

Kingswell Supporters Newsletter

for information and prayer



Working in partnership
with....



“Where there is no vision the people perish...” April 2008

The understatement of the year is that it has been a difficult few months at Kingswell. We've had difficulties before; but never got quite so close to the possibility of closing as we did last November. We had to make some tough decisions and regroup quickly.

The short story is that we now have a smaller team: Lyn (Senior Family Support Worker) specializing in support to families affected by Alcohol and Drugs) as well as running 2 youth clubs, Kay (Administrator) running the reception, admin and finance side, (working with Dave Pass (Volunteer Treasurer), Lisa (Caretaker and Assistant in the youth clubs) and Alison (PACE Worker providing sex and relationship education in local schools).

Coming up this summer...

We are planning some workshops and residential this summer “Ewe and You” 6th 7th and 8th May is a residential for juniors who used to come to egg and banana club on a farm near Ludlow. We are also planning dance workshops during the summer: August 12th

We still have our faithful team of volunteers providing youth support and general counselling as well as meeting and



greeting at the reception desk on Fridays. PACE volunteers continue with pregnancy crisis work.

We apologise to those of you who were oblivious to the difficulties we have been facing, but we've been all hands to the pump trying to manage a way through it

–15th (provisional dates, a canoeing project an art project July 21—25th and Art and Drama workshops to be confirmed Mon 18th—Wed 20th August ...the usual summer scheme will take place 28th July to 8th August

Just Credit Union are

locally, and now that we are in a more stable position (albeit without a Centre Manager

post) we can look over the parapet and try to plan a longer term vision for the work to continue.

Despite all the difficulties the staff and volunteers who remain continue to provide a high level of support to young people and families. A recent review of our work with the Shropshire Drug and Alcohol team reinforced the value of the work, and they wish to continue working with us in the year ahead. Feedback from clients is really positive.

developing drop ins for coffee to encourage use of the low cost loans...

Watch this space.

The original Kingswell vision was that of a bridge, and creating a new sense of community, through practical action. We soon realised that a bridge is two way, and though the Church at Carreg Llwyd put in a lot of resources in people and money in the beginning, those we have bumped into and worked with and alongside over the years have given a lot back. We have gained funding, volunteer help and learning from those we have worked with, about how to bring help and support in a way that is dignified and life enhancing.

We still need to work on the vision (**Proverbs 29**), for the next stage and we would appreciate your prayers and words of wisdom if you have any, re. how to tackle this in the changing climate of social enterprise. voluntary sector working. God bless you for your interest.

The Directors

Arrow Prayers...

Funding for manager post/core costs 40,000

Funding for youth work £20,000

Progress in getting lives together for our regular clients

That our Vision gets shaped up for next stage

That our BBC Children in need application is successful

For skilled volunteers with the right attitude, DIY, meet + greet, youth work, admin support tasks.



“Yes we have no (Egg and) Bananas...”

As the novelty song goes, after 18 years we have no Saturday morning (Egg and) Banana (club). This junior club finally closed at the end of 2007. Sadly the numbers had dropped off and the staff were needed during the week to ensure the Centre could cope with the increased demand from those needing family support.



Two clubs remain on Wednesdays and Fridays, and there are good numbers attending (sometimes up to 40 per night).

The successful application from young

people to the Youth Opportunities Fund means that the Cyber café can be refurbished and thanks to Graham (ex member of the clubs who now works as a techie in the NHS) we have technical support to ensure it's smooth running. Graham came back on the scene at the time of our difficulties last year and when talking to Lisa



who said that Kingswell means a lot to her , he said "it means a lot to me too" and he agreed to join the volunteer team. We work with young peo-

ple, involving those willing to participate in developing the clubs to meet their needs.

Most of our volunteers in the youth work are young people who've come through the clubs as members, the chair of the Board of Directors Phil L came through the same route as did Phil W another volunteer Director.

We appreciate these volunteers very much and are always on the lookout for the next generation of like minded people to join the team. Could it be you ?

I want to help !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Want to be involved ? If you want to be a giver, a prayer partner, or a practical helper, please call in or just contact the Centre on e-mail (office@kingswellcentre.org.uk) or telephone (01691 655126) or talk to one of the staff who will be glad to give you more details.....

Kingswell offers :

- **Somewhere to go**
- **Someone to talk to**
- **Something to do**
- **And much more**

Laundry facilities; Food Parcels/ Clothing I.T. cyber café, Cooking facilities Transport to Detox/Hospital, access to Phone, Socials/Outings, Family mediation, attending meetings with Client when appropriate, Advice around money matters, helping client around domestic matters, providing letters of support/ references for housing, jobs, court etc. Referral to Kingswell Professional Counselling Service, Kingswell can be a forwarding address for homeless clients in order for other support agencies to contact them.

Client X:

(a young person) walked in to Kingswell crying and very distressed and saying 'I can't go on'...X stayed and talked until feeling a little stronger and more positive, when leaving X made a comment on how good it was to be able to come 'to a place that cares'.

Client Y:

Y has accessed OFAAD for over 3 years, and has in the last year overcome alcohol addiction. Y recently spoke on BBC Radio Shropshire saying 'I don't think I'd be alive today if it wasn't for Kingswell.'" Apart from alcoholism, Y has succeeded in addressing other issues including homelessness, bereavement, self-harm, depression and anxiety."

The next workday is Saturday 28th June from 9.00—13.00 and ends with soup. We need you ... Please let Kay (at Kingswell) or Dave know if you can be there.



We need your support.

Can you pray, give a monthly donation, help with the clubs, or help on reception, can you paint, do basic DIY, fix computers and telephones when they go wrong? Can you file/archive old papers and help us get some Kingswell promotional material together? Can you help administer the membership communication or help put this newsletter together

and mail it out or post/ e mail it? We need you!!! If yes: mail

**office@kingswellcentre.org.uk
or phone 01691 655126**

Thanks :

The Directors

Phil L, Brian, Richard, Chris,
Gill, Dave, Phil W, Tudor