

Team Brief

We slept rough so others don't have to

Our first Sleep Easy event has been hailed a great success after more than 40 staff members, residents and members of the local community spent the night outside in cardboard boxes braving temperatures as low as minus 1°C. Starting at 7pm on the evening of Saturday 29th January, participants slept out for 12 hours in the grounds of The Campus to raise awareness of youth homelessness. They experienced at first hand what it can be like to sleep rough and raised over £5000 in sponsorship. This money will be used directly by YMCA Derbyshire for specific projects aimed at combating youth homelessness.

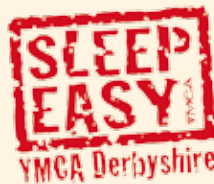
Teams from Derby Homes, EMS Security and Derby City Council's Children and Young People's Department were among those who participated in the event.

Residential member Chris, 20, who has been homeless himself, took part alongside other residents.

Volunteers from the Riverside Centre on Pride Park visited the event with a mobile soup kitchen

to provide much appreciated hot drinks, soup, bread and fruit. A wood burner also provided some much needed heat.

Councillor Evonne Williams, Derby City Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, took part and said afterwards: "It has been a very challenging but worthwhile event. For me it has really highlighted how tough it can be to sleep rough. I'm glad to have experienced it myself, albeit with the aid of long johns and thermals!"



Locality Manager Rachel Morris said: "It has been a really valuable and eye-opening event – although a very chilly one! It was great to see so many people take part or offer their support and, despite the freezing temperatures, we were all in good shape at the end of it. The hot breakfast really helped though, and we were all grateful it didn't rain!"

Our event was just one of 20 Sleep Easy events taking place at YMCAs across the country, from Horsham in the south to Tees Valley in the North East.

Many congratulations to all those who took part. It was quite some achievement!



Staff members brave the cold



Everyone gathers around the wood burner



Shivering in the early hours



Gillian and Tracie help to prepare breakfast



It's a dog's life

Helen Baxter, a duty support worker at The Campus, is a lady of many talents. In her spare time she breeds pedigree dogs and, after winning 'Best Dog in Breed' prizes at Crufts, she has now been invited to take part in the World Dog Show in Paris. Best of luck Helen!

A message from the Chief Executive

All of us who took part in Sleep Easy at the end of January will certainly never forget it. We were cold and uncomfortable, but what struck me the most was the feeling of being at the mercy of the conditions – being unable to control the noise or the temperature without a safe front door and four walls. It really was eye-opening to experience at first-hand something of what homeless people have to go through, but we were all pleased to be making such a powerful statement of solidarity with those young people who have no choice but to sleep rough night after night.

I am sure that all of us will agree that young people deserve far better than a cardboard box for a bed, but it goes further than this. I believe strongly that not only do they deserve a roof, a bed and hot food, but also a safe front door with support and encouragement to fulfil their potential.

This goes for all young people of course, not just for those who find themselves homeless and in supported accommodation. It applies just as much to the young people on our Learning and Development programmes, the users of our Tenancy Sustainment Service and the children on our Y-Play Playschemes.

Giving our service user members the vision and the confidence to hope for a brighter future is what we are all about, and young people deserve no less. This is exactly what the former celebrity chef and recovering alcoholic Michael Quinn meant when he urged our learners at Forman Street to “change your attitude and change your destiny”. He continued, “All your dreams are within your reach – never let anyone tell you you’re a failure. We all have an inner strength to draw on.”

It can be hard for a young person to believe this when society brands them a failure. But our Christian ethos is reflected in our firm belief in the equal value of every person, and I am very proud of the ways in which every member of our team puts this ethos into practice.

Gillian Sewell



Learner members Katie and Joe, enrolled on the Foundation Learning programme in Employability & Personal Development in Ilkeston, relax in the class room with tutor John Flint and Learning & Development Coordinator Hazel Lloyd.

The Learning and Development team has been extremely busy recently, across all three localities. Recent highlights have included a very successful Ofsted Survey Visit on 21st January, a trip by learner members in Ilkeston to an ice skating rink in Nottingham and a visit by team members to Bemrose School to deliver a school assembly promoting our programmes. We have also developed our partnership with Mencap, leading to a joint project starting on 10th February at Forman Street.

Learners on our Health and Social Care taster programme are busy organising a visit to Findern Garden Centre for the residents of Handyside Court, while Triangle Training tutors have visited our Forman Street centre to recruit learners to apprenticeships as they complete our programmes.

Chesterfield launches new fund for service user members

A new fund to provide emergency assistance to service user members in Chesterfield was launched last month. The Chesterfield Locality Members' Fund is for those on Learning and Development programmes at Field House, users of the Tenancy Sustainment Service and people who need items provided by the Furniture Project but who cannot afford to pay for them.

Already the fund has provided a young person with shoes for work, a fridge to a young mother so that she can keep fresh food, replacement ID to enable a service user to claim correct benefits, curtain poles for a vulnerable young person who needed extra privacy and two emergency Furniture Packs for young people who had been turned down for Community Care Grants after moving on from The Campus.

Other items that could be provided by the fund in the future might

include emergency food parcels, emergency top-ups for supplies of gas and electricity, social activities and trips for those who would otherwise be unable to access them and rewards for good engagement or improvement.

Already the team in Chesterfield has been hard at work raising money for the new fund, with a fun 'horse race night' organised last month which raised over £500. Money donated by a local company as part of their charitable fundraising activities has also gone towards the fund.

