

Eventually everything changes! That's life! We have seen a change in our clients' needs from having just had one or two problems to individuals approaching us with multiple issues. This means ensuring staff are adequately trained and that they have the time to spend with individual clients. There are also changes in our funding on the horizon with the contract with the County Council and support from the Big Lottery due to finish within the next 12 months. So the Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers are working together to ensure we continue to provide the right level of service where it is most needed. We can't do this without your help, so thank you, once again for continuing to support us.

Goodbye...

We said goodbye to one of our Volunteers Natalie Ambrose last month, who has secured a new job - so "Congratulations Natalie"! And thanks for all your help, support and dedication - you will be missed. We are also saying goodbye to our Social work student Dani Briscoe who leaves us after completing her placement with us. Dani said, *"I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody involved within my placement at the basement project. I have learnt so much and really appreciate the time that I have spent here. Everybody had been so lovely and I wish everyone the best for the future."* Thanks Dani - it's been a pleasure working with you.



Dani

...and Hello...



...to our new Community Fundraiser, Kelly Turner who has joined us taking over from Sophie who moved to another charity to start in a full time role. Kelly says, *"I'm local to Bromsgrove as I grew up here and am now back living in the town after several years in Worcester. I come from a background of working with young people in education and youth work settings, and have also worked closely with young people with Special Educational Needs. Alongside my work at the Basement I also support a young lady with Down's Syndrome to develop her literacy, speech and language, and work skills. I enjoy taking part in creative hobbies, and have been lucky enough to have three children's books published this year, which I have written and illustrated."*

Kelly can be contacted on kelly.turner@basementproject.org.uk

...and Hello to our new mascot, Brian



- seen with Senior Support Worker Marina. Ahh!



Thank you for your support....

We continue to be grateful for the support of organisations and individuals. We try to thank as many as possible through this newsletter but obviously it's easy to miss someone - so apologies if you haven't been thanked. Recently we have received support from Morrison's, Asda, Sainsbury's and Waitrose; Bromsgrove District Scouts and Perryfields Day Nursery; and many individuals including a donation in memory of the late Bridget Smith.

More changes... observant readers may notice 2 changes in this edition. The PQASSO logo has changed to "Trusted Charity Mark" and the Big Lottery support logo has also changed (overleaf).

Keep informed and join the fun!



www.bromsgrovebasementproject.org.uk



<http://facebook.com/TheBasementProject>

Easter Activities at The Basement!

We held an Easter event on the 18th April for clients and their children which included an Easter egg hunt, pin the tail on the bunny, Easter card making and a colouring competition. The children and their parents had an enjoyable morning taking part in all the activities. Pictured are staff



The Easter Egg hunt!

members Kennedy and Marina who worked with Volunteer Heather and Tamara, one of our clients, to make these delicious cakes for the event which were enjoyed by all. A big thank you to all individuals and organisations who donated Easter eggs and presents to us which have been gratefully received by our clients and their children.



We held a quiz/raffle at Ye Olde Black Cross in April, which was very well attended, raising £330 for our work. The winning team was 'Standing room only'. Thanks to landlord Ben and his staff for hosting us. Also thanks to local man, Arthur, who organised a quiz at The Rose and Crown, Feckenham which raised over £500. Thanks also to Mel & Matt, the landlords.

That's a lot of chocolate...

Pictured right is our new Community Fundraiser, Kelly, presenting a large chocolate Easter Bunny to the winner of our annual raffle, who certainly looks happy to have won so much chocolate! Thanks once again to Bromsgrove Lions for donating the Easter Bunny.

The raffle made £192 for our funds.



School Report!

We continue to be grateful to those schools that support us with fund raising activities, like Haybridge School in Hagley who have had a non-uniform day and collections at school performances, and to those schools that donate food and other essentials.

We also provide support for schools, and recently Kelly, our Community Fundraiser held mock interviews with year 10 pupils to teach them interview skills as part of a Careers day at Waseley School in Rubery, whilst Marina, Kennedy and Nina delivered assemblies and lessons focusing on homelessness at St Lukes 1st School in Redditch

Ensuring our staff have the skills required...

Our staff have been undertaking additional training to update the skills needed to support the young people they work with. One of the trainers Bill Say from Just Say Training recently endorsed the work of the project when he commented, ***"I have no hesitation in endorsing the quality of the service and to say that I am continually impressed with their commitment to the clients and their desire to learn more about mental health and complex needs"***.

Our staff are also now qualified in First Aid at Work after completing the course in April.



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