

# Team Brief

Protect  
Trust  
Hope  
Persevere

## Birthday celebrations in Alfreton and Ilkeston



Steve Finch presents a certificate to Childcare learner Steph at the Alfreton celebration

**T**ime flies... and our Learning and Development centres in Alfreton and Ilkeston have now been up and running for over a year. To mark the occasion in Alfreton, a special Celebration Day was held in April at which certificates of achievement were presented by Learning and Development Manager Steve Finch to past and present learner members. Representatives from both Alfreton Connexions and The Coach House – a local hostel for young homeless people – were at the event to show their support for YMCA Derbyshire's programmes.

The Alfreton centre, at the Genesis Social Enterprise Centre on King Street, now has two Foundation Learning groups in Childcare and the training room is usually a busy and lively place where the learners enjoy gaining skills and making new friends.



Alfreton

Progress is also being made in Ilkeston where, with the support of Caron Ellis, 20 learners have successfully achieved the first Functional Skills qualifications. In addition, the team have been able to build on the success of their first Young Mums-to-Be programme by obtaining further funding to deliver another 10-week programme. This started on 19th April at Rosscabery House on Coronation Street and there is already a full register.



Ilkeston

April also saw the start of a Retail and Leisure programme in Ilkeston, which is being run by Angela Coyle. This is a new venture for YMCA Derbyshire, and Steve Finch described it as "an exciting and innovative programme designed specifically to meet the needs of young people in Ilkeston – giving them the skills and experience they need for a rewarding future career in a vibrant industry".

## Sign of the times



The new totem sign at the front of The Campus has been installed, replacing the previous temporary constructors' board. The sign, which will be illuminated in the early morning and evening, will raise awareness of the services we provide and also help to end our tag as one of Derby's best-kept secrets!

## Boost for Tenancy Support Service

We are delighted to announce the news that we have been successful in two separate tenders for Housing Related Floating Support Services (Supporting People) in Derbyshire.

The contracts for Amber Valley & Erewash and Chesterfield, NE Derbyshire & Bolsover will safeguard our current service based in Chesterfield and allow us to launch a new service from our Ilkeston office.

Well done to Mark Love and all those involved in the process!

# A message from the Chief Executive

A warm welcome to the May edition of *Team Brief*. It has been a busy few months for all of us in the YMCA Derbyshire team, but I am delighted to see how we have all been pulling together despite the inevitable day-to-day frustrations and challenges of our work.

It is always very clear to me when I look at our achievements that we are creating synergies in the way we work together. Synergy is what we create when the combined results of working together are greater than the sum of what we could achieve individually. Creating synergy means that we're greater than the sum of our parts – and this is a very apt description of YMCA Derbyshire.

Working in different ways across various services and offices, we are united by a common sense of purpose, a common mission and a common identity. As such, we are not individuals pulling in different directions, or even different services loosely united under the YMCA Derbyshire banner. We are achieving great things because we are working together towards one aim – that of building a brighter future for our service user members and empowering them to fulfil their potential.

Unity is never easy to achieve or maintain within any organisation, especially one as diverse as this one, and so we have to keep working at it. The general election campaign reminded me of this, as we saw that nothing causes more damage to a cause than disunity.

I am not saying that we should always agree with each other. What I am saying is that we should always bear in mind our values and our common identity and purpose, because it is these that set us apart from other organisations and give us an inner strength and coherent approach.

**Gillian Sewell**

## Children and Young People

Y-Play is getting ready to go 'World Cup Mad' by giving the Playscheme in early June a football theme centred around the world's greatest football tournament and its host country, South Africa.

Children will be encouraged to sample food from the host country while trying their hand at numerous sporting activities – including 'Beat the Y-Play Keeper' in a World Cup penalty shoot-out competition.

Y-Play's strong reputation for quality childcare provision means we are able to apply for further funding to provide places for children with disabilities. A funding application will soon go in, hopefully to allow us to integrate more children per day alongside the mainstream provision. Fingers crossed for success!

**Michael Leake**

## Learning and Development

The Learning and Development team has now fully rolled out the new Foundation Learning structure across the City and the County, ahead of the August 2010 target. This has involved a lot of hard work from all staff members but we are all very pleased with the end result and look forward to successfully implementing the new provision.

This has been a period of change for all of us as we adapt to the demands of the educational reforms and start to deliver within the new framework.

The Foundation Learning (E2E) Childcare learners have made a very successful visit to Sudbury Museum of Childhood as part of their studies and will soon be making visits to local children's nurseries to widen their experience.

Many of our Catering learners have now successfully completed their programmes and have gained employment as a result in a variety of settings, including Thistle Hotels.

We are also pleased that our Retail and Leisure programme is now underway in Ilkeston and that we will be launching the 'Chances' programme on 17th May. 'Chances' will include training in Childcare and/or Catering, so you may see them manning the campus Café very soon.

**Julia Hodder**

## Marketing and Communications

Our first bi-monthly e-bulletin was sent out this month to 159 contacts around the county.