Mark Love, Chesterfield Locality Manager, said: “This fund is an exciting development for the locality because it allows us to provide tangible help to service user members in need. It's a great way of emphasising our status as a charity and of making a difference to people's lives in very practical ways – to show that we really do care.”

Celebrity chef who became a homeless alcoholic tells his story to our learners

Former celebrity chef Michael Quinn has told his eye-opening story to learner members at Forman Street, warning them to avoid the dangers of addiction and encouraging them to believe in themselves.

Michael Quinn was Head Chef of the Ritz Hotel in London in the 1980s and one of the best known chefs in the country. He cooked for the Queen, was awarded an MBE, made countless television and radio appearances and had invitations from all over the world to cook and to judge cooking events. However, alcoholism eventually led him to become a homeless drunk, sleeping rough under bridges or in Salvation Army hostels.

Michael, who now works for the Ark Foundation helping young people to avoid the problems he experienced, urged the learners to aspire to a successful future, because “there's no-one to stop you except yourself”.

Michael explained how alcohol abuse had caused him to become a “failed father, failed husband and failed chef” but also how he had turned his life around completely in 1996 after being hospitalised and given the Last Rites. He has not had an alcoholic drink since.

Catering tutor Brian Lord, who remembers Michael Quinn as head chef of the Ritz when he also worked as a chef in London, said: “This visit was a real treat for all of us, and he clearly made a big impact on the young people who came along to hear him. His testimony was moving, and his message was extremely salutary.”



InSync

We have met our first InSync deadline after submitting the first workbook – on Catering – for review. There is now a new section on the website (see the InSync button on the left-hand side of every page) containing all the deadlines and the progress being made. You can also download PDFs of each workbook there. So, please take a look and let's keep the momentum going.

Marketing and Communications

It has been great to see positive coverage of Sleep Easy and Michael Quinn's visit in the local media. Proactive media engagement is a key priority for 2011, so please let me know if there are any notable developments in your area that could be publicised in a press release. We really do have a lot of good news that we should be shouting about!

Dominic Baster

Hospitality Service

2011 has taken off with roaring success for the Hospitality Service at The Campus. The room hires continue to keep us busy with a number of large bookings. One of these is the Prince's Trust, who have hired resource room 7 to deliver a 12-week programme. I'd like to welcome Jayne and Jim from the Prince's Trust team to The Campus.

The Campus Café trade has been particularly busy with the continuing success of our 'Winter Warmers', and we've had to work hard to produce enough cakes!

January has been an especially good month for the kitchen team, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Hughes for his hard work and efforts. Paul is an extremely hard worker and a talented chef who has excelled at every challenge set for him – good work Paul.

Rachel Bradley

Children and Young People

Michael Leake has been kept busy in schools during this half term. As well as continuing with our lunchtime sports activities, he has involved children at an inner city school in creating a maze in their school grounds.

The existing maze had become overgrown and was in desperate need of some weeding! With the children's help, Michael has now cleared the weeds and path to make way for new walls to be marked out later this term.

A film club had also been set up after school where children can watch suitably rated films each week with their friends and then review and post their comments on the 'I love film' club website.

We have been successful in securing funding from the Disabled Children's Access to Child Care (DCATCH) pilot scheme for our February half term Playscheme. This will enable us to provide extra support to children with disabilities, manual handling training and new toys and equipment.

Our next Y-Play Playscheme is open from Monday 21st to Friday 25th February and our programme of activities can be found on the website or on our new Y-Play flyer (pictured below).

Amy Allen



Passport to a fulfilling and independent future

Passport Plus is a programme for those aged 19 and over who need some extra help and support to live independently. It is run at The Campus on Thursdays and Fridays, thanks to funding from Derby Adult Learning Service, and is offered both to Campus residents and those living in their own accommodation.

One learner on the programme is Stephen Carter, 41, who lives in his own place and appreciates what Passport Plus is doing for him. Here he shares his thoughts:

“I left college over two years ago and have been out of work. I wanted to get out into the community, do new things and join a group, so I was pleased to find a leaflet about the Passport Plus programme.

“I was a bit wary at first as I didn’t know what to expect at the YMCA, but it’s been fine. I’ve already completed modules on ‘My Health’ and ‘My Home’ which have been helpful. I’ve found it really challenging because I hadn’t done anything with my brain for a long time, and I also found it hard to get up in the morning, but now I have a great sense of achievement.

“The programme has given me the impetus I needed to get up, meet new



Stephen Carter, a learner member on the Passport Plus programme

people and learn new things about myself and how I can contribute to my community. It’s also given me the confidence I needed to lose weight.

“I have found it a challenge to meet new people as I’ve felt quite isolated, but this opportunity has helped me to broaden my horizons. It’s given me the confidence to get out, and has been a first step to moving on with my life.

I’m now able to look for a job, or get back into education to get more qualifications.

“It has been enjoyable and we’ve had a laugh. It has definitely been worthwhile. I’d say that if you want something challenging to open your eyes and to learn about yourself and how you fit into the wider community, definitely enrol on this programme.”

Margaret Beckett visits Campus



The Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP, former Foreign Secretary and member of parliament for Derby South, visited The Campus for Learning and Development on 4th February to receive a tour of the building.

Mrs Beckett and her husband were shown around, chatted to residents and staff members about their experiences and met with Chief Executive Gillian Sewell.

Mrs Beckett was interested to see the progress made on the site since her last visit, when the old Devonshire Court was still up and running.

Reflection of the month

Nothing true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore, we are saved by faith.

Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore, we are saved by love.

No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as from our own; therefore, we are saved by the final form of love, which is forgiveness.

*Reinhold Niebuhr
(1892–1971)*