

TCP Chair's Report 2016

CHAIR REPORT – AUTUMN 2016

A. Introduction-

My name is Helen Burrows. I joined *TCP in May* and was endorsed by the board as Chair in July taking over from Sue Bogie who stepped in as Acting Chair last year having worked tirelessly to lead the charity during a very busy period. I would like to thank her for her dedication and commitment.

I am immensely proud to be part of this worthy cause, one that provides long term affordable counselling support to the community and I look forward to working with you all to make sure that this charity continues to be a success.

I would like to start by welcoming everyone to this AGM and share with you what we have achieved last year and what we are planning for the future.

It has been a busy and challenging year for everyone working hard to keep the charity going and managing our counselling relationships with both our clients and stakeholders.

B. Looking Back-

We acknowledge that we still have a lot to do to raise our profile in the local communities that we serve to both improve our access to vulnerable clients and to enable us to seek funding from local sources through public recognition of our services.

In this regard, Sue has worked hard to keep our links going with Elmbridge carers, Woking Carers, CAB Walton and IAPT Services and has continued to attend signposting events and meetings held by official bodies. Also this year she and Sarah our Marketing Trustee have increased awareness by having a presence at the Molesey Carnival and Leisure Live in Hersham. For this we thank them for their hard work. Several trustees also attended the Molesey Carnival and Leisure Live to increase exposure to the community which was fun and successful.

A few successful fundraising events were held which included in particular 'Hamlet on the Couch' at the Riverside Barn in April on Shakespeare's birthday. Our special thanks to Vanessa, Karen and Sheila for their hard work to make this a success, particularly as the website was causing serious problems at the time.

We have a number of new counsellors this year and I would like to welcome them and thanks also to those who have been with us through those important years. Our counselling community and our counsellors are very important to us and we really appreciate all our counsellors who work so hard to help continue our important work in the community.

Much work needs to be done to improve our referrals. We are looking at partnering with other similar charities to ensure that we can reach out to the broader community to improve this.

On a positive note, the total number of sessions completed this year totalled 937 compared to 834 for last year even though referrals have dropped which shows that clients are staying with us longer and that we have improved efficiency in our processes. Thank you everyone who have contributed to this success.

We would like to thank Sarah Woodhouse for her invaluable contribution with the website, marketing and the organisation of the fete and to Clare Spencer for her period as Chair but who now finds that she cannot give the Charity the time she feels it deserves.

Also thanks to Carol Riddington who worked hard to obtain grants to help us fund our important initiatives.

All are leaving us and will be sorely missed. We do hope they will stay in touch with us.

The Charity would not be a success without the support of all our volunteers and administration team. We thank them for their support.

This year we have had great support from a number of organisations and individuals who gave us financial and volunteer support. Special thanks to:

1. To Walton Charity for housing us and supporting us
2. To Elmbridge Borough Council for their medium grant allocation and their Partnership Fund to help fund our income generation plan
3. To Surrey County Councillors' Margaret Hicks and Ernest Mallet for their continued support
4. To Voluntary Action Elmbridge for constant support.
5. To Gail McKenzie in her role as Voluntary Sector Support Officer
6. To Steve Pitcher at Design 18 who designs and produces our marketing literature at low cost. And ongoing support esp. for Molesey Fete !
7. Catherine Edgson for her continued work as a volunteer administrator
8. Fiona Green – who raised over £2000.00 by doing a sponsored bike ride to Paris and fund matching via Local Giving.
9. Fay Preston – for organising the Bridge Tea Fundraiser
10. Kestrel – for ongoing IT help in the office – changing over website and email swiftly and smoothly

C. Looking into the Future-

The Trustees and myself will be reviewing and updating our business plan. My aim is to ensure we have a process for identifying income generation potentials and ways to improve funding sustainability so that this charity remains successful.

Walton Charity Office is kindly providing us with bookkeeping and finance reporting support at an affordable price. This will help free up capacity for our office and myself to allow us to focus on things that are important to us.

We look forward to our move to 2 Quintet in early November as it gives us opportunity to work in a new hub environment with other charities, not to mention the lovely brand new office location which we will settle into in no time.

The Board has endorsed the election of the following trustees:

- Des O'Reilly Treasurer and Trustee
- Terri Collins Patron and Trustee
- Sue Bogie Trustee
- Sara Langley Trustee

The Board also endorsed Mary Kerrigan as our new Trustee and Secretary. I would like to welcome Mary to our Board and look forward to working with her.