

SUN update

Service User Network

Issue August 2009



A big thank you!

I would like to thank all those people who attended the service user network meeting on Thursday 30 July, it was a great turn out. I would also like to thank all those people who have given up their time to support the work of the service user network and those who have expressed an interest in getting involved with the various projects that the network promotes.

We would also like to emphasise the importance of service users and their input to SUN meetings. There is opportunity for the service users to meet with Jane Medd to discuss the network and the various projects they may like to get involved with (at different levels to suit each individual.) So...

If anyone would like to get involved with the SUN or promote future work / events at the network, or require service user representation at meetings, please contact Jane Medd.

Jane's contact details can be found at the back of the update.

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The next SUN meeting will be on...

Thursday October 29 at
The Salvation Army, James Street, from 12:30 until 3pm

Salford City Council

Service user network meeting feedback

Feedback from supported housing for vulnerable people meeting

The feedback from service users who have attended key meetings has been extremely informative. The meetings look at the wider issues of how supported housing services are provided, how they can be improved and to decide how Supporting People money will be spent.

The Service User Network provides a representative at both Commissioning Body and Core Strategy meetings so that service users continue to inform us how these services are delivered in Salford.

Service User Network members felt the meetings should be held at service user schemes, instead of at the Civic Centre, as it would be more user friendly and give people the chance to look around at the schemes and meet with service users.

Commissioning Body meeting update

At Commissioning Body meetings, we have previously had service user reps attend and feel it is important to continue with this. Service user network members felt there should be one consistent service user representative at the meetings.

The service user network have nominated Harold Kershner as their service user rep. Harold has always lived in Salford and is passionate about supporting his community by getting involved with various meetings, which represent the views of service users in Salford.

Harold attends many meetings which promote good practice in Salford and supports vulnerable people living in and accessing supported housing.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Harold for agreeing to represent the service user network and look forward to his feedback at the next meeting.

Rachel Harris - service user network member

Hi, my name is Rachel Harris. I'm 22 and live at Salford Foyer. I have been homeless and living in hostels and foyers for four years. In December 2008, I got involved with the service user network and have been involved with a lot of different things. For example, I have attended the Commissioning Body meetings. I have also given a presentation at the SUN meeting, on my photography, which was a good experience and has helped to build my confidence.

The pictures I have taken, illustrate how I feel about mental health and homelessness. It was great to use my experience in a positive way, whilst gaining confidence for the future.



Rachel explained there is an exhibition of her photographs at the Contact Centre in Manchester until the end of September. The photos represent how people feel when they are suffering from mental health issues and / or homelessness.

The service user network group, felt the pictures were strong images and really got the message across. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Rachel for presenting her photos to the group and for sharing her experiences with us.

Please contact Jane Medd if you would like to be involved in this.

Safeguarding film production - first meeting

CRIS (Creative Industry In Salford) are looking to work with groups of adults in supported housing and accommodation to produce a fictional film about the issues of adult safeguarding.

As the subject area for the film is very wide, the aim of the first meeting was to inform young people in hostels or supported housing about what we wanted to do and how we go about producing the DVD. It was agreed we should look at areas of abuse and possible scenarios, or places where they could take place.

In the coming weeks, I will be visiting as many groups as possible to talk more about the film and how people can get involved. It is important that people are free to discuss their concerns and share stories. (We will not be using real people / names)

Options are available for training, if people are interested in learning skills, or volunteering on the project to help deliver it.

If you are interested in getting involved with the DVD or would like further information, please contact Jane Medd.

Albert Kennedy Trust

Salford City Council, in partnership with the Albert Kennedy Trust, provide friendly housing related support for young lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans homeless people wanting to live and thrive in Salford. We can:

- help you apply for benefits and grants, give you advice on budgeting and income as well as manage rent arrears or other debts
- support you settling into your home, contact utility suppliers and talking to your landlord/ housing provider about issues, as well as advice on furnishing your home
- support you in accessing medical and specialist services, training, education, and leisure activities, as well as signposting you to other agencies that can also offer support
- empower you to live an independent and fulfilled life

For further information please contact:

Neil Cochrane Albert Kennedy Trust
0161 607 1620 / 0161 228 3308
supportten@salford.gov.uk www.akt.org.uk



Homeless Awareness Event

The Homeless Awareness event took place on 8 August 2009 where Petrie Court and Supported Tenancies represented Salford City Council. The event saw a number of different organisations having displays showcasing the services they provide to young people in Salford.

The event was put together by the Youth Homeless Forum which Petrie Court and Supported Tenancies take a lead role in. This event kick started this years push to raise some valuable funds so that young people linked to supported housing projects, can have some small gifts over the Christmas period.

Donations are always gratefully received by the forum, who will ensure they are distributed appropriately. So if you fancy a dress down day or some other charitable event, then you could donate the money raised to the Youth Homeless Forum. Details can be obtained from Dot Kerrigan at Petrie Court on 0161 745 9238, Frank Gunn or Neil Cochrane at Supported Tenancies on 0161 607 1620.

Supporting People celebration event

There will be a Supporting People event held at Buile Hill Park on the morning of Tuesday 27 October 2009. The aim of the event is to:

- Celebrate the successes of the Supporting People programme
- Showcase the services that are funded from Supporting People grants
- Demonstrate the benefits that housing related support can bring

If you would like to get involved in this event please contact Jane Medd

All the best to Joan Martin

The team would like to say a big thank you to Joan Martin for her involvement with the SUN and wish her all the best in her retirement!

New Starter

The post of adult carers development worker / deputy manager has been filled by Helen Mills. Helen can be contacted on the following:
helen.mills@salford.gov.uk

Your SUN contact is Jane Medd

Phone: 0161 922 8759 or Email: jane.medd@salford.gov.uk
Write to: Community Housing Development Team,
Salford City Council,
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