

Active Partners

Active Prospects Newsletter
Issue 1 July 2016



*People Leading
Aspiring Lives*

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Board Appeal

Active Prospects is keen to ensure that its Board is made up of appropriately experienced individuals to provide the challenge and strategic input needed to drive improvements and help us grow and develop.

It is an unpaid role (expenses paid) involving about 7 days input over a year. If you feel you have something to offer as a Board Member, please email maria.mills@activeprospects.org.uk for an initial discussion and to find out more.



Active Change

Welcome to our new look partners newsletter. We want to keep you up-to-date with what is happening here at Active Prospects and encourage and support engagement with our development.

We have recently been gathering relative and carer feedback and this has been analysed and added to our service improvement plans. We are currently collating people we support survey feedback, and will send out our external partners survey shortly. We greatly value feedback and welcome any comments or views that you have – both what's working well and what needs improvement or change.

We have also been carrying out some further reviews of our services – with a big push on enabling staff to be able to utilise active support techniques, to enable everyone to be involved in all aspects of their lives. We are currently putting together a 12 month initiative to underpin the cultural and management

approaches needed to deliver our new active support approach.

We have recently finished the property refurbishments of Shrewsbury Road in Redhill - read more about this overleaf. We have a further two properties that we plan to extensively refurbish later this year, and we are currently discussing plans to build 26 new flats over the next two years with the NHS, Surrey County Council and CCGs. This is part of our commitment to improve our property offer to meet people we support aspirations.

Please do contact me if you have any comments or ideas for partnership working on maria.mills@activeprospects.org.uk

Maria Mills, CEO

Transition Flats launching soon

Active Prospects is launching a new Young Prospects service from July 2016 for young people aged 18 years or over with learning disabilities, moving in to their first home under transition.

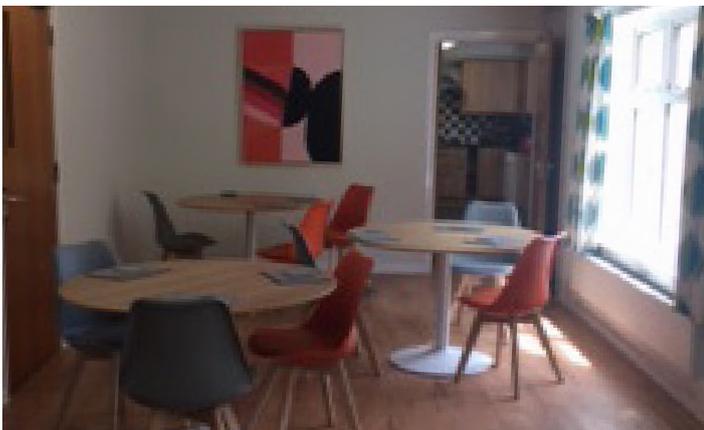
The four flats (one 3-bedroomed, one 2-bedroomed, and two 1-person studios) have been completely refurbished to provide high quality furnished homes.

Located above the new base for our short breaks service for young people, those living in the flats will benefit from 24/7 emergency support with packages shaped around individual and shared care needs. Activity programmes can also be accessed at the short break service and in the community. Support can be flexed as young people acquire increased independence skills, with an anticipated stay of two years before moving into a long term home.

We have received a good number of referrals and have assessed several people already for this exciting new service. The young people viewing the new flats are as excited about them as we are and three people are expected to move in during July.

The new service will be managed by Nelson Awunu, supported by a full time Assistant Service Manager.

To find out more about the new service, or to talk to us about referring someone, please contact Dawn Boyce at dawn.boyce@activeprospects.org.uk or call 01293 812038.



Outcomes of the Pro-Active Committee

People we support are at the forefront of everything Active Prospects does. Our group committee of people we support - the Pro-Active Committee - is heavily involved in all aspects of the organisation, providing an important voice for those who we support.

Since our last newsletter, the Committee has been involved in the design of the questions and the look of the survey sent to people we support.

They discussed a summer event, and decided on a Vintage Tea Dance on Monday 25 July 2016 from 12pm - 3.30pm at Horley Baptist Church.

The Committee looked at the new Staying Safe posters and confirmed they found them useful, before they were sent out to all services.

The Committee talked about how services are inspected, and how they can influence improvements.

They also agreed that people we support should visit other services to promote the Committee.



Pat Lynch, our Pro-Active Committee Chairperson and members of the Pro-Active Committee

Strategic Plan new versions

Active Prospects has produced a summary Strategic Plan as a accessible version of our key performance indicators and critical targets. It can be found on our website in the Publications and Policies section under 'About us'.

In addition, we have invested in a professionally produced easy read version which has been reviewed and approved by our Pro-Active Committee and can now also be accessed on our website in the Publications and Policies section.



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Feedback Surveys

Active Prospects has just undertaken its comprehensive annual survey of the people we support and their parents/carers/next of kin.

Surveying of the people we support is still ongoing, but we have already analysed the feedback from parents/carers both of our residential services and supported living.

We are delighted that 95% of residential parents/carers considered staff to be caring, alongside 91% of supported living parents/carers. 84% of respondents to both services also agreed that the service provided overall was very good or good.

But we are not complacent and realise that there is still some considerable work to do around communication in particular, and ensuring parents and carers are kept up to date with what is happening in services and with the care of their relative.

A survey of partners is planned in the near future and will be sent to care and transition managers, health professionals and other interested parties to ensure that we have the fullest picture possible of our performance.

Should you receive one of these surveys, please do take the time to complete it as your response will help us to plan improvements where required, and to develop Active Prospects further.

Aspiring Journey

We would like to celebrate Laura's journey and achievements.

Having previously been in secure hospital environments, Laura has flourished at Millview over the last 18 months. She has significantly reduced her risky behaviours, become much more healthy, has supported paid employment, and she says she has 'never been happier as I can do the things I chose, supported by staff'.



The staff and other people living at Millview threw Laura a surprise birthday last week and we could not be more proud of her.



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