

# HS4LC Newsletter

Harrogate Skills 4 Living Centre

## Our Chair of Trustees



2017 was a year of growth and change for our charity. At the start of the year, we were delighted to welcome the residents and staff of Briardene to HS4LC.

In February, Stephanie Kirkham-Meikle, our CEO, left our organisation to take up a new post. It has been largely due to the determination and commitment of Stephanie that the charity has grown so much in recent years.

Our able new CEO, Hadyn Moorby-Davies, has been kept very busy consolidating this growth, building a real team with a shared vision and seeking out more opportunities to ensure HS4LC continues to grow and flourish.

***Bernadette King***

Having been aware of HS4LC's great work in helping shape the lives of vulnerable adults for some years prior to joining the organisation in March this year, made it all the more important that I made a good impression from the start. So, I was more than happy to be shaking hands with the Mayor of Harrogate within days of starting and receiving the much coveted accolade of 'Excellence in Care' for Brackenley care home. Not a bad start for my first week!



Joining HS4LC at such a pivotal juncture in its journey gives me great pleasure and I believe that the future for our organisation is very exciting indeed. We're a growing charity that has changed dramatically over the past few years and will doubtless continue to grow and develop in the coming years, as we deal with the challenges facing our sector.

As a sector the challenges are clear; reduced social care funding, increased demand for services and greater competition for grants and general funding. I believe though, facing these challenges and obstacles together, will help us build the resilience that we need to succeed and to reach our goals. We're lucky to have a passionate, committed and dedicated staff team that go the extra mile and provide the best possible support and outcomes for those we support and this gives us a great head-start against the competition. We also have a proven track record that demonstrates we are capable of delivering first class services and positive outcomes for our beneficiaries.

Over the last six months with the commitment and engagement of staff we have developed a new vision statement that will help launch us into 2018 with renewed direction, vigour and above all, motivation. Working with the different staff teams throughout this process has given me the chance to get to know everyone better and I thank you all for your contribution and co-operation throughout this.

I'm really looking forward to developing ways that measure the impact we have on the lives of those we support, so that we can demonstrate exactly how we're improving outcomes and continue to improve the services we provide.

I've already mentioned the growing demand for services that support vulnerable people and I want us to be able to meet that demand by delivering flexible and responsive services or support. I'm particularly keen to engage with younger adults as they leave school and prepare for adulthood and our early work with SEND schools has been rewarding.

In November I had a few days by the sea in Brighton at the British Association of Supported Employment and was thrilled to hear about the successes other organisations are having in getting people into paid employment. Hopefully we can have a part to play in developing employment opportunities in our area too.

Some say there's a buzz in the air and many people have commented on the changes already noticeable at HS4LC. So, let's all have a break over Christmas, recharge our batteries and come back fresh in the New Year full of enthusiasm, optimism and positivity, ready to take on any obstacles in the way of us providing exemplary services for our beneficiaries.

Many thanks for all your hard work, happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

***Hadyn Moorby-Davies***

"Our vision is to reduce inequalities, overcome barriers and help people lead fulfilled lives"

## Awards and Achievements

### Excellence in Care - Brackenley Care Home

Brackenley is awarded the 'Excellence in Care' standard in recognition of the home's commitment to improving the quality of care and the experience for residents. The assessment report for Brackenley praised the home for access to activities, positive staff attitude, and making residents their primary focus.

*February 2017*



### Matrix Standard - Day Services

The Matrix Standard is a unique quality standard designed for organisations to access and measure their advice and support services. It looks at how we offer information, advice and guidance which ultimately supports individuals in their choice of career, learning, work and life goals.

*October 2017*



## Changes to our board of Trustees



Tony Goodson has stepped down after 5 years of service on the board with HS4LC.

We wish Tony the very best with his future endeavours.



Chris Jones has joined the board bringing with him a varied background in operational development. We look forward to working together.

### Funding Wins

HS4LC have successfully secured £2000 of funding through **Harrogate Borough Council's Small Grants Fund**. This money was granted to convert the Day Centre cellar into a gym for our beneficiaries. Additional grant wins for specific items of equipment mean we will be in a position to open the gym early in 2018.

A grant donation from an anonymous source has enabled us to invest in new **IT equipment** and large screens for all our classrooms. Our learners will benefit from the up to date technology and teaching aids.

### Fundraising

**Paige Reuben** has raised a staggering £5,925 for the residents of Briardene in memory of former staff member Richard King.

**Flying Futures** donated time and money to help the residents of Brackenley this summer.

### Enterprise Groups

Our enterprise groups have successfully banked over £1000 earned through various schemes. i.e. **Craft, Baking, Ebay selling, Soup making**. These groups give opportunities for our learners to be part of a functioning business-based group.



Leading into 2018 we are looking to meet and partner with organisations who can help support our vision; to reduce inequalities, overcome barriers and help people lead fulfilled lives. If you are in a position to help financially, by giving time or if you can offer employment opportunities then we want to hear from you.

Keep up-to-date with our latest news by visiting our website or connecting with us on Social Media.



We are happy to hear from enthusiastic individuals who would like to work with the charity.

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