

Mind Waves

The Newsletter for
Mind in Mid Herts



Summer 2011

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An Introduction to Mind 2011 by Gloria Holland

It has been a challenging three months since I started with Mind in Mid Herts. We have had to manage some changes that whilst difficult are vital for the survival of the organisation. Taking a 25% cut to our funding and reducing hours for the projects affected by the cuts was hard on many levels.

I wanted to update everyone as to where we are currently. Things may continue to change but will eventually settle.

The first change comes with my role. As Chief Executive, I have a responsibility to ensure we continue to offer a good and well respected service. We are accountable to our service users, the committee and to our funders. I am employed to work full time. I will oversee the organisation and work to secure continued funding for all existing projects and some new ventures.

Russell Baker is our Service Manager and is employed to work part time. He has a responsibility for ensuring the services are managed efficiently, offering supervision to project managers and supporting the organisation on our Business Plan.

We have created project managers with a view to issuing budgets to each project. We will be linked closer to our finance officer and to the Treasurer to look at how the individual projects use their budgets and where further changes may need to focus.

The Way 2 Work Project is currently being led by Sue Young whilst waiting for Sarah Morris to start with us in September. Sarah worked on the project previously and is liaising with Sue as to its future success. Val has left a legacy and the project is valued on many levels. Sue is also working as Project Officer in Hertford with Christopher.

Christopher Bland has been named as Manager of the Hertford Project. He is keen to develop the activities at the Seed Warehouse. He has developed a link with Herts Mind Network who are based in Ware. A new Mind shop is to open in Hertford later this year and we hope to work alongside this venture. Any donations for this shop will be gratefully received.

Tracy Marshall is now the Manager of the Stepping Stones/ Befriending projects. She is working on a reduced timetable with increased demands for an efficient ongoing service. She is to work with a small team of project officers who will implement the activities, on the wards and in the community. Jolie Driscoll works at St Albans, on site and out in the community. Tracy has collated the evidence of the projects and has dynamic ideas for their future success. As ever she is looking for more volunteers for the projects.

We have a new Volunteer Co-ordinator, who started with us on August 1st - Sonia Clarke. Sonia has been a volunteer counsellor with us and is keen to develop the role. She will be looking at the needs of each project in order to do the best for all. Please give her your full support. Welcome Sonia!

Mark Mills is named as the Manager for the Stevenage Wellbeing Centre. It is his job to oversee all the activities in Stevenage. He has the Exercise to Health, the So Stevenage and the Drop-ins to manage. He is supported by Chris Munt as the Project Lead and a team of people who support them both. It is Mark's responsibility to ensure the smooth operations of the Well Being Centre. I am looking at the potential of employing a Receptionist/ Administrator for this site. If you know of anyone interested please ask them to speak to me or to Mark in the first instance.

Also based at Stevenage, but working across the organisation is the Manager of the Counselling Service, Sharn Tomlinson. Sharn continues to provide an efficient, well respected service. She has a team of volunteer counsellors who provide a wide ranging integrated approach to counselling. I suspect the diversity of her volunteer counsellors is unique. Sue Wilby supports Sharn with some administration duties as well as covering the reception at the Stevenage Wellbeing Centre.

Chris Firth manages the operations at Campus West alongside Ron as the Volunteer Manager of the project. Together they provide a wonderful computer club. The Welwyn site is very interesting and worth a visit. We have the use of a meeting room on this site, should any of need an external venue for meetings.

We are all currently working on the forthcoming Quality Assessment. There is a Quality Group - Gloria, Chris, Chris, Christopher, Sharn and Jocelyn - who meet regularly and would welcome further input from any member of the organisation. So please speak to any of the Quality Group about your potential involvement. We are hoping to achieve Level 2 across the 12 standards, but this will mean some hard work.

Back in St Albans we are planning for the move to 11 Hatfield Road. I hope to see many of you on August 2nd. We can look at the new premises together and make suggestions for the best use of the site. We hope to be in situ by October 1st with all activities ready to go and more planned for the future.

Thank you all for your continued support.— Gloria Holland

Thoughts of the month

Every morning the master plan of life starts. My first breath is accompanied with a thought that I'm a part of it and I'm just as important as anyone else.

Perfection is a destination not a state. Keep moving forward.

Live and love life

Every day is an opportunity.

Use the good day to make sure the bad days don't happen.

It only takes one moment to change your life.

One day at a time.

