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Dudley Mind to lose Floating Support

Floating support will continue, but it will be provided by other organisations from July 2011.

Dudley Council put the service out to tender earlier this year and we have now heard that Dudley Mind's bid to continue providing it has been ruled out as too expensive.

Five other organisations have been awarded contracts to provide floating support and those people currently supported by Dudley Mind will be transferred to one of these. Most of Dudley Mind's staff who provide this support will be transferred to these organisations at the same time.

"This is a severe blow for Dudley Mind as we provide this service to up to 75 people," said Martin Mueller, Chief Executive, "but we will do our best to make the transfer as smooth as possible for all concerned."

Dudley Mind first set up the service in 2002 and attracted government funding called Supporting People funding into the borough from 2003 to support it. It is this funding which is administered by the council that will be used to fund others to provide the service.

"In a sense, although we will be losing this

service we can feel satisfied that we have brought it into the borough along with the funding that will continue to pay for it" said Martin.

The five successful bidders are:

- Home Matters Ltd
(a small company currently providing supported housing in Dudley)
- Integra Ltd
(a small company providing supported housing and care in Dudley)
- Creative Support
(a Manchester-based charity)
- Heantun Housing Assn.
(a Wolverhampton based housing group)
- Praxis
(a Northern Ireland-based charity)

Of these all but Home Matters will be taking over from Dudley Mind.

"At this stage we do not know for certain which organisation will provide support to which individuals, nor do we know which organisations staff will be transferred to, but we are keen to negotiate with all parties to make the transfer as smooth as possible", said Martin. "Anyone at all concerned about their support should talk to their Support Worker or contact me directly."

Attention! Attention! Attention!.....

Dudley Mind is putting together a new Strategic Plan covering the next 3-5 years. Look out for details of how you can have your say over the next two months about what we should do in the future.

The Future for Day Services

Help us decide how we operate day services in the future.

The reasons we need to make changes are:

1. Government policy has moved on; putting more emphasis on connecting people with the general community, moving forward with recovery and improving employability.
2. A local working group of day service providers and funders has failed to make any decisions, so our main funder (Dudley MBC) is encouraging us to make our own!
3. Money - the funding that we had last year from Dudley MBC for day services could be reduced by up to 39% for 2011/12!

There will be a meeting to discuss what Dudley Mind's day services should look like in the future given these circumstances. All are welcome (including partners and carers).

**Kingswinford Christian Centre in Summer Street
Thursday 5th May, 3pm**

Come and tell us what you think



For Your Information

During the month of May, Dudley Mind will be carrying out research into the services we provide. There

will be a team of trained service users carrying out surveys to tell us what you really think of the services we're providing and how these could be improved. All surveys will be confidential and letters will be sent out in due course to arrange a time and place where they will be carried out.



SUIT

Due to the upcoming May Bank Holiday the next **Service User Involvement Team** meeting will be

**Monday 9th May,
4-6pm**

**Kingswinford Christian Centre
Summer Street.**

All Welcome

Next Leisure Forum meeting Thursday 21st April, 4-5pm, Dove House

The leisure forum is a group of service users who organise social activities and excursions they want to attend. Past events have included, trips to Worcester and a short break to Butlins in Minehead. These events give you the chance to meet new people, try new experiences and grow in confidence. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, between 4-6pm at Dove House, Bushey Fields. For more information contact Nagheena on 07930159644.



Butlins

Due to the success of last year's trip to Butlins, the leisure forum are organising another trip in June. If you are interested in attending and would like more information please come to the next Leisure Forum meeting or contact Nagheena on 07930159644

Mind Music Wows Woodside



Congratulations are in order for some of our service users who performed in a mini concert at Woodside on Tuesday 29th March.

The service users were part of a music group run by Pete Williams at Dove House on Friday afternoons. During these sessions the group learned about the composition of music and what was involved in writing and singing some of their favourite songs. As part of the session group members also put their creativity to the test by writing the lyrics to their own original composition.

A few months into the session, pleased by the progress that the group was making, Pete proposed they share their talents and perform a gig at the Woodside Day Centre. Spurred on by their approaching singing debut the group set about compiling a shortlist of songs from their repertoire.

Their performance was a triumph with the group receiving a standing ovation and requests for an encore. Their set list included, Shalom, Dirty Old Town, Streets of London.

