

Chair's report

The CLD Trust, Counselling Learning and Development. Annual Report 2013/2014

Further details of The CLD Trust's Annual Report is available via the Charity Commission website which is now found at www.gov.uk

Once again I am taking the opportunity of the annual report to acknowledge, on behalf of the trustees, the dedication of the small highly committed central staff team who provide the day to day running of this service. Throughout this year they have worked extremely hard to maintain the successful day to day running of the Trust and at the same time bring about necessary revisions and improvements to Trust processes. One of these, recording and reporting, now greatly facilitates the extraction of a range of valuable data for ourselves and our service partners. Meantime new policies and processes have continued to be established to ensure the Trust runs as effectively as possible. Professional development opportunities have been provided for all our valued counsellors and the new premises where they have access to information and recording facilities have been welcomed.

Against a back drop of austerity in public health budgets and an increasing demand for young people's services the trust has had to make some difficult decisions this year.

Demand for services significantly exceeded contract income and in monitoring financial controls, the trust was unable to adhere to our rapid response policy in all cases. An emergency prioritisation system was implemented until such time as allocations could resume. Through careful planning, additional counselling rooms have been acquired and further evening facilities made available. We are grateful for the continued investment in young people's and adults services from the Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Herefordshire Local Authority including Public Health. This work is an essential investment in the healthy future for Herefordshire and wider horizons, with amazing value for money for those commissioning and funding.

It has been difficult to restrict access to proven effective and efficient services when young people are in significant distress through insufficient funding. Another issue this year has been the time required to respond to changes in personnel as posts change and established working partnerships have to be reformed. The Trust has continued however in these challenging circumstances to maintain a strong and robust relationship with the CCG, the Local Authority, our colleges and school and a very successful partnership with 2gether CAMHS. We have been very grateful for those who have seen fit to invest in the service we

offer and continue to support the Chief Executive and her team in actively looking for further funding.

Risks have continued to be reviewed regularly throughout the year as the trustees were aware of the necessity of keeping tight control on funding. At the same time the Chief Executive has been tireless in seeking imaginative new avenues of opportunity and energy has been expended in establishing networking links across the country with an eye to future potential developments.

The Big Lottery Reaching Communities funded project has been an exciting grass roots success, embraced with enthusiasm by the young people involved and guided with sure commitment by its staff. We are seeking to expand and extend this work in the coming year. Our website and leaflets have been welcomed and the Trust is exploring with young people further use of social media to convey our work.

The founder of the Trust finally retired this year after 17 years of service. The trustees arranged a dinner in her honour and in recognition of the inspiration and imagination in founding a service to which the county is indebted.

The trustees are grateful to all the staff and counsellors for the excellent services they continue to provide and in particular for the high level of commitment, vision and energy from the Chief Executive.