

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Welcome to Our Summer Newsletter

As we move through the summer months, I hope everyone is enjoying the recent spell of warm weather. The sunshine has provided some wonderful opportunities for the people we support to get outdoors, enjoy activities in the fresh air, spend time in our gardens, and make the most of the longer days. It has been fantastic to see so many smiles and shared experiences across our homes and day service.



One of the highlights of recent weeks was our annual Sports Day, which proved to be another tremendous success. The people we support, alongside staff teams from across the organisation, enjoyed a fun-filled day of activities, friendly competition, laughter and celebration. It was wonderful to see everyone coming together and having such a great time. You can read more about the event and see some fantastic photographs later in this newsletter.

I am also delighted to share the news that we have finally secured planning permission for our tenth care home in Dewsbury. This is a significant milestone for the organisation and an exciting step forward in expanding our ability to provide high-quality care and support. Contracts are now being drawn up and we expect building work to commence shortly, with completion anticipated in around 12 months.

Finally, as always, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to every member of our team. The hard work, dedication and commitment makes a real difference to the lives of the people we support each and every day.

Thank you to all who contribute, and I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

Russell Leese

Training & Development Update - Over the past few months, we've continued to make fantastic progress across our training provision, with strong engagement and rising completion rates in core areas. Our teams have continued to show real commitment to learning, with an almost consistent 95% average compliance in core training across the company. It's a brilliant reflection of the focus and dedication that our staff bring to their roles every day.

Behind the scenes, we've been exploring new features within our Learning Management System (LMS), particularly around digital assessments. Moving these processes into the LMS will allow us to go fully paperless, streamline record keeping and make training even more accessible. It's a step forward that will give staff a smoother, more modern learning experience, as well as supporting quality, efficiency and environmental sustainability.

Finally and alongside this, we've been preparing for the introduction of the new Care Workforce Pathways; something which has been in the pipeline for a while now. We are including the expected behaviours, knowledge and skills aligned with national expectations and best practice to form part of our refreshed induction process. This will help ensure new starters have a clearer, more structured development journey from the day they join us at Horizon. By embedding this from day one, we're giving new members of staff a clearer, more supportive start - something that ultimately benefits not just them, but also the people we support and their families.

Kath Howitt, Learning and Development Manager

This edition of the newsletter has news from Russell Leese, Training and Development, as above, what has been happening across all the services, and a report on our Summer Sports Day..



NEWS FROM THE HOMES

Since the last newsletter **Beckside Lodge** have had a change in the Management team; Clare Terry stepped up to the Registered Manager's role from the Deputy Manager and Ashleigh Moor, previously a Team Leader at Roxburgh Lodge was successful in her application and interview to be appointed as Deputy Manager.

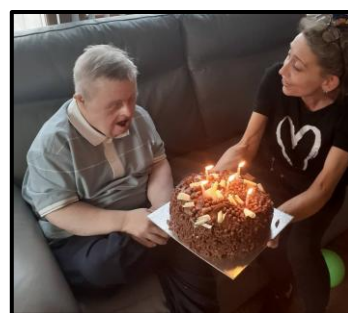
At Easter the team arranged an afternoon tea for the People Supported and their family and friends. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The team also arranged and supported both Mark and Kathryn to go on separate holidays. Mark had a great time at Centre Parcs and Kathryn enjoyed herself at a Butlins 80's weekend where she was in her element dressing up, singing and dancing.



In May the team and People Supported at **Cranmer Court** helped Akvile celebrate her birthday by dressing up as Super Heros, having party food and fun activities, there was lots of laughter and special moments shared with everyone. Some People Supported have enjoyed themselves going ice- skating, shopping and having lunch out. At home they all enjoyed an Easter Pyjama Party with music, Easter treats, small gifts and completing Easter activities, the People Supported loved their special pyjamas, one person has kept choosing to wear his as he likes them that much. The team also made sure that they took advantage of the good weather we have had by having buffet lunches in the garden and doing the "G Fit" exercise classes outside instead of in the lounge.



