

HEADINGLEY FRIDAY SUPPORT GROUP NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY / MARCH 2016

Est. 1987

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INDEPENDENCE

A representative of Adult Social Care at Leeds City Council, Ruth Furness, accompanied by a student in social work, spoke to the drop-in sessions for the Headingley Friday Support Group on 12th and 26th February 2016. An opportunity was available for the integration of the Headingley Friday Support Group with the other support services in Adult Social Care. There was a difference of opinions. However, the majority of attendees at the drop-in session on Friday 26th February 2016 made the decision for the Headingley Friday Support Group to remain independent of Adult Social Care at Leeds City Council.

The advantages of independence for the Headingley Friday Support Group include:

- the avoidance of the necessity of a referral for anyone seeking to attend the drop-in sessions and events;
- the opportunity to apply for a grant from the Mental Health Drop-In and Outreach Budget Scheme available from Adult Social Care at Leeds City Council and administered by Leeds Mind;
- the avoidance of any restrictions imposed by Adult Social Care at Leeds City Council;
- the ability for decisions to be made democratically by service users of the Headingley Friday Support Group and therefore

independently of Adult Social Care at Leeds City Council; and

- an opportunity for service users to improve their skills in the coordination and organisation of the Headingley Friday Support Group.

Ruth Furness is therefore not expected to attend any more of the drop-in sessions for the Headingley Friday Support Group in the foreseeable future.

STUDENTS

A number of university students from the BSc (hons) Nursing (Mental Health) at the University of Leeds have expressed an interest in the Headingley Friday Support Group. Some of these students started to participate in the Headingley Friday Support Group at the drop-in session on 12th February 2016. Their observations have been informative. The attendees at the drop-in sessions very much appreciate the interest and assistance of these university students.

ANGELA KANIA

The Headingley Friday Support Group was saddened by the death of Angela Kania. It seemed to be unexpected by the attendees at the drop-in session. Angela's daughter, Catherine, gave an invitation to all members of the Headingley Friday Support Group to attend the funeral at Lawnswood Crematorium and / or the wake afterwards at Weetwood Hall on Friday 19th February 2016.

Brenda arranged for some flowers to be sent to the funeral, on Friday 19th February 2016, on behalf of the Headingley Friday Support Group. These flowers were financed by the grant received from the Mental Health Drop-In and Outreach Budget Scheme.

WEBSITE

One of the attendees at most of the drop-in sessions for the Headingley Friday Support Group has taught herself HTML and CSS (from books purchased for herself) to facilitate the design and development of a replacement website for the Headingley Friday Support Group. The new website was launched on Monday 22nd February 2016 at the same domain name of www.headingleyfridaysupportgroup.org.uk as the original website. Some changes continue to be made to the website with the recent development of a specific homepage and a separate webpage for information about the Headingley Friday Support Group.

CHARLIE

The Headingley Friday Support Group is very appreciative of the donation from Charlie, who was a former member of the Headingley Friday Support Group. This gift will go towards one or more trips for the Headingley Friday Support Group.

Information about the report back form 2015-2016 for the Mental Health Drop-In and Outreach Budget Scheme will be available in the next newsletter.