

## ST GEORGE'S CENTRE – ANNUAL REPORT 2019

### **Welcome**

Well here we are again with our 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM and I'm pleased to say that this is the fifteenth time that I have addressed you as your Chairman – where does the time go – it was 2005 when I first took the reigns of your Executive Committee and here we are approaching 2020 and still going strong. In fact we are doing better than “still going” – we are absolutely thriving, as this report will hopefully show.

### **Executive Committee**

As I have said this is my fifteenth report to the AGM as your Chairman and I feel privileged and honoured to be able to continue to lead your Executive Committee, which continues to work hard in the background to try to ensure that the Centre continues to run smoothly. That this is achieved year on year is due in no small measure to the fantastic and dedicated hard work of the wonderful staff that we have here.

Very sadly this year we have lost Cllr. Barbara Ronson from our Committee following her unexpected death in October last year just after our AGM. Barbara was a very dedicated member of our Committee and indeed she was a dedicated public servant generally being very active within local politics and the wider Bolton community. She was Mayor of Bolton in 2007/2008 and it was following her attendance at our AGM in that year that she expressed an interest in joining our Committee. Her dedication and support for our Members will be sorely missed but I want to put on record on behalf of the Committee and the Members my gratitude for all of her hard work and our sadness that she has left us.

I am pleased to be able to welcome Tony Cottam to our Committee. Tony is from Bolton-at-Home and his knowledge and connections within the local scene are very welcome and I believe that he will be a valuable member of our committee looking forward.

There is always opportunities for any service-user to become a member of the Executive Committee. Service-user members are an essential element of the Committee and we need them to continue to make an invaluable contribution to the running of the Centre. I am really grateful for everyone's hard work. We have a Members Meeting in the morning before the Executive Committee meeting in the afternoon and this system continues to work well.

### **Bolton CCG**

We continue to be commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG) and through Paula's hard work together with Steve Bunker, our Treasurer, we have a healthy continuing dialogue with them. We continue to fight to ensure the Centre's core funding provision and to argue that we remain very cost efficient and provide a comprehensive quality service that is value for money for any commissioning body. This has thus far been recognised and we are confident that this will continue to be the case.

### **Staffing**

One of the strengths of the Centre is the stability of our staff. As you all know Paula remains as your Manager, with Philomena, Jean and Pam as your Support Workers.

Every year I say the same things about our wonderful staff and that is because each year it needs shouting out in public what a stunning and dedicated bunch they are. The place would not be the same without them. All of our staff, without exception, continue to provide an excellent service tailored to the individual and sometimes diverse needs of all members of the centre. We have links with both Manchester and Salford Universities who both continue to supply us with a steady stream of student social workers. We are always very grateful for the contribution they make to the Centre and the support that they give to our members

This is the fifteenth consecutive year that I have told you that ALL OF OUR STAFF ARE ABSOLUTE HEROES! and I would like as always to take this opportunity on behalf of the Executive Committee to publicly thank them for everything that they have achieved and done this year to keep the Centre moving forward.

I must not forget to mention our dedicated band of Volunteers and helpers from the Church and those members who have felt able to put something back into the Centre by becoming Volunteers themselves. I would also like to thank our Tutors and indeed anybody else that contributes in some way to the continued success of the Centre.

### **Referrals**

This year we have had 44 referrals from a variety of sources as follows:

Social Worker	15
CPN	12
GP	9
Bolton Assessment Team	5
Intensive Support Team	3

The referrals are spread around the Borough:

BL1	14
BL2	12
BL3	9
BL4	4
BL5	4
BL7	1

63% of referrals were Male and 37% Female

### **Activities**

Well, as always loads of things going on here at St George's. Here is just a taste of the sort of events and things going on since our last AGM:

Craft Group

Woodwork

C.P.N Surgery

Self Care and Well-Being group

Weight Management

Wii Fit exercise

Aerobics  
Tai Chi  
Cookery Class  
Walk and Talk Group

Other daily activities include

Knit and Natter  
Computers  
Card making  
Jigsaws  
Colouring therapy  
Quizzes  
Darts  
Pool.

Various outside Agency courses have been delivered in St Georges including:

Skills for Life  
Coping Strategies  
Living life to the full  
Dramatherapy  
Confidence Building  
I don't like Mondays.

Our Staff have worked with various Agencies to benefit our members:

Breakdown Bolton  
Community Mental Health Team  
Health, Care & Well-being Forum  
Bolton Council  
Healthwatch  
Bolton at Home  
Single Point of Access  
1 Point NW

Our staff continue to help all of our Members both inside and outside the centre and give advice with regard to all sorts of issues including healthcare and financial worries relating to the benefits system. We are a caring organisation and we strive to play our part supporting our Members cope with the pressures of daily life.

This year our Staff have continued to provide over 1300 contact hours per week with our members who enjoy breakfast, a healthy hot lunch every day and 5 a day fruit pots.

