

# Active Partners

Active Prospects' Partner Newsletter  
Issue 2 - February 2017



People Leading  
Aspiring Lives

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## Board vacancy

Active Prospects is actively looking for a new Board member with a background in Social Care and Health, IT or Marketing.

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



## Active Progress

In the last year Active Prospects has travelled a long way. We have worked really hard, together with people we support, to ensure we are providing services that meet their aspirations.

90% of our services are now rated at least good by CQC (significantly above the average of 72% for the sector) – with each report getting increasingly positive comments about how we are meeting aspirations. For example our recent CQC report for our transitional and short breaks service, Young Prospects, states: “Many similar examples were seen that demonstrated that the staff at 29 Shrewsbury Road, and the provider Active Prospects provided an outstanding service in response to people’s needs.”

We have a property strategy that we are currently delivering to significantly enhance many of our service environments. We want our people

to have homes we are all proud of and that best meet their needs. With Surrey County Council’s support we recently obtained capital grants from the NHS to help pay for some of this – please see the article on Temple Road as one example of this happening.

We will be creating more opportunities under the Transforming Care programme over the next 18 months, following some really positive recent successes supporting people with complex needs out of institutional hospital provision into community homes and seeing their lives completely open up and blossom.

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# Transforming Temple

Active Prospects is undergoing a programme of improvements and development across its services and supported living properties, to ensure they provide modern, practical homes which facilitate independence for the people we support. With support from Surrey County Council, we received an NHS grant of £100k to help pay for these works.

David\* is a sprightly 71 year old who has been living with his friend Margaret\*, aged 82, for nearly 39 years. Both have moderate learning disabilities and health issues related to their age. However, both of them enjoy their independence.

They have lived together at Active Prospects' Temple Road property for nearly 39 years. Temple Road is a three-bedroomed shared house in Epsom, offering supported accommodation. The third room, upstairs, was available for another tenant, but had been vacant for some time, and the upstairs bathroom was becoming increasingly inaccessible for David and Margaret.

The house was in need of modernisation and was becoming harder to maintain. Active Prospects decided to give it a complete makeover and give them the home they deserved, fully involving David and Margaret in all decisions about the changes, decorations and furniture.

Plans were drawn up to create two separate flats, each with their own front door. The upstairs flat has one bedroom, a kitchen, living space with dining area and a wet room.

David and Margaret now occupy the two-bedroomed downstairs flat which has been reconfigured. Margaret now has a bedroom with adjacent walk-in closet. David has a larger room at the rear. A new wet room has a seated shower to make bathing easier. The kitchen, with access to the garden, is bright and fresh with new white goods. Draughty windows have been repaired or replaced, and the garage has been removed to open up the garden.

The development works took eight weeks during which David and Margaret lived in one of Active Prospects' other shared houses. It was an upheaval for them but they were given support to ensure it was a positive experience for them.

The new flat, all on the ground floor, is more accessible for them as they get older, and easier to keep clean and tidy. They also have a new neighbour, Peter\*, who has moved in to the flat upstairs, making better use of the house to meet people's aspirations.

Everyone was very excited to move back in to the transformed property in mid-February with Margaret saying she felt like she was moving back in to a hotel!



Before



After

\* not their real names

## Pro-Active Committee update

Since our last newsletter, our group committee of people we support - the Pro-Active Committee - has been hard at work making plans.

As well as drafting their own 2017 Strategic Plan with some key aims and objectives for the Committee over the next twelve months, they have also been involved in some exciting projects.

They have contributed to the planning and development for Active Prospects' new website which is due to launch in spring 2017.

In addition, a number of Pro-Active Committee members have been selected to become internal quality checkers, supporting the work of staff undertaking internal audits and bringing an important people we support perspective and influence to these reviews.

The Committee completed the Surrey Police Feeling Safe survey, and talked about other ways in which they can connect with their local communities. Plans were made to support local food banks and undertake volunteering in local charity shops.

The Committee have agreed a target for fundraising in 2017 and have put together a list of events and activities to run over the course of the year to help them reach their goal.

The Pro-Active Committee Strategic Plan 2017



## SEND Partnership

Active Prospects has secured a grant of £35,000 from Surrey County Council's SEND Enterprise Programme to launch a new Supported Internship programme.

Active Prospects has been chosen as one of three providers to work in partnership with SEND Enterprise and East Surrey College. Eight interns, who will start later in 2017, will work in roles across Active Prospects gaining skills and practical work experience to help them on a pathway to paid work. Interns will work across the organisation, in roles such as property maintenance, IT, marketing or admin, as well as within our residential care homes. Interns will gain

employability skills such as teamwork, personal presentation and reliability and skills for independence such as travelling by public transport and shopping for lunch. They will have access to training in topics such as Health and Safety, Equality and Diversity, and Safeguarding.

The internship programme lasts for one year and towards the end of the course, interns will be supported to secure progression opportunities within Active Prospects or externally. This could be further work experience or into paid jobs.



## Active Progress

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We are also really pleased to be able to offer more employment enabling support for our communities. With the success of a SEND internship grant, we will be helping a number of people locally to get supported roles in Active Prospects. People with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be unemployed than non-disabled people, and only 6% of people with learning disabilities are likely to be in paid work roles. We are passionate about creating more opportunities in this area.

We are also working with all our stakeholders to significantly change our mental health service model

to become **Active Wellbeing** - a more community focused service, co-delivered with people we support and based on recovery principles. 2017 will be a transitional year as we shape this together and start putting all the foundations in place.

We have many exciting journeys ahead, during which we will keep challenging ourselves and moving forward together. We are always looking at partnerships that can help make this happen and would love to hear from you, should you wish to discuss an opportunity with us.

**Maria Mills, CEO**

## Why choose Active Prospects?

What makes us different and stand out from other providers?

**Active Prospects is proud to be:**

<b>Local</b>	We are investing significantly in local people and communities, and have a deep community anchor.
<b>Responsive</b>	We do everything we can to help and act quickly, with locally-based senior managers highly involved in individuals' care, offering rapid decision making and ensuring person-centred service design.
<b>Creative</b>	We create solutions, making things happen with innovation, drive and compassion.
<b>Co-produced</b>	We are leading the way on enabling people to shape our organisation and services together.
<b>Successful</b>	We successfully support people to have aspiring lives, including a track record of delivering highly positive outcomes with people with complex needs and behaviours that challenge.



**People Leading  
Aspiring Lives**

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