



Happy New Year to all people supported, staff, family and friends.

2024 was certainly an eventful year, with lots of positive achievements and reasons to celebrate, but also some challenging times. It is absolutely fabulous though to be able to see the resilience of individuals and groups of people, as they overcome the difficult times and are able to refocus upon the positive aspects of everything we do within the organisation.

The annual Christmas party at Cedar Court sums this up – despite the challenges that many people face on a daily basis, it is amazing to see so many people present in one room having such a fabulous time together. There is nowhere else that I know of that brings together such a diverse group of people enjoying themselves as much as we do under one roof.

I am sure that 2025 will again throw up some challenges for us but I remain confident that we will continue to support each other through those times and have lots more to celebrate throughout the year. Wishing everyone all the very best for the year ahead!

Russell Leese

PLEASE NOTE: Consent has been given for all news items, names and photographs used in this edition of Horizon News

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Just in case If you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter and would like to find out more please visit our Twitter page or You Tube channel so you can see what is happening in all of the homes. Both can be accessed through our website www.horizoncareservices.co.uk We are now on Facebook under Horizon Care Services

Learning and Development

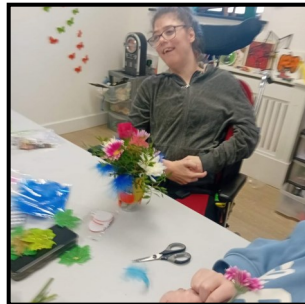
Another new year and another busy one ahead as always, but we never take our eye off the ball when it comes to training our staff! We have planned in enough face to face training over the next 12 months to ensure that we are not only giving our new staff an opportunity to learn and develop, but that our existing staff are able to retain and refresh their knowledge and skills in the relevant areas too. We have also introduced some further complimentary sessions which will be delivered in house to really reinforce confidence in our teams across Horizon; thus ensuring that our delivery of care and support is nothing short of exceptional.

The development of staff to take on management roles in the future remains a key priority. We undoubtedly have some wonderfully committed and motivated staff across all of our services and Horizons ongoing commitment to talent management enables them to aim high and reach their potential. Many of our staff have volunteered to be champions for their services in a multitude of different subject areas, whilst others have enrolled onto our leadership development programme. We take great pride in seeing our staff engaged with their own development and the continuous improvement of their service, and we look forward to seeing their growth over the months and years ahead.

But none of this would be possible without Horizon's commitment to staff wellbeing, as after all, unhappy staff who don't feel valued or respected, will not fully engage with their roles, responsibilities or development. We have numerous avenues of wellbeing support available for our staff, one of which is our free and confidential Employee Assistance Programme 'Health Assured'. Not only are we continuing to provide this service for all of our employees, but in light of continuing rising bills and the cost of living crisis - along with other external pressures - we have now subscribed to a more comprehensive package. This provides further opportunities for our staff to access support in a number of different areas, including but not limited to; debt management support with access to financial advisors, increased counselling services and life / leadership coaching. The new package also includes a free app called Wisdom which is a great tool for supporting change and helping individuals make health and lifestyle improvements. We are really excited to offer these new benefits and are confident that these will be incredibly useful for anyone who chooses to access these (which we encourage everyone to do)! **Kath Howitt, Learning and Development Manager**

News from around the homes

Once again all the People Supported and staff from each home have been busy since the previous newsletter. Everyone seems to have had fun participating in different games, singing and dancing, exercise classes, craft activities, messy play and watching sport and films on the television. The People Supported have enjoyed attending the **Day Service** where they have participated in baking goodies, creating items to be displayed for Halloween and decorating vases to take home with flowers in them.



They also love mixing with new and old friends from the different services and look forward to attending each week.

Beckside Lodge have celebrated some birthdays recently with Ben, Naomi and Kathryn in October and Olga in November.

Naomi and Kathryn both went on day trips to London, Naomi to see "Wicked" and Kathryn to see "Abba", Kathryn has also visited York Railway Museum, and went to "Toadfish on the Road" (from the television series Neighbours). Mark had a thoroughly enjoyable experience going on holiday to Centre Parcs in Sherwood Forest and a group of staff and People Supported visited the Emmerdale set and had lunch in the famous Woolpack pub. The team also wore purple for the day in recognition of Rett Syndrome.

Cranmer Court have been busy with visits to Leeds to see the Christmas decorations, to a local stable and out to the pub for a meal; some PWS have enjoyed being pampered, celebrating Colin's 60th birthday, attending Woodwork sessions, making homemade pizza, music therapy sessions where they

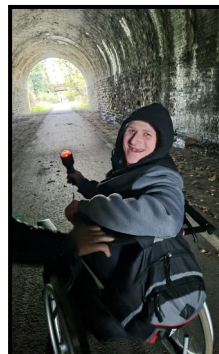
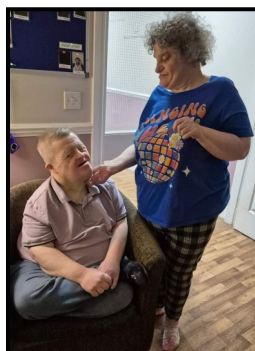


played the keyboard independently and looking after their pet fish.

