

Chair's report

Once again I am taking the opportunity of the annual report to acknowledge, on behalf of all the members of the board of 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, under the guidance and tireless enthusiasm of the Chief Executive, to maintain the successful day to day running of the Trust and at the same time, with her forward planning and vision, bring about necessary revisions and improvements to Trust processes to ensure effective management, the provision of quality services for clients and best value for the money invested.

Analysis and reporting of trust data is constantly under review and provides a wealth of information about both needs and outcomes. Our client feedback demonstrates high levels of appreciation of the services received and the impact statements provide evidence of the effectiveness of both the interventions delivered and the change experienced. Regular and robust analysis of data is used to inform commissioners and funders and enables the trust to maintain the accuracy and timeliness of its information.

All staff working with young people have received further safeguarding training and the trust continues to monitor work closely to ensure the effective safeguarding of all those who receive a service from us.

Participation in the national CYP-IAPT programme has provided us with a valuable opportunity to take a major role in the transformation of children and young people's mental health services locally. We have fully participated in the collaboration with Exeter University and in our partnership with Herefordshire 2gether Trust CAMHS, the Local Authority and Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The work is ongoing to make the transformation a reality for our clients.

Our involvement with the national roll out of Children and Young People's Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies (CYP-IAPT) programme this year has provided us with specific funding arrangements in the employment of staff jointly funded by the Hereford CYP-IAPT partnership of 2gether Trust CAMHS with the CLD Trust. The additional costs are reflected in the increases shown in the summary accounts.

As a registered charity the Trust is fully accountable in the same way as any public service but considerably less securely financed so we were most gratified to receive

the very positive outcomes following the West Midlands quality review inspection which was undertaken in December 2014.

Against a backdrop of continuing austerity in public services budgets and an increasing demand for young people's services, the trust has once again had to make some difficult decisions this year. The demand for services remained consistently high with referrals from GP's and health professionals significantly exceeding contract income. This year once again therefore an emergency prioritisation system was implemented and, during this process, the trust was unable to adhere to our rapid response policy in all cases until such time as allocations could be funded. However, the additional counselling rooms acquired last year have been used to the full when we resumed the service to these young people and we have continued to extend the day to provide evening facilities.

We are most grateful for the continued investment in young people's and adult's services from the Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Herefordshire Local Authority including Public Health. This work is an essential investment in the healthy future of Herefordshire and wider horizons, with amazing value for money for those commissioning and funding. The Trust maintains a strong and robust relationship with the CCG, the Local Authority, and in schools and colleges, where we continue to hold highly valued clinics for students. The quality of experience that we are able to offer clients is important to us and is why we recruit only highly trained and experienced counsellors who receive regular case management and supervision from our managers and this is recognised by our partners and our continued accreditation by the BACP.

We continue to fully 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 continues to be expended in establishing networking links across the country with an eye to future potential partnership developments.

The Big Lottery Reaching Communities funded project, an exciting grass roots success which finished this year, has been hugely successful. It has been a wonderful example of the willingness of young people to engage with issues of mental health, share and talk openly and the participation work has been quite inspirational. The success of this project provided the experience to enable an application for a new Big Lottery bid and

we are delighted that this was successful, due in no small part to the energy, imagination and enthusiasm of the Chief Executive and her staff.

We continue to actively seek further investment for our core activities as the demand continues to grow for the service we offer. Providing exceptionally good value for money, we are an excellent investment for anyone concerned with the future well-being and successful development of the county.

We are most grateful for the continued support of Herefordshire CCG, Herefordshire Local Authority, local schools and colleges, and also The Jordan Trust. We would also like to thank The Big Lottery, Baron Davenport and local Rotary for their support together with Hereford's ASDA and Waitrose stores who chose us for their Christmas appeal.