The bulletin, which is available on the website, contains a selection of edited reports from *Team Brief* and is intended to give our partners and stakeholders a good impression of the breadth of our work we undertake. It will also inform them of any relevant developments and will hopefully help

us to build closer relationships with all those who cooperate in the delivery of our services.

The website is continuing to grow, and plans are being made for a suite of new printed publications – including a revamped Learning and Development prospectus and a Campus brochure. It's a busy time but it's good to see that we're continuing to make progress.

**Dominic Baster**



## Getting our message across



We were keen to get the YMCA's message across to politicians seeking elected office during the general election campaign. We extended invitations to the local candidates of all major parties to visit our facilities and learn about our response to issues such as homelessness, youth unemployment and training.

Francis Maude, the Conservatives' Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office, was among the visitors. He chatted to

20 Childcare learners at our Forman Street centre together with Stephen Mold, the Conservative candidate for Derby North (see above).

The learners were able to quiz the visitors on what MPs did and how they could address their concerns on a range of issues. Staff members also spoke about the issues around youth employment and training and the various regulations affecting our work.

## National Assembly 2010

The YMCA National Assembly was held at Nottingham University this year with the theme of 'Inspiring people', and Tracie Tunnicliffe and I took a few residential members along for the experience.

The event ran from Friday until Sunday afternoon and included a wide range of workshops and activities we could all take part in – from training in public speaking to beat boxing, drama and art classes and football.

On the final evening there was a 'YMCA Has Talent' competition in the main theatre in which residents of YMCAs from around the country performed in front of a huge crowd. One of our own residential members performed, but unfortunately we didn't win. However, we will be looking out for new talent over the next 12 months to perform at the next Assembly.

**Marc Stevens**



Our group at the Assembly



The talent show underway

## Finance

The Finance team have had another busy month closing off the year end accounts to 31st March, ready for the auditors who are in the first week of May. We have been progressing well with inputting data to the new finance system with the assistance of Maureen.

Once the audit work is finished, we will be able to focus on getting the new system up-to-date and be able to progress the budget information and management accounts in the new format.

Thank you to everyone for your continued cooperation and patience – including the reception staff who have taken on the invoicing for the Hospitality Service and also the Learning and Development team who have now taken on responsibility for the Education Maintenance Allowance payments to the learners.

**Lesley Edwards**

## Hospitality Service

This month we became volcanic ash victims with staff members stuck on holiday. It has been a great team effort to keep the service going and I would like to say a special 'thank you' to Brian for the additional hours he put in!

April was a busy month for the meeting rooms and also external catering – both just keep growing. We have a few new team members in Hospitality, including both volunteers and learner members, so we look forward to welcoming them. Keep a look-out for some new smiling faces!

I would like to thank all our volunteers for the hard work and effort they have put in again this month. There are still some more volunteer posts available so, if anybody is interested, please do come and see me!

**Rachel Bradley**

## Furniture Project re-opens its doors



The essential maintenance works at Field House have now been completed and the Furniture Project showrooms opened again for viewing on 26th April.

The Project continues to be a success and we are continuing to exceed the targets set by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust – which provides financial support. We are continuing to work in partnership

with a number of agencies, as well as pursuing new links with organisations that could help with the supply of furniture among other things.

We have also allocated dates for the training aspect of the Project, and these will provide an excellent opportunity for service users to gain accredited qualifications in work-related skills. We are still looking for volunteers to undertake a wide range of tasks, from moving furniture to answering telephones. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please give me a call!

**Mark Love**

## New MPs



The General Election on 6th May, which resulted in a hung parliament, saw some new and some familiar faces elected in our local constituencies. The names and parties of MPs in our office areas are as follows:

**The Campus (Derby South)**  
Margaret Beckett – Labour

**Forman Street (Derby North)**  
Chris Williamson – Labour

**Alfreton (Amber Valley)**  
Nigel Mills – Conservative

**Chesterfield**  
Toby Perkins – Labour

**Ilkeston (Erewash)**  
Jessica Lee – Conservative

## New starters

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following staff members who have joined our team in the last month:

**Stephen Ball**  
Premises and Health & Safety Manager on a six month contract

**Deborah Cullen**  
Receptionist

**Paul Whitehouse**  
Duty Support Worker

## Reflection of the month

When we walk with the Lord  
In the light of His word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His good will,  
He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear,  
Not a sorrow we share,  
But our toil He doth richly repay;  
Not a grief or a loss,  
Not a frown or a cross,  
But is blest if we trust and obey.

From a hymn by  
John H. Sammis (1846-1919)



Marc Stevens and an intrepid team of YMCA Derbyshire's residential members are taking part in a sponsored coast-to-coast bike ride in July to raise money for United Christian Broadcasting and Aid International.

They will set off from Whitehaven in Cumbria on 18th July and cycle 137 miles, arriving at Sunderland's beautiful Roker Beach three days later.

You can sponsor them by following a link to their dedicated fundraising page on the 'Support Us' section of our website.

*Image: Marc (right) with fellow cyclist Stuart and some other interested residential members outside The Campus.*