Ferndale Lodge have been on lots of day trips, visiting Manchester Airport to watch the planes take off and land, walking around Golden Acre Park, Greenhead Park and along the Greenway from Heckmondwike to Low Moor and back again with a stop for lunch. Robbie and Tracey have been developing a lovely friendship as well as Tracey going on holiday to Wales where she was able to spend some time with her family. The



team organized a Halloween party and dressed in purple for Rett Syndrome awareness day. One big achievement for the team at Ferndale Lodge was to complete one of Annette's Hope and Dreams taking her on holiday to Benidorm where she had an amazing time.



At **Fixby Lodge** the team have been busy with the People Supported taking them to watch local football matches, visiting the indoor Crazy Golf centre, going to the Christmas Market in the Piece Hall Halifax and sharing a barge trip with People Supported from Langley Lodge. The team also took Andy on his first holiday where he loved walking in the countryside and visiting pubs for meals. Dominic and Chloe also went on holiday together for the first time, spending time at a But-lins Big Weekender where they had a ball. Chloe also organized, with the help of one of the Team Leaders ,Lorna, a coffee afternoon to raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness raising over £400 and the home organized and hosted a Halloween party for all services to attend. The PWS had fun in the early snow, making snowmen and staff making snow angels.



Hampton House have kept busy by going for walks along the canal, shopping, out for lunch, have music and singing sessions, Zumba and celebrating Charles's birthday. Zoolab paid a visit to the home where the People Supported enjoyed interacting with lots of different small creatures and Pam went to Huddersfield Town Hall to an Elvis tribute act which realized one of her Hopes and Dreams. The team also created a Christmas

Grotto in the sensory room at the PWS request and PWS went shopping for their Christmas gifts.

The People Supported have been active at **Langley Lodge** with several of them going on different shopping trips to various places including Meadowhall shopping centre. Kelly went on a family holiday to the Peak District which she loved. Elizabeth was supported to realize one of her Hopes and Dreams by a day out at Chester Zoe, Ruth spent the day at



Ponderosa Rare Breeds Farm and the team organized for all of the People Supported to go tenpin bowling which Kelly won. Other activities have included painting

rocks to commemorate Remembrance Day and Perminda celebrating Diwali. They also visited Tropical World in Leeds , the cinema and celebrated Kelly's birthday and enjoyed the snow from inside with mugs of hot chocolate.



Some of the services including **Roxburgh Lodge** have visited Blackpool to see the illuminations, enjoy the arcades and of course to have some fish and chips. They have also visited Tong Garden centre where they enjoyed looking around the Christmas displays. Paul has been shopping and out for lunch as well as attending a session in the Sensory Room in the Broadway, Bradford, and Wayne visited the White Rose Centre where he purchased a Build a Bear Fireman. At home Darren has enjoyed baking, Zaid made a personal achievement by going for a hair cut and everyone enjoyed the Halloween Party.



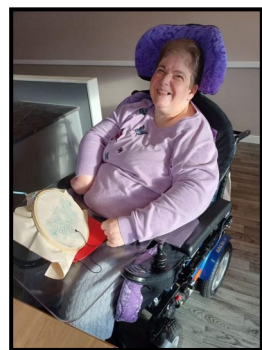
Sandhurst Court had fantastic time when staff and the People Supported went to a party night at the Accapulco Night Club. Jason and Reece have both realized some of their Hope and Dreams; Jason was taken on a helicopter ride from Blackpool Airport and is attending a Cook, Chop and Chatter college course where as Reece went to Flamingo Land for his birthday and loved going on the rides, the higher and faster they were the more pleasure he had! They have been out for walks, fed the ducks in the

Autumn sunshine and Jason and Julie attended a Roy Orbison Tribute concert.

Windsor Court, like other services they have visited Blackpool Illuminations where they enjoyed doughnuts for a trip out and also been to see the Christmas decorations and displays at Tong Garden Centre.

Jeffery celebrated his birthday with gifts and a party tea and our latest resident Elaine has settled in well enjoying activities including cross-stitch. The team

have organized a cinema evening at home with popcorn and hot chocolate ; they enjoyed dressing up, playing games and karaoke for Halloween and eating pies which David and Christopher purchased from the farm shop for Bonfire Night.



