

Team Brief

Protect
Trust
Hope
Persevere

Partnership working achieves results

Working in partnership with other agencies and organisations is a vital way in which we achieve results for our service user members. Chris Grantham, 31, who lives in Mickleover with his partner Della and their two-year-old son Henry, can testify to this.

Chris moved to Derby two years ago after losing his job. He now has a new home and a new career in retail thanks to partnership working between YMCA Derbyshire and the Derby-based housing provider Derwent Living.

Chris explains, "I worked for a construction firm in Sheffield but, when the recession hit, I was made redundant. It was a difficult time as we then had our home repossessed.

"At this point we decided we needed a fresh start. We moved to Derby and applied for a property through Derwent Living. When we moved in, we were given a leaflet about a programme aimed at getting unemployed people back into work."

Derwent Living has teamed up with YMCA Derbyshire to offer a unique service to its customers. Anyone who moves in to a Derwent Living property and is struggling to find work is referred to a case worker here. Our Skills for Jobs team then assesses their skills and works with them to build their confidence in completing job application forms, preparing for interviews and writing CVs.

After being referred to YMCA Derbyshire, Chris went on to complete courses in personal development, food safety and hazardous substances. He now works at his local Tesco where



Chris with partner Della and son Henry outside their new home

he cleans the ovens in the bakery and operates machinery.

Chris continues, "When I lost my job and I couldn't find anything else in the construction industry, I was lost and didn't really know where to turn. Once I moved to Derby that all changed and the support I got through both Derwent Living and the YMCA really helped me to get back on my feet. I have much more confidence and have already progressed through the ranks at Tesco."

Claire Taylor, our Skills for Jobs coordinator, says, "The scheme is working really well. It can be really difficult to know where to start when you have worked in a certain industry for a long time and suddenly find yourself out of work. We want to help people to build their confidence and learn new skills so that they can get back into employment."

Campus gathering



With the grass now laid around The Campus and the summer weather back, it was time recently for a reunion of members of the build project team for a photo shoot. Here, left to right, are: Alec Jones (trustee and chair of the build committee), Gillian Sewell, David Bishop (Managing Director of dba Management Group), Paul Casey (Development Director at Derwent Living) and Vicky Wright (Generate Fundraising).

A message from the Chief Executive

Welcome to the June edition of *Team Brief*. I do hope you will find it informative and encouraging.

There is, after all, much to feel encouraged about. Our success in winning new contracts for our Supported Housing and Tenancy Sustainment Services is a great achievement. Yet we are successful in so many small but no less significant ways every day, supporting those who need our help and empowering them to rebuild and transform their lives.

So much has been achieved over the course of the last year, as a look back over past copies of *Team Brief* will prove. But we must not stand still and rest on our laurels. The decision to launch our drive to achieve the YMCA InSync standards is, in effect, a call for all of us to “launch out into the deep”. It will be challenging, but it is also essential.

Why is this so? It was not by chance that we won the new contracts – we won them on the basis of our reputation for quality and reliability. Yet we are operating in an increasingly competitive market, with other not-for-profit organisations vying for the same contracts. It is vital that we are able to demonstrate our worth to our stakeholders, partners and members.

In this endeavour we should have little to fear because I am convinced we have a lot to be proud of. Achieving InSync is about having the ability to demonstrate our value to others and to ourselves more effectively, while at the same time making sure we address any opportunities for improvement.

Thank you for your continuing efforts. We are achieving great things as we work together as a team.

Gillian Sewell

Marketing and Communications

This is the 12th edition of the re-vamped *Team Brief* newsletter. Over the last year it has documented considerable changes across YMCA Derbyshire, including the opening of The Campus. We have also rolled out a new branding strategy based on our four core values and seen continued growth in our services.

Communicating our ‘good news story’ both internally and externally in a truly joined up fashion will remain a key priority for the year ahead, as will ensuring that the whole team shares a common sense of identity and purpose as we grow.

Dominic Baster



Hospitality Service

I’m happy to say that May was another successful month for the Hospitality Service as we continued to grow from strength to strength. As always I’d like to thank all the staff team and volunteers for their hard work – and in particular Richard Douglas whose hard work and contributions have been much appreciated by the whole team!

We have been working hard to promote our services to the local community and I’m happy to say we are currently hosting a number of community activities – including pre-retirement courses, a lindy hop dance class, an Alvaston walking group, coffee mornings for the Alzheimer’s Society, karate classes and a parenting programme. And there are many more groups to come, including the Wilmorton Art Group.

If you are interesting in getting involved with any of these activities, if you have any ideas for future groups or know of any groups or societies looking for a meeting space, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Rachel Bradley

Learning and Development

June is going to be a busy time for the Learning and Development Service, as we continue to encourage new learners to access our programmes.

We have seen the start of the Connexions ‘CHANCES’ programme which is designed to give young people a flavour of our Hospitality and Childcare programmes, and our centre in Alfreton will be running two taster sessions to promote our Retail & Leisure and Childcare programmes on 17th and 18th June. Then at the end of June we are trialling a new programme in Health & Social Care with two six-week tasters. Hopefully these will be converted into a full time Foundation Learning programme if all goes well.

To round things off for June, we are delivering a round-the-world cookery programme for parents/carers and students from Junction 16. This will be a real ‘taster’ in which participants will cook dishes from around the world and learn a bit of history about the origins of the food itself. Pukka stuff!

Steve Finch

Nursery visit inspires our Childcare learners



Foundation Learning Childcare learners (left to right): Kirsty, Christopher, Stacey, Nadine and Kali

On 26th May we went to Silvertrees Nursery to see what it is like at a nursery and what they do. We found that they have different rooms for different ages, as well as a sleeping room for the children, a room for them to eat in and an outdoor play area.

