

Active Partners

Active Prospects' Partner Newsletter
Issue 3 - May 2017



People Leading
Aspiring Lives

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Pauline's Award



Pauline, who we support through our Community Prospects service, recently received a Governor Award from SABP NHS Trust for her outstanding contribution as a governor.



Active Investment

Active Prospects has been investing in its properties over recent months to modernise and improve the homes of the people we support. Some of this has been in partnership with the NHS/CCGs and Surrey County Council.

Temple Road, Epsom - converted a three-bedroomed house into two individual flats. Former occupants, Lesley and Elizabeth, now have a modern and accessible downstairs flat with access to a large garden, with a new flat created for someone from the Transforming Care programme.

Salisbury Road, Banstead - converted a two-bedroomed house into two one-bedroomed flats. Again, this has created a new flat for someone from the Transforming Care programme.

Millview, Charlwood - reconfigured the communal areas to create more bright, spacious and accessible living spaces.

Blanford Road, Redhill we are knocking through the small kitchen and dining area to create a large communal space for residents to enjoy. We're landscaping the ample gardens and creating a new vegetable patch and sensory garden for residents to relax in.

Wolverton Gardens, Horley - we have installed a new fire exit and decorated communal areas and have had plans drawn up to create a new two-bedroomed self-contained annexe.

Finally, we're investing over £1m development at **Gloucester Road, Redhill** to create nine self-contained flats with communal space.

Nationwide Staff Dig Deep at The Pines

A team of staff from various Nationwide Building Society branches within the local area undertook a team-building garden makeover at The Pines in Redhill, recently.

Active Prospects was approached by Susan Field, Project coordinator of Voluntary Action Reigate and Banstead (VARB) to organise the corporate volunteering activity.

The Nationwide team rolled up their sleeves in the garden and completed a general tidy up and mowed the lawn, in addition to erecting raised beds so that resident wheelchair users can take part in flower planting in the future. They also gave the existing garden furniture at the service a make-over, sanding and painting it purple, at the request of residents.

The team kindly donated a colourful array of plants to brighten up the garden. Now that the garden has been improved, those living at the service will also be able to participate in weeding and planting the new beds as a therapeutic activity assisted by staff, meeting one of Active Prospects' key objectives around 'Active Support'.

Samantha Lucas, Branch Manager of Nationwide Building Society in Dorking said: "It was such a positive experience that we are hoping to make this a regular volunteering activity three or four times a year across Active Prospects' different services in East Surrey".

Sue Stockman, Head of Business Development said: "The people we support at The Pines really enjoyed having the Nationwide volunteers at their home and are delighted with their garden makeover. As the weather gets warmer they will enjoy sitting outside and having meals together."

Active Prospects is delighted that staff from Pfizer and Virgin Atlantic Airways are also lined up to undertake corporate volunteering projects over coming weeks.



Charity Shop coming soon!



Active Prospects is currently working towards the opening of its first ever charity shop.

The shop, which is due to open in June, will raise funds for Active Prospects' work and will also provide volunteer and work experience opportunities for the people we support and others in the community.

The shop will be open six days a week and a Charity Shop Manager and Assistant Manager have already



been appointed. A team of supported and community volunteers will help run the shop, sort donated goods and serve customers. The shop is in a prime location at 4 High Street, Horley which was formerly used as an estate agents and is on a one year lease initially.

Once opened, we would be delighted to receive donations of clothes, jewellery, books, CDs and bric-a-brac that is of saleable quality etc. Please help us spread the word!

Supported Internships Update

Nick Kinsella has joined Active Prospects as Future Prospects Co-ordinator, responsible for launching our brand new Supported Internship programme.

Nick was introduced to key partners, East Surrey College and Surrey County Council SEND Enterprise programme at a network event hosted by NESOCOT. Nick says, "It was great to meet everyone and hear from key partners about the Supported Internship programme and the many successes being enjoyed. I was particularly impressed by the collaborative nature of the meeting, and the way in which all key partners actively encouraged and promoted the sharing of best practice".