All services joined in the Halloween Pumpkin and Scarecrow competition, with People Supported having a great time carving and decorating the pumpkins and making the scarecrows. All the entries were fantastic and showed that a lot of thought, time and effort had been put into creating them by all the staff and People Supported. Becksde Lodge and Sandhurst Court were joint winners of the Scarecrow

competition and Langley Lodge and

Windsor Court joint winners of the Pumpkin Competition





Horizon's Christmas Party

The annual Horizon Christmas party was held at Cedar Court Hotel Bradford on Saturday 14th December with People Supported, staff, family, friends Mr and Mrs Gingerbread and Father Christmas attending. All homes, except for Roxburgh Lodge who were unfortunately in outbreak, enjoyed the entertainment, singing and dancing, visiting Father Christmas where everyone received a gift and the buffet which the hotel supplied. The afternoon was a great success and as Kathryn from Becksde Lodge said at the end "already looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2025 Christmas Party". People commented that "Horizon parties are the best", "an amazing time was had by all", and "it was lovely to see families together celebrating and having fun".

Russell thanked everyone, family, friends and guests for attending and he thanked all the staff for their continued hard work throughout the year, he took the opportunity to congratulate Brigita Bullock from Hampton House on winning the Kirklees Carer of the Year award and also made a special mention for Patsy Tebbs who is celebrating her 15 years with Horizon in 2025. Russell also presented the Employee of the Year awards.

We can see from the photographs below how much people enjoyed themselves, the People Supported at Roxburgh Lodge held their own party and had fun at home.



Other Christmas activities have included decorating the homes, an inter-home Christmas Bauble competition, meals out, parties at home which have included fake snowball fights and party food, visits from a Therapy Pony with Santa, Christmas singalongs with Nordoff Robbins music therapists and generally having a good time during the festive period with family and friends. I think it is fair to say that all the People Supported and Staff at Horizon know how to have a good Christmas.



Staff News On Thursday 7th November three of Horizon's staff members, along with their managers attended the Kirklees Care Awards event. Michelle Roberts, Team Leader at Fixby Lodge had been nominated for the Senior Carer of the Year Award; Brigita Bullock, from Hampton House and Aliyah Hussein from Sandhurst Court had both been nominated for the Care Worker of the Year Award. They had a fabulous night, enjoying the celebrations, they even met Rosie Jones, comedian, who was staying at the hotel. Huge congratulations to all three nominees, who were in the final three for their groups but especially to Brigita who was announced as Care Worker of the Year, Kirklees.



Horizon Employee of the Year

At the annual Christmas party the nominees for the Employee of the Year were presented with gift tokens to recognize this achievement and as a thank you for their hard work and



commitment. The overall winner, selected by the management team, was Phillip Cochran from Becksidge Lodge; he was really chuffed with winning.

This year's nominees were:- **Becksidge Lodge** – Phillip Cochran - always goes the extra mile, uses his own initiative, is Sustainability Champion putting posts on Facebook to get rid of our good cardboard boxes, he will always come in to take the PWS out for activities such as youth club, he picks up litter in the street in his spare time, brings in sweets and fruits for everyone, his face when he gets a certificate is the best thing ever so he loves to keep his training fully updated. KW says he's kind hearted, lovely and makes her laugh as he is very funny. **Cranmer Court** – Leslie Ayree – new to the country and the care sector. His morals and values match those of Horizon, he has a very positive impact on the staff team, he is humble, keen to learn and has very good relationships with the PWS, an asset to Cranmer. **Ferndale Lodge** - Ngozi Amayo – started as Casual now a full time Support Worker, goes above and beyond, very good relationships with staff and PWS and has the capability to move on. **Fixby Lodge** – Lauren Henderson – very supportive, well liked creative, goes above and beyond improves moral of staff, always happy and willing to do more, makes a big difference to the service. **Hampton House** – Tasha Tebbs – she was new to care, is hardworking, kind and caring very supportive of the management team and all PWS, now has a Champion Role. Langley Lodge - **Rhanda Benjamin** – a member of the night staff, went through a very difficult personal time at the beginning of the year due to health issues but was keen to get back to work when well enough. Adapted well to using Nourish, consistent, reliable, thorough has a very good work ethic. **Roxburgh Lodge** – Kirsty Scaife – she is the heart of the team and loved by all staff and PWS. She is a very good advocate for all PWS especially if they are not getting what is required. Hardworking and always looking for ways to improve. **Sandhurst Court** – Stacey Smedley – moved from Adult care to Learning Disability care and has adapted extremely well. Always bubbly, happy goes over and above, volunteers for extra activities, generally well liked and overall amazing. **Windsor Court** - Georgina McGeehan – started as a Support Worker and moved to Team Leader. Has grown in confidence and ability. Keen to learn, goes above and beyond very thoughtful, volunteers to do things, bubbly personality and has a strong work ethic.