



Haiti appeal update

Staff and service users have combined efforts to raise an impressive **£1183** by donating through the payroll giving scheme. Service users and staff at North Manchester Womens project raised £58 by doing a sponsored walk and service users at Worcester Day Services made and sold Valentines day cards, raising £20. They're on a roll and are planning to make Easter cards too!

A total of £80m has been donated by the UK public to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal, which has provided clean water and dry food rations, 59 new hospitals around Port au Prince and contributions towards the rebuild effort over the next three years. The appeal is ongoing and contributions will be gratefully received.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has donated their time, energy and funds so far—it really has made a difference to the people of Haiti.



Can you kick it? Yes you can!

After the success of last year, the 5 a side football tournament is back! The date is confirmed for **Saturday 5th June** and it will be held at the Power League Soccer Dome, Trafford, Manchester. Keen to get involved? Well, you can...

Enter a team

Form a team of 5 or more players with service users and staff. Each squad should have at least two service users. We can also help you find a team to join if you let Gavin Worrall or Errol Williams know.

Volunteer to help on the day

This won't be hard work but it will be crucial to make the day run smoothly. You'll be helping to organise teams, handing out programmes, selling raffle tickets and helping with lunch. If you have always wanted to try your hand at being a compare, referee or cheerleader, this is your calling!

Lunch will be provided and there will be a raffle and prizes on the day for players and teams. Hayley Webster (pictured below) won Player of the Tournament last year.

There is space for 24 teams on a first come first served basis so be quick! Contact gavin.worrall@creativesupport.co.uk or errol.williams@creativesupport.co.uk on 0161 236 0829 for more information, to volunteer or to enter a team.



A helping hand at tenants meetings

Members of the development team are available to attend tenants meetings at projects. They can help service users with their training needs, creating an agenda and organising events. The team can also assist service users to apply for grants in their local community. To arrange a visit, please contact Lorraine Gainsborough or Olivia Turley.

Service user consultation

Over the next couple of months Creative Support staff will be consulting with service users about the 20th anniversary celebrations. Events have already taken place in Birmingham, Stoke and Manchester and we have another two events coming up in North East on the 1st of March and Reading on the 31st of March. These events are a great chance for service users to get together and voice their opinions about the way Creative Support is run.

Service users can also become Service User Representatives by attending Creative Support's training. During 2009/10 we ran many successful training sessions for service users across the regions to enable them to represent the company in tender presentations and assist in recruitment. If you know any service users who might be interested in attending please contact Lorraine Gainsborough or Olivia Turley on 0161 236 0829 for more information.

Staff can attend Service User Involvement training as well - you can find out the different ways service users can get involved in Creative Support and be better equipped to promote service user involvement in your area. Training is run throughout the year at our regional training centres and dates can be found on our training calendar - please contact the Training Team at head office for more information.

Rockliffe Villa

Rockliffe Villa, a new supported accommodation project in Oldham, was formally handed over to Creative Support staff on 18 February 2010. The project consists of 10 self contained flats for adults with mental health needs who are dealing with substance misuse. To celebrate the opening, members of the local community came to look around the building and learn more about the service the project will provide. Among others, Community Support Police officers from the Oldham area attended to see how they could best work with Creative Support staff to make the project a success. Tenants will be moving into the project gradually over the next couple of weeks.



20th anniversary celebrations

This year, Creative Support turns 20! There will be a whole host of local events in September leading up to a big event at the Palace Hotel, Manchester in October. If you have any ideas for local events or would like help with running an event, contact the Development Team at head office. The more the merrier!



New Services recently launched or in development

Leicestershire

A floating support service for people with learning disabilities.

Buckinghamshire

Supported Living Framework Agreement for adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs.

North Tyneside

Framework Agreement for Community Support services for people with learning disabilities.

Staff consultation

Creative Support runs an Employee Consultation Forum which consists of staff representatives from 13 of our local authority areas. Members are elected into the forum by filling in an application form and sending it to Julie Cooke at head office. The forum discusses many topics including new policies and procedures, business plans and staff training. If you would like more information about joining the forum, or would like to contact your regional representative email victoria.mambu@creativesupport.co.uk

Creative Support booklet

It has been a long time in the making but we now have a new and wonderful booklet promoting Creative Support! It is ideal for anyone who wants to know more about the organisation including prospective service users and families, commissioners and partner organisations and potential employees. If you would like a supply of these booklets or any other marketing material, please contact our Marketing Assistant, Alannah Gale at head office.



Welcome to...

Charlie Culshaw is the new Service Director for the North East and will be taking the lead on personalisation. **Jenny Starkey** is now fully in post as his PA. **Debbie Ross** has joined the Training Team as Training and Development Administrator. Many of you will recognise Debbie as she has worked for Creative Support for a number of years in the Finance and Admin Teams. **Beth O'Callaghan** has now fully begun her role as Training and Development Secretary. And finally, there are two new friendly faces on the Admin Team— **Rebecca Simpson** and **Aimee Howard**. A warm welcome to all of you!

