages that targetted several different audience which the Without A Home team seeks to serve. These groups includes academics, media, homeless people, and simply anyone who wishes to understand more about the homelessness issue. From here, we create a structure for the website including the following pages:



## Legal Disclaimer

The website uses a series of images from the internet to assist the narrative and design of the website. The images used are however in the public domain or fully licensed to our team for the purpose of digital publishing. While we have full digital publishing rights to all images, we have blurred certain images to comply with our license. The website is published under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0. All work from the website is created in association with Without a Home under the Manchester Metropolitan University.



## Home Page

The homepage introduces the objectives of the WOA initiative and the several aims of the website. It serves as a space where the homeless could get access to resources and emergency hotlines through by clicking on the buttons available on the header, namely, the 'Get Help' page, the 'Learn More' page, the 'Get Involved' page, the 'Meet the Team' page and the blog which enables ease of access and directly takes users to specific pages. The website was created on the Wix website builder which allowed students to creatively explore creating the template and design of the website throughout the events programme.

The right side of the homepage offers buttons which allow users to quickly navigate the sections of overviews of the pages available on the website and located at the bottom of the homepage.

The bottom sections of the website introduces users to a summarised map of useful resources for the homeless such as charities, temporary shelters and foodbanks which are available on the 'Get Help' page. It also features a brief description of each page where users can follow hyperlinks to the 'Learn More', 'Get Involved' and 'Meet the Team' pages. The bottom of the homepage features a gallery and brief descriptions of WOA's past initiatives and projects as well as hyperlinks to the social media accounts of the WOA and MSSA.

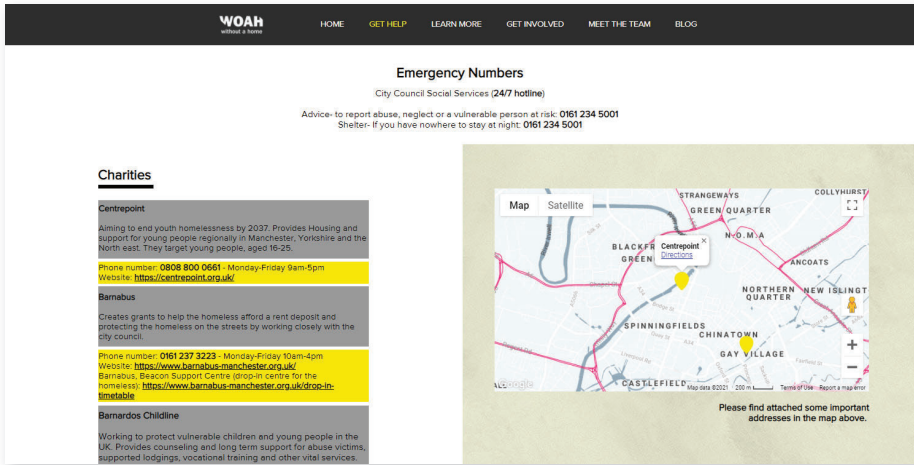
## User Experience

The homepage represents an important element in the user experience of the website. Throughout the design of the homepage, we focused on clear hierarchy and intuitive navigation. The user have the option of using any of the button elements to navigate through the pages, or by simply scrolling downwards.

The page uses clear buttons with simple to understand phrasing to ensure the page is as accessible as possible to any user.

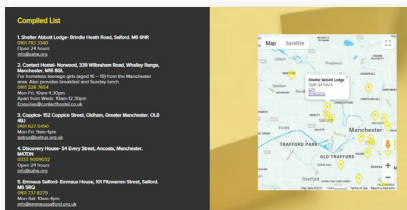
This design principal is also carried on to other pages. By taking advantage of the unique quality of the medium - The ability to scroll; we designed the hierarchy of the content to simply be a seamless scrolling experience, rather than utilising any pop-ups, excessive columns, or any other elements which may distract from the user experience





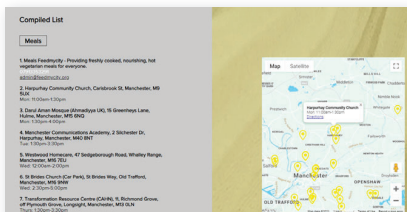
## Get Help

The 'Get Help' page introduces emergency hotlines for the City Council Social Services, 'Advice', to report abuse, neglect or other risks and 'Shelter' for emergency accommodations. Elsewhere on the page, a map summarises the locations of charities, shelters, meals and food banks, personal items, communication and medical services available for the homeless in Manchester. The list provides useful contact numbers, location address, website, email and opening hours of each charity. Scrolling down the page, users are then taken to a more comprehensive list of shelters, meals and food banks, personal items, communication and medical services and its corresponding map.



