

Cathedral Archer Project Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2007

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Entrance on Campo Lane



The new lounge area

Welcome to our first newsletter

Dear Friends,

There have been so many changes and developments over the last few months, we thought we would add another – a newsletter – to keep you informed of what has been happening, what our plans are and how we are helping our clients. We shall also introduce you to some of our Project Workers and, where they give us permission, some of our clients.

We would also like to thank you for your continued interest and support in the Cathedral Archer Project.

We would love to hear if you would like to be more involved. Please complete the form at the bottom of your letter. You can make a donation, volunteer or help us raise funds. We would be delighted to speak to you about your ideas, give us call on 0114 2636974.

With best wishes

All the team at the Cathedral Archer Project

New beginnings in new location

After being based in the old Cathedral Domino Hall and then growing and moving down to West Bar, we are now back at the Cathedral site in our own specially built premises.

We have a grand new entrance on Campo Lane that goes into a large reception area leading to a comfortable lounge with a seating area, interview rooms, showers, laundry, office space, access to classroom spaces and of course our canteen. There is also a state of the art kitchen that we share with the Community Resources Centre.

Since moving to our new location, we have had over 80 in for breakfast on a few occasions and the numbers coming in for lunch has grown too.

Both clients and staff have been going through a settling in period and we are now starting to look at the opportunities our new location can offer us for Social Enterprise Projects as well as new activities for the clients.

The first new activity is a gardening group and we are looking at developing cookery skills.

If you would like to share a hobby or talent and engage some of our clients in new activities from art and crafts, to photography and computers or even basic sports skills, please talk to us, we can probably use you!

Royal seal of approval



HRH unveiling the official plaque

Tuesday 6 March 2007 was a date to remember. HRH The Princess Royal came to open the new Community Resources Centre and spend time in the Cathedral Archer Project meeting clients and staff.

The special visit started with a service of dedication in the Cathedral. HRH was then taken on a tour of the new building allowing time for her to meet The Church Burgesses, Cathedral staff, Project staff and to chat to the clients. The clients really enjoyed meeting her and they were surprised how down to earth she was. They also commented how easy it was to talk to her and that she was knowledgeable about homeless issues.

Project worker profile: Carron

Carron is one of the Cathedral Archer Project Workers. She has been at the Project over 3 years and enjoys sharing her experience and knowledge with the rest of the team and working with them to raise standards.

As well as her general Project responsibilities Carron specialises in women's issues.

In real terms, this means she supports all the females that come into the project, some of whom can be drug users as well as working girls. She works hard to get to know their individual circumstances, and supports them to help them keep appointments and informed to keep them as safe as possible.

Last month Carron supported a pregnant female client to find accommodation away from her boyfriend who is a drug user and had overrun their flat with his friends. For Carron, this achievement "feels better than 6 months wages at once!"

She continued, "Most of the time it is small slow steps. The clients' lives have been so chaotic for so long that they can't just be given accommodation and let go, they need a wall of support around them and it can take over a year for them to adjust because their only friends might be working girls and addicts so they often tend to go back. Most have no families and come to the Cathedral Archer Project for support and a private chat."

Carron wants people to recognise that the problem of women on the streets is getting worse; the women are getting younger and selling their bodies from the age of 14 and 15 for drugs. The percentage of female clients at the project is growing; a lot have left care and can't come here until they are 18.

Carron has a wish list to help support the female clients she works with, "it is about self esteem and basic feminine requirements, so if anyone is willing to donate smaller sizes of underwear, sanitary products, toiletries such as hand cream, cleanser and toner, cotton wool, sample sizes of lipsticks, make up and samples of perfume they will be very gratefully received.



Carron meeting HRH The Princess Royal at the Grand Opening

SERCO – a new partnership

Serco Limited manages HMP &YOI Doncaster and within the prison is a successful Community Re-entry Team (CRT).

Together with support from external agencies they play a significant role in the "regeneration of communities", helping to equip prisoners to lead a better life and removing barriers to opportunity. In2Change, the prisoners' charity, will work in conjunction with Serco to provide access to funding for their services to become an integral part of the Cathedral Archer Project. The sole aim of the charity is to provide assistance in the community to vulnerable ex-offenders to combat barriers such as the two week benefit trap (the period where benefits are waiting to be paid).

The CRT has a very simple philosophy in supporting prisoners in their path toward their departure from the prison – *their resettlement begins on the day they arrive*. By offering offenders access to employment/training/education and a bond scheme, this enables them to secure accommodation and improve their chances of gaining employment. The programme is supported by numerous external agencies that deliver local 'surgeries' to the prisoners. Guidance is available in seeking employment, access to appropriate benefits, accommodation planning and training opportunities.