“Everyone enjoyed it, it went really well,” said Andy Wall, one of the performers. “There were quite a lot of people there and they wanted more too. It made me feel really good. Attending the group is the highlight of my week! I’d like the music group to carry on in the future.”

Another group member Victor Davies said “It’s a good group absolutely superb. I did the filming for the performance and it went off well. It was great!”

If you liked this article, and would like to contribute special features to future newsletters, please contact Natalie on 07930159796. Whether it is a poem, a drawing, a personal experience or a joke, your input is greatly valued.



What's new in the Community?

Here at Day Services we've been working hard to add some new and exciting sessions to our Spring community timetable for all you lovely people to take part in.

For those of you who want to get outside, enjoy the good weather and get active we have a variety of new sessions starting; including cycling, football, swimming, and fitness activities running at the Healthy Hubs in the area.

Yoga, Tai Chi and Relaxation will allow you to connect body and mind and learn techniques to help you relax and cope with everyday stressors.

For more information about any of the sessions please check out the new Spring Day Services Activities Timetable.



English For Everyday Lye Community Centre, Cross Street

Mondays 10-12pm

If you would like to learn to improve your speaking, reading and writing of English this session is for you.

See the timetable for more details.



Improve your putting skills and join a fun session Thursday mornings at Sedgley Golf Centre.

Group tuition is available and for the more experienced golfers amongst you could play a few holes.

For more details contact Natalie on 07930159796



Come and have a kick about and join our 5-a-side football group.

Wednesdays 1-3pm
See the timetable for more details.



Origami Work Shop

Day and Time (Start & Finish) : Monday 11th April – Kingswinford Christian Centre, 10 -12 am.
Tuesday 12th April – Beacon Club, 11.30am- 2pm.
Friday 15th April – Dove House, 11.30am – 1.30pm



Want to gain confidence and learn new skills whilst

having fun? Tread the boards and join our drama group Take A Bow.

Sessions are held at Quarry Bank Community Centre, Thursdays 10am-12pm.

Tour De Dudley

If you own a bike and you interested in improving your fitness, whilst seeing all that Dudley has to offer, join our new cycling club.

Meetings are held Tuesdays 1-3pm in various locations around Dudley.

For more information contact Natalie on 07930159796



Creative writing

The creative writing session will take place at Dudley Library Fridays 1- 3pm.

The session can help you improve your writing and computer skills through the use of library facilities.

Writing can help you express your feelings and cope with stress. It can also provide you with a great sense of achievement. You may want to try poetry, short stories, scripts or anything you put your imagination to.

For more information see the timetable or contact Adam on 07903487016.

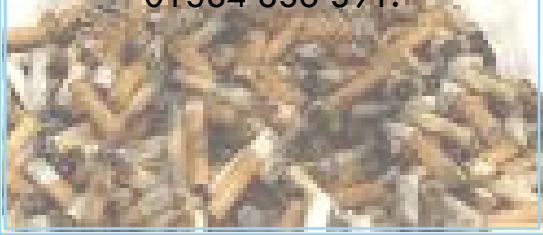


Join us at the Healthy Hubs in Huntingtree and Silver Jubilee Parks (Halesowen & Coseley respectively) to take part in enjoyable low intensity activities. The session will involve use of the eco-gym, nature walks and games so there's something for everyone.

Sessions are held Tuesdays and Wednesdays. For more information see the activities timetable or contact Sarah on 07908039667 or Alan on 07866002677.

Want to Stop Smoking?

We have staff members trained in supporting people who want to give up smoking. They set a quit date with smokers and help them access the tools they need to stay motivated and stop smoking for good. If you are interested in quitting smoking contact Sarah Hopkins or Angelique at Dove House on 01384 836 391.



Get Cooking

Would you like help maintaining a balanced diet? Take part in our 6 week "Get Cooking" course. Learn what makes up a healthy balanced diet and get tips on how to make some of your favourite dishes in a healthier way.



If you are interested in joining the course contact Dove House on 01384 836 391 for more details.

Who's After Your Money Awareness Training

Are you concerned about financial abuse, keeping safe out in the community and in your own home? If so please join us on either:

Friday 6th May
2-4pm
Dove House

Thursday 26th May
10-12pm
Kingswinford Christian Centre

If you would like to attend please contact Dove House on 01384 836 391 to book your place. Refreshments will be provided.

How to contact us:

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