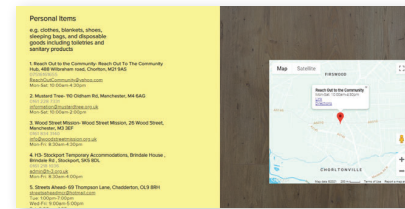
### Shelter

This subpage presents a compiled list of homeless shelters across Greater Manchester both general and appropriate for specific users such as hostels for homeless teenage girls, young women with children or are pregnant, shelters for single men aged 30 years and above with alcohol issues.etc



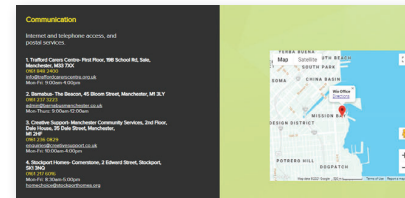
### Meals & Food Bank

The subpage presents a compiled list of free and freshly made meals across Greater Manchester catering to different dietary requirements such as vegetarian meals and ranging from hot drinks to take away lunches such as soup, sandwiches, hot snacks, cakes, fruits and so on



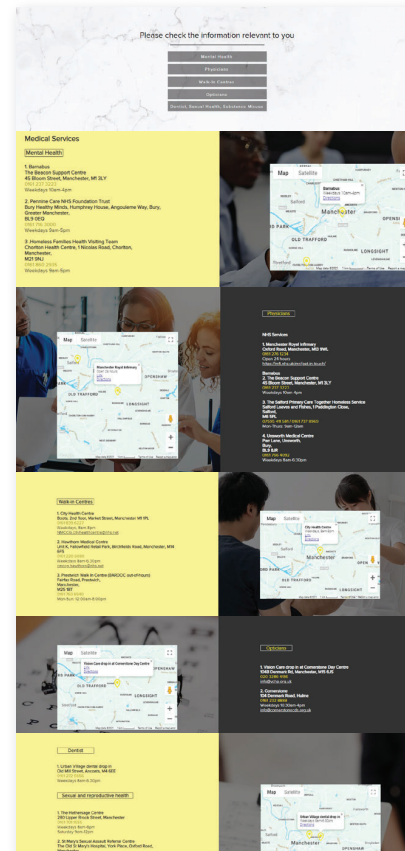
### Personal Items

The subpage presents a compiled list of personal items services for the homeless such as clothes, blankets, shoes, sleeping bags, toiletries and sanitary products across Greater Manchester.



### Communication

The subpage presents a compiled list of communication services such as Internet, telephone access and postal services provided for free for the homeless across Greater Manchester. Communication services are important in assisting a homeless' day-to-day routine as well as getting help in accessing information and emergency hotlines.

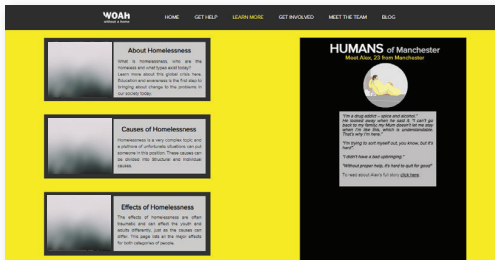


### Medical Services

The subpage presents a compiled list of medical and NHS services provided for the homeless across Greater Manchester, categorised into medical services for mental health, physicians, walk-in centres, opticians, dentist, sexual and reproductive health as well as alcohol and drug services.



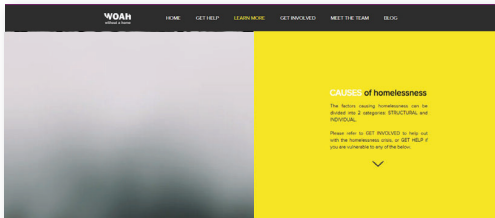
In this section we heavily utilise the Google Maps application programming interface (API) to create interactive maps to go along with the list of services available. This allows the viewer to easily access any of the location. Furthermore, this allows the list to be readily updated as service open and closes. Providing an easy way of maintaining the site.



## Learn More

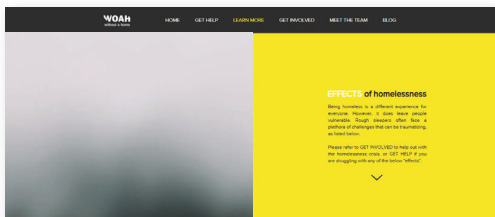
The 'Learn More' page is a comprehensive page where users are introduced to the issue of homelessness and are able to learn about the homeless crisis, different types of homelessness, causes, effects, facts and figures and other resources.

It features hyperlinks to other subpages on the left and on the right, the Humans of Manchester section highlights stories and experiences of homeless people across Manchester to provide a more personal approach to understanding the issue of homelessness. Each of the hyperlink first introduces its corresponding subpages and allows for easy navigation for the user.



