

# TALKING POINT: Robert Thomas, Lead Executive Officer of Herefordshire Vennture

29 June 2017

HEREFORD is on the edge of unprecedented growth.

Thanks to the work of so many unsung people so many stand to prosper. Spare a thought for the 'have-nots'.

Perhaps you think about the person begging on the street. On a good day, they may pocket £300 or even more! Perhaps their poverty is not financial.

Drink, drugs or both numb the pain of their past, blot out today's loneliness and take away the need to think of tomorrow.

Life is chaotic. Even with money in their pocket, they feel powerless to break free from destructive lifestyles.

Hurting so much, they end up hurting others and harming themselves. Was this their

## TALKING POINT

**ROBERT THOMAS**  
Lead executive officer  
Herefordshire Vennture



childhood dream?

Without hope, does it matter that the next can of super strength lager could be their last?

You see the person on the street. Others are less obvious but their needs may be even greater.

The child in need of fostering? The teenage sofa surfer? The young person leaving care? The isolated elderly? The deserted partner? The victim afraid to leave their home? These are also 'have-nots'.

Feeling robbed of so much, beaten by life's traumas, left by the wayside and alone – without family, friends or anyone to see the person they really are.

We can no longer walk by these 'have-nots' and expect some agency to come to their aid.

Hard-pressed professionals, who are doing their best, are limited in the help they can give.

Like John Venn, Vennture's Founder, we want to bring meaning to the power of Jesus Love by coming alongside these people. We equip volunteer mentors to help them rediscover who they truly are through the power of genuine love.

'Have-nots' need so much more than a handout. They need someone who genuinely cares.