We encourage all of our Members to get involved with everything that is on offer at the Centre and I want to especially thank those members who have been particularly supportive to other members and have welcomed and supported new members to the Centre.

I need also to mention our great team of member volunteers who are a great asset to the Centre and to our staff. Without them the Centre would not function as smoothly as it does,

Finally, I also need to mention our Day Trips which have included Blackpool and the illuminations, Llandudno, Southport, Haigh Hall, a walk around Queens Park, Ten-pin bowling and the Cinema. These trips help to engender a feeling of family and togetherness and I am sure that they are looked forward to by our members – they certainly remain very popular!

### ***Counselling:***

Monday Counselling still provides a valuable service to the general public of Bolton. This invaluable service continues to be very busy but is well organised and co-ordinated by Philomena, and undoubtedly meeting a need within the town – it is not specific to “mental health” – it is a free service to the general public of Bolton and the surrounding area. The service is delivered by our expanding team of Volunteer Counsellors and there have been 1240 sessions of counselling this year. I want to thank all those who give of their time in this way for the benefit of others. We remain part of the Counselling Alliance in Bolton, “One-Point” which aims to provide efficient access to counselling for the general public and our income from this source remains important to us.

### ***Bereavements.***

Very sadly, as there seems to be every year, there is a long list of bereavements to note:

- Pauline Brown
- Harold Hunter
- Barry Preston
- Joyce Hurst
- Ruth Wilson
- Michael Heaton
- Carol Park
- Cllr. Barbara Ronson (Committee Member)
- Joan Beale (former Manager of the Centre)
- Tony Berry (a long standing Volunteer and supporter)

We remember them all – they will be sadly missed but not forgotten.

### ***Conclusion***

This is our 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM today. As I said at the beginning this is the fifteenth time that I have addressed you as Chairman at an AGM and I continue to believe that the future of St George’s Centre is secure and very bright. Your Executive Committee will continue to work with the Commissioning body of our service to ensure that the Centre adapts to the changing demands to meet the needs of the Members. With your continued support we will continue to flourish and develop in order to help the people in Bolton and surrounding areas that need us.

Thank you.

Jeremy Barker – Chairman



<b>Income</b>	<b>Mar-19</b>	<b>Mar-18</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Mar-19</b>	<b>Mar-18</b>
Funding	114,218.24	114,218.24	Cash4chq facility	-	-
Donations	3,660.68	1,885.35	Cleaning	215.27	208.42
Interest	195.09	38.28	Equipment	592.94	373.95
Food	20,683.66	20,821.92	Food	8,307.49	8,541.60
Student Placement	-	-	Insurance	3,270.60	3,269.10
Sundries	320.28	763.90	Health & Wellbeing	4,340.25	-
Social Fund	-	-	Papers	-	-
Calendars/Holiday Fund	-	1,631.00	Refurbishment	2,664.00	336.00
Counselling	23,413.73	17,906.31	Rent	36,188.00	36,188.00
CVS/Health & Wellbeing funding	-	9,736.00	Social Fund	11.99	98.07
			Stationery	189.71	220.06
			Sundry	1,113.66	5,741.57
			Telephone	1,671.16	1,728.12
			Therapeutic Earnings	-	-
			Training	53.20	362.00
			Travel	20.00	9.00
			Tutor Fees	1,580.00	1,100.00
			Volunteers Expenses	3,326.10	3,211.90
			Wages/Payroll	102,933.19	105,368.41
			Consultancy Fees	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>162,491.68</b>	<b>167,001.00</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>166,477.56</b>	<b>166,756.20</b>
Opening Balances	158,366.21	158,121.41			
Net Income	- 3,985.88	244.80			
Total Balances	154,380.33	158,366.21			

**Steve Bunker**  
 Hon.Treasurer

**Jenni Byrne**  
 Hon.Auditor



## **Financial Year Ended 31 March 2019**

I have pleasure in reporting the Centre's results for the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

A detailed analysis of the Profit & Loss statement is attached which needs little further comment.

Following a steady in our reserves last year, we have, unfortunately, produced a loss this year. In the scheme of things, at £4k this is manageable but continues to show that we are working on the margins with little room for error. Indeed, we need to find ways of increasing Income to support our attempts to recruit additional people otherwise we will have to make a judgement call as to whether to use Reserves to this end or simply postpone the search. Despite requests to the CCG for extra financial support, our funding remains unchanged. I suppose we should be grateful that there haven't been cuts. With regards to our costs, as usual, they remain under excellent control and this is thanks to everybody at the Centre.

The overall position finance-wise is still very stable but we have little room for error. Your management team is actively looking for extra funding so that we can afford to employ more staff to support Paula & Phil.

The CCG continue to hold quarterly meetings to ensure that their money is being well spent and their reports in this regard are very favourable.

In summary, 2018/19 was another reasonably steady year for the Centre financially as we more or less managed to retain our level of reserves.

Hon. Treasurer, Steve Bunker

May 2019

Charity No 1124588

Ltd Company No 05887560