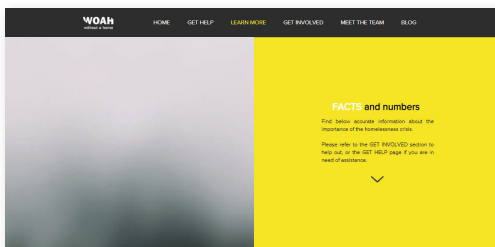
### Causes

The subpage comprehensively explores the causes of homelessness which can be divided into two categories, namely, structural and individual causes.



### Effects

The subpage explores the effects of homelessness which include instability, exhaustion, increased risk of illnesses, mental health issues, poor nutrition, risks, unemployment, education and violence and abuse. The page illustrates all major effects for both categories of homeless people; the young and adults.

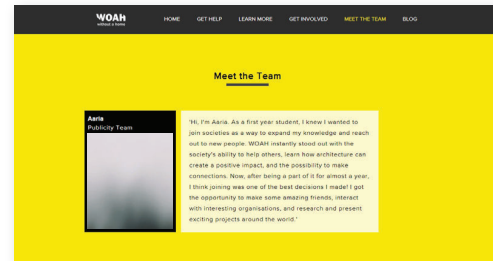


### Facts and Numbers

Accurate information surrounding facts and figures of the homelessness crisis can be obtained in the 'Facts and Numbers' subpage. This set of information is important in creating awareness and acknowledging the seriousness, the extent and state of the crisis in the UK.

## Get Involved

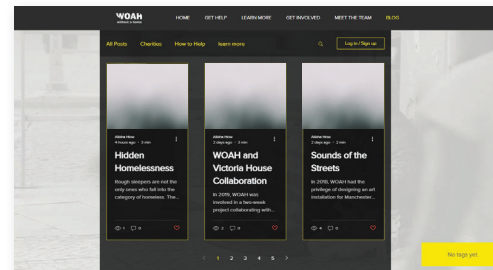
The 'Get Involved' page encourages users, who visit the site mainly for information and educational purposes, to get involved in activities, charities, volunteering, donations or other events. There will be regular updates and links to related blog posts helping users to find a way to address and aid the issue of homelessness in a way that works best for them. It is part of the website which the WOAAH will add to in the future and include more pages and sections in the drop down menu of this site. The related blog posts will also focus on little things everyone can do to make a positive impact on a homeless person in need.



## Meet the Team

The 'Meet the Team' page provides contact information for the MSSA and WOAAH. Users are able to submit questions and suggestions through the contact form. It also introduces users to the team behind the website, MSSA

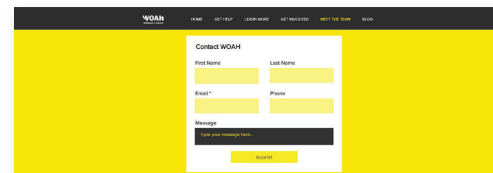
and WOAAH, allowing visitors to get to know the individual team members and making it more comfortable and personal to contact WOAAH. The team helping to create the website will also be mentioned and credited on the meet the team page as a thank-you from WOAAH for their efforts.



## Blog

Finally, the blog on the webpage presents articles and blog posts centering around issues of homelessness, which can be shared on social media, commented on or liked. It is also possible for users to subscribe to the blog to get updates on

new posts and information. Blog posts can be created by anyone with access to this part of the website and 'authors' can be added anytime and do not need authority over the rest of the webpage to contribute.



## Contact Form

Contact form offers a simple way for any visitor to send messages to the Without a Home team

## ABOUT

Each year the MSA Live (formerly Events) programme unites M Arch. year 01 with B Arch. year 01 and 02 and M Land. Arch 01 in mixed-year teams to undertake live projects with external partners to create social impact.

## LIVE PROJECTS

All MSA Live projects are live. A live project is where an educational organisation and an external partner develop a brief, timescale, and outcome for their mutual benefit.

## SOCIAL IMPACT

All MSA Live projects have social impact. Social impact is the effect an organization's actions have on the well-being of a community. Our agendas are set by our external collaborators.

## EXTERNAL PARTNERS

MSA LIVE projects work with many organisations: charities, community groups, social enterprises, community interest companies, researchers, practitioners and educators.

## STUDENT-LED

Our MSA masters students take the lead in the project conception, brief development, delivery and co-ordination of a small project. Other cohorts join for an eventful 2 weeks of activities at the end of the academic year.

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Working in teams within and across year groups and courses; MSA students participate in peer to peer learning. In addition, collaborators, participants and students engage in the transfer of tangible and intellectual property, expertise, learning and skills.

## LARGE SCALE

This year approximately 600 students from 4 cohorts in MSA will work on 42 projects with partners.

## QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA Live 21 contact MSA Live Lead: Becky Sobell:  
**[b.sobell@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:b.sobell@mmu.ac.uk)**

## BLOG

[live.msa.ac.uk/2021](http://live.msa.ac.uk/2021)

## SOCIAL

#MSALive21

@TheMSArch

@MLA\_TheMSArch

## WEBSITE

[www.msa.ac.uk](http://www.msa.ac.uk)