We met a woman called Kerry who was the manager and she showed us around, taking us upstairs to show us the baby room and then another room where there are older children between one and two. They can walk and some can talk, so you can do more with them.

We saw the sleep area where the babies and older children sleep, and we went into the canteen and saw what the

children do before eating their snacks and lunch. They had pictures on the wall to remind them. The last room we saw was for the pre-school children aged three and four. They can walk, talk and do so much more because they are getting ready for school.

I learned a lot from Silvertrees Nursery. It has also helped me to understand what I want to do and what I will be doing when I hopefully get to work in a nursery. The manager was really helpful in offering to show us all around, and for this opportunity I am really grateful.

Rebecca Bambridge
(Foundation Learning Childcare learner)

Chesterfield Services

Our success in winning the new Supporting People floating support contracts will mean that some new members of staff will soon be added to the team. Another major change will see us working with teenage parents as well as other young people. The new service will start on 5th July.

A change to our Connexions contract means a more pro-active approach to getting young people from NEET status into employment, education or training with an existing YMCA Derbyshire staff member covering the role.

The Furniture Project continues to be a huge success with a regular stream of donations, referrals, sales and volunteers pitching in. There has been a big increase recently in the number of emergency packs being provided for extremely vulnerable people and this shows no sign of letting up.

We are also busy with Learning and Development activities and our learners always seem to have a smile on their faces when interacting with team members.

A big ‘thank you’ to all the staff members (Carol, Dave, Julie, Sue and Wendy) and volunteers (too many to mention!) for all their hard work and input.

Mark Love

£25 Staff Challenge

We are looking to increase the number of individual donors who support our work, and to this end we need a snappy sentence or slogan that sums up who we are, what we do and why we do it.

So, if you can think of one sentence or slogan that does exactly that, put it down in an email and send it to: enquiries@ymcaderbyshire.org.uk

Whoever comes up with the best idea (as judged by our new staff members’ Fundraising Forum) will win a £25 shopping voucher. So, get your thinking caps on!

The Fundraising Forum was launched this month and meets once every six weeks to share fundraising ideas and plan two big fundraising events each year. If you are interested in joining the Forum, please let Gillian know.

Sir Harold Haywood, RIP

Sir Harold Haywood, a great friend of the YMCA movement, has passed away. Sir Harold gave great voluntary service to the YMCA over many years, both nationally and in the East Midlands. He served as our interim Chairman for a time in the 1990s.

He will be deeply missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Celebrating our team's success

A message from Hilary Disney, our Chair of Trustees



It was with pride and not a little admiration that I learned of our success in winning three more years of Supporting People (SP) funding for the Supported Housing Service at the Campus and two major SP contracts for floating support in the County over the last month.

These are, as we all know, economically challenging times.

Winning three more years of SP funding for our Supported Housing Service is a great achievement at a time when so many other providers of housing related support have had their funding cut or cancelled altogether. A three year grant gives us the stability we need to sustain and develop our service which is so desperately needed.

Furthermore, our success in winning not one but two SP contracts for housing related floating support services in the County is also a major achievement. It will mean that our Tenancy Sustainment Service in Chesterfield is safe and we can plan for further growth, while at the same time launching a new service for the communities in Amber Valley and Erewash.

This means that vulnerable people trying to stay settled in their own homes will receive the support and advice they need to succeed and achieve fulfilling independent lives. Many of these people struggle to overcome a wide range of barriers

to independence – such as drug and alcohol reliance, money problems, a history of domestic violence or simply a fear of dealing with those in authority. In reality, the support we can provide will keep some young people out of trouble and out of prison, and enable others to bring up their children or avoid homelessness.

These are great achievements, not just for those involved in the tendering processes, but also for the entire YMCA Derbyshire team. This is because the funders who awarded these contracts have placed great trust in all of us to deliver these key services on the basis of our reputation, the added value we can bring and the vision underpinning everything we do. They recognise in us a team of dedicated, caring, professional people who are motivated, not by profit or self-aggrandisement, but by a genuine concern and a commitment to fulfil our mission and values.

This, I think, is the key to our ongoing success. We are a values-based organisation with a Christian identity at our heart. We demonstrate our Christian ethos not by what we say but by what we do, and by the dedication with which we do it.

So, I would like to congratulate everyone in the YMCA Derbyshire team for their contribution to our winning and sustaining these contracts. They mean that our mission to support and empower young people can grow from strength to strength over the years ahead. These are certainly exciting times to be a member of such a vibrant and successful team.

Lacing up our gloves for fitness and fun



The award-winning 'OzBox' programme was launched at The Campus at the start of June. It is an initiative run by the local police and uses boxing style exercise and music to help bring young people together and promote a healthy lifestyle. The sessions are free for our residential members as well as members of the public aged 11 to 19 and will run every Friday evening. The aim is to allow young people to direct their energies positively while encouraging them to take pride in themselves and their local communities. *Photos: Residents are put through their paces and (inset) Marc Stevens practises his left jab with the trainer.*

Congratulations

to Learning and Development team member Matt Radburn on being awarded a Certificate of Excellence for 'Outstanding Student of 2009-2010' on the B.Ed. in Primary Education at Derby University.

Reflection of the month

Let us arise, then, at last, for the Scripture stirs us up, saying,

"Now is the hour for us to rise from sleep" (Romans 13:11).

Let us open our eyes to the deifying light; let us hear with attentive ears the warning which the divine voice cries daily to us:

"Today if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts" (Ps 94:8).

From the Prologue of the Rule of St Benedict of Nursia (480 - 547)