Grant Success

Active Prospects is delighted to have been awarded £7000 by the Community Foundation for Surrey towards its Future Prospects – Employability Programme.

The Grant, made from the Bryn Siriol Fund and the Gatwick Foundation Fund, will allow us to fund an employability specialist to support people with learning disabilities and mental health needs to progress on a pathway towards paid employment. Participants will be supported to overcome barriers to work through a



**Community
Foundation
for Surrey**

mixture of group training and intensive 1:1 support. Participants will be supported to progress to paid jobs or volunteer opportunities, including roles within Active Prospects new charity shop, due to open in Horley in June 2017.

People Awards 2017

Active Prospects will be holding its first People Awards on Thursday 29th June to celebrate the amazing and inspirational work of our staff, volunteers and the lives of the people we support.

We are warmly encouraging families, carers and advocates to consider nominating staff members, teams and people we support for these awards.

Categories for the People Awards are:

- Most Aspiring People
- Most Aspiring Staff Team
- Most Aspiring Staff Member
- Most Aspiring Apprentice
- Most Aspiring Volunteer
- Most Caring Staff Member
- Most Transformative Team
- Most Inclusive Staff Team
- Most Valuing Manager
- Most Valuing Assistant Manager/Team Leader
- Most Enabling People
- Most Enabling Staff Team

Active Prospects People Awards Summer 2017

What?

A celebration of Active Prospects' volunteers and people we support.

Awards include:

- Most Aspiring People
- Most Aspiring Staff Team
- Most Aspiring Staff Member
- Most Aspiring Apprenticeship
- Most Aspiring Volunteer
- Most Caring Staff Member
- Most Transformative Team
- Most Inclusive Staff Team
- Most Valuing Manager
- Most Valuing Assistant Manager/Team Leader
- Most Enabling People
- Most Enabling Staff Team

When?

Thursday 29th June 2017
6.30pm for 7pm - 9pm followed by a disco until 11pm

Where?

Holiday Inn, Gatwick
Buffet provided and disco after the ceremony

Get your nominations in by 8 June 2017 to sarah.dodwell@activeprospects.org.uk or post it to Active Prospects The Gables, 17 Massetts Road Horley Surrey RH6 7DQ



National Co-production Week 3-7 July 2017

– Nothing about us without us

Active Prospects has signed up to participate in National Co-production Week to help celebrate the benefits of co-production and the contribution of people we support and their families and carers in shaping our organisation.

Co-production is about working in equal partnership with people using services, carers, families and citizens. Co-production offers the chance to transform social care and health provision to a model that offers people real choice and control.

For Co-production Week 2017 we want our staff and services to make a Co-production Commitment that includes the voice of people we support, families, carers and members of our local communities. The Commitment means promising to do at least one thing to support co-production. This could be anything

from doing a new co-production plan, hearing family stories, attending the Pro-Active Committee or finding out about other parts of the organisation.

You can read more about Co-production in this online easy read guide to co-production in social care:

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide51/files/guide51-easyread.pdf>

Find out more about Co-production Week here:

<http://www.scie.org.uk/co-production/week/>

Active Employment takes off

Active Prospects' employment enabling work is really taking off.

As you will read in this newsletter, new recruit Nick Kinsella has recently started in our first dedicated role; our SEND internship programme is ready to launch in partnership with Surrey County Council, East Surrey College and NESOT; our Gatwick Fund employability programme is currently being shaped; our first Charity shop is due to open soon in Horley with paid and volunteer roles; paid roles in our organisation are being offered to people we support; and we are currently looking at our first cafe opportunity.

Our aim is to enable our people to have the fullest lives and, together, to enrich our communities, both in what we do and in partnership with local businesses and organisations.

Quality Checker first visits



Active Prospects works hard to ensure that people we support are central to the development and running of our services. Recently, the first PWS Quality Checkers audits took place with members of the Pro-active Committee, supported by Head of Care Jade Vallance. They visited four services: Croydon Road; Woodview; Blanford Road; and Cedarwood Lodge.