- The programme supports over 1200 individuals each year.
- Their target is to help achieve a 10 per cent reduction in crime by 2010
- Research from a retrospective audit indicates that 82% of people leaving prison who have utilised their support to gain employment or accommodation have been able to remain in the community.

As part of the development of this programme, Serco decided that the next stage is to have a support base for ex-offenders and their first office is being hosted at the Cathedral Archer Project.

The team, in conjunction with In2Change, will be based at the Cathedral Archer Project meeting people fresh from prison and their families to enable the essential services needed for resettlement in a community setting.

They are researching the needs of that community to make a programme that fits around and complements other existing services.

The chief aim is to reduce re-offending by having support available where and when it is required.



Bringing service to life

More organisations we work in partnership with:

Big Issue in the North

DAAT

Drug Intervention Programme

Fareshare

HARC (Homeless and Rootless at Christmas)

HAST Team

Job Centre Plus

NOMAD

Northern Refugee Centre

SAAS (Sheffield Alcohol Advisory Service)

St Anne's Outreach Team

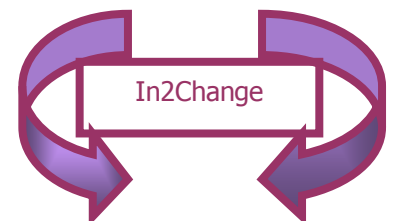
Sheffield City Council

Sheffield PCT

South Yorkshire Probation Service

SWWOP

Turning Point



Project user profile: Nick

Nick has been coming to the Cathedral Archer Project for approximately 15 months. He was living in a scrapped car when a friend recommended he came in as he could get something to eat.

He was rather nervous and unsure on his first visit and felt a bit out of place but settled in nearly straight away. He noticed our resident artist at the time, Helena, drawing and joined her at the art drop in session. She spent time with him. Nick started attending regularly. It was something for him to do and aim for. He looked forward to the sessions instead of drinking and begging. It was also a place for him to sit and draw – not something you can do if you are homeless.

Early in 2006 Nick found some temporary housing and is now settled in a council flat. He had help from agencies the Project staff introduced him to such as NOMAD and the homeless teams.

As Nick became more settled he enrolled on a college course in basic ceramics – he really wanted to get his hands on clay and they had a kiln. Quite a few of the project staff didn't think he would go – he did and really enjoyed it.

Nick is now concentrating on his painting and is planning to go back to college. He is also getting commissions so he is not sure what direction his life will go in next. "As long as I have food, a paintbrush and somewhere to go." Nick claims to have an affinity with the Paris artists of the mid-late 1800s.

When Nick first arrived at the project he was not in touch with his daughter. He had brought her up as a lone parent but she went into foster care when he went to prison. She had sent him a school photo, which he sent back as a portrait and she loved it. He then sent her a tiny ceramic hand and they have been in touch since.

For Nick, the project is somewhere peaceful – a sanctuary – out of the way of TVs, people and distractions. He can choose to talk to people, or be by himself.

Without the facilities at the project Nick says he might never have got started, "It has changed my life, done so much that I don't know how to tell you."

Nick's one wish is that the Project would stay open longer each day to 3 or 4 pm so he could get more work done. He is concentrating on a range of pop artists for an exhibition.

We shall keep you informed!

New location, new look

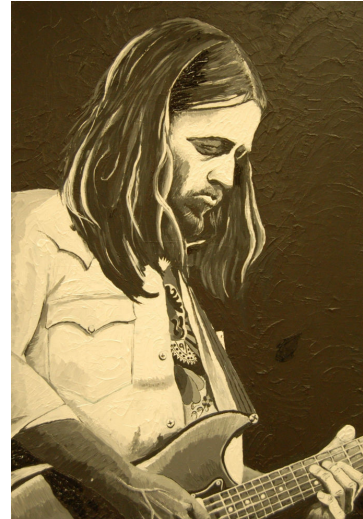
As part of our relocation, we are looking at rebranding. So watch this space to see details of our new look.

Please note our new contact details:

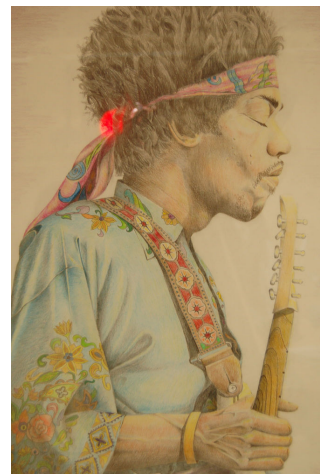
Cathedral Archer Project, Sheffield Cathedral, Church Street, Sheffield S1 1HA
Tel: 0114 2636974 Email: cbaoffice@sheffield-cathedral.org.uk



Nick and some examples of his work



Dave Gilmore



Jimi Hendrix