Pat, Chair of the Pro-active Committee, was very keen to check that staff had their ID on them and had arrived on time for their shift. She checked to see if staff were friendly and offered her a cup of tea. Elizabeth was



keen to check our services were clean and tidy and that bedrooms were personalised and looked nice. Leanne wanted to check that people we support were happy where they were living and had opportunities to see their friends and family. All three reported that they had an excellent day and would be keen to do some more quality checking in the future. They were pleased that staff 'passed' many of the questions asked and the people we support looked happy .

The Quality Checkers also enjoyed a splendid lunch, laid on for them by staff at residential service, Woodview.

Active Support Coaches' first meeting

Our new Active Support programme for staff is a collection of tools and approaches that organises teams to maximise their engagement time with the people we support.

The programme also teaches staff how to develop the skills of the people we support through a step-by-step approach. All staff are receiving training in this approach with a team of Active Support Coaches (pictured) delivering and embedding this programme across all services.



New website launched

A project has been underway since late autumn 2016 to redevelop the Active Prospects website to provide a more vibrant, modern and accessible platform on which to promote our services and the work that we do.

The site now features a new 'Available Now' section which gives an 'at-a-glance' view of the vacancies we have across our residential, supported living and mental health services. This can be accessed directly from the home page of the new site.

The Pro-Active Committee of people we support, and a number of key staff, were involved in the planning work to ensure that everyone's needs were captured and reflected in the final site.



Also incorporated in the site design are an easy read section written specifically to meet the needs of people we support, and our Twitter feed which allows visitors to see the very latest snippets of news about Active Prospects.

New Board Members Appointed

Active Prospects has been strengthening its Board to support its ambitious goals. Pictured are Owen Vallis and Jas Chahal who have just joined the Board and who recently spent a day meeting staff and the people we support. We are still looking for someone with great IT skills and for people with care and support experience. Please see our website current vacancies for more details



Owen Vallis has spent over ten years as a risk management expert in the financial services sector, for a number of major financial institutions, and is currently UK Head of Fiduciary Risk Management for Credit Suisse.



Jas Chahal is an Executive and General Counsel with over 20 years of international corporate experience gained working in the UK and USA, managing global legal operations for renowned corporations.

Active Progress

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Two of the flats will be larger to accommodate people with high support needs who may require 2:1 staff support.

Alongside our property strategy, we have relaunched our mental health service as **Active Wellbeing** - a more community focused service, co-delivered with people we support and based on recovery principles. We are shaping this new service together with key stakeholders

as we move through 2017. Our Supported Living service has also recently been relaunched as Community Prospects.

It is an exciting time for Active Prospects as we challenge ourselves to enhance and develop what we do. Should you wish to discuss an opportunity with us, we would love to hear from you.

Maria Mills, CEO

New Acquired Brain Injury service

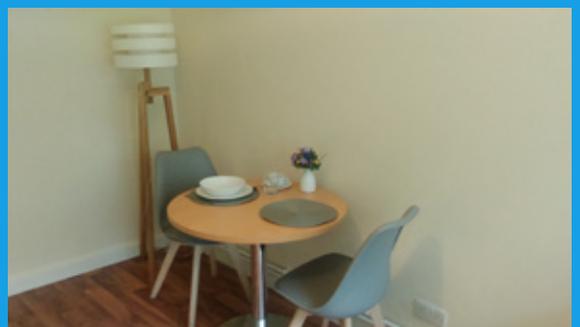
Active Prospects is very excited to be announcing the opening of its new service at Beech Lodge in Caterham.

The service has been redeveloped into four spacious one-bedroomed flats and will specialise in providing support to people who have an acquired brain injury.

The service is due to open on 3 July and all bedrooms are already allocated to people waiting to move in.

The project has been in planning for the last six months and we are really pleased to be able to support four individuals who have been in rehabilitation services for a number of years awaiting suitable accommodation in their home town of Caterham. The move will mean they can continue to be friends and share their connections whilst building up their independence skills.

We will be holding an informal drop-in open day once the new service is open and key stakeholders will receive an invitation to this via email in due course. Please watch out for it in your inbox.



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