Everyone at **Ferndale Lodge** has been very busy, doing activities both at home and out and about. At home they have celebrated St Patrick's Day, held a cocktail making session, celebrated over the Easter weekend with music and dancing, Easter arts and crafts, completed an Easter Egg hunt and a game of "Don't steal my eggs". Other activities have included Sunday quizzes, indoor bowls, a coffee afternoon in the garden enjoying the summer weather and making Robbie feel special on his birthday by organizing a party, where old friends visited, and a lovely chocolate cake. Outside adventures have included trips to The Deep, Tarnfield Park in Yeadon, a day trip on a barge, Wet Wheels in Whitby, visiting Blackpool via tram from Fleetwood, walks around a very windy Castle Hill, a day out at the Great Yorkshire Show and a disco in Brighouse. Adele and Tracey also enjoyed a holiday at Longleat Centre Parcs where they visited the Safari Park, went on a train and boat trip and enjoyed swimming. The team also supported the fundraising initiative, in aid of Focus4Hope, by completing a Sponsored walk from Ferndale Lodge to Greenhead Park whilst wearing Fancy Dress which they all thoroughly enjoyed doing.



Fixby Lodge celebrated Down's Syndrome Day with staff and People Supported wearing odd socks for the day, they also celebrated World Chocolate day with games, singing and of course chocolate. Activities outside the home have included trips to the airport to watch the planes, train rides to York, walks in the woods enjoying the nice weather, attending Pride events, going on barge trips and visiting Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Anthony was treated to drinks at a local pub by Russ and Michael which he has asked to do again. The team also completed a 6 mile sponsored walk in fancy dress for our nominated charity. The home have enjoyed watching the World Cup Football tournament together, Registered Manager Mandi won the Management Team Sweepstake with Spain beating Argentina in the final.



Hampton House also has a new Registered Manager, Helen Cundy, who is settling into the role very well; it was her first time attending our Summer Sports day and she admitted that she did not know what to expect but thoroughly enjoyed herself and is already looking forward to next years event, especially the Management Team Inflatable race. Rachel went out tenpin bowling with Jason from Sandhurst Court, she won the game and they treated themselves afterwards to fries and a coke. Some of the team and People Supported attended the Learning Disability week event at Greenhead Park in Huddersfield and were pleased to see friends from both Fixby and Langley Lodge there. Two of the staff team, Lyndsey and Georgina, completed a sponsored walk like some of the other services to support Horizon's fundraising efforts, Lyndsey already has ideas for next year.



Life at **Langley Lodge** always seems busy with everyone involved in a lot of activities. As we have had some good weather over the recent weeks the team have been out enjoying it; they have visited Ponderosa Rare Breeds Farm, Bingley Penny Arcade, Eureka where they enjoyed the interactive displays, The Media Museum, followed by a stroll around Lister Park, train trips to Leeds and walks in Greenhead Park. They had a day trip to Blackpool to enjoy the sunshine, ice-cream and fish and chips. Locally they have been shopping, for haircuts, on local bus rides, to the cinema to watch Super Mario Galaxy, ten pin bowling, shopping and out for lunch. Some People Supported attended a disco where lots of music and dancing were enjoyed. At home people supported have enjoyed gardening, doing craft activities including: making cards for Crafty Starz, indoor bowling, music therapy and creating an Easter display. Ruth was able to fulfil one of her Hopes and Dreams by visiting Beamish Outdoor Museum where she was able to experience the old shops, ride on a 1933 bus and enjoy lunch and an ice-cream; Diane went along for the day out and to keep Ruth company. The team helped Ian celebrate his birthday by taking him to "The Light" in Huddersfield for lunch and giving him presents.



Like the other Horizon Healthcare homes **Roxburgh Lodge** have completed lots of different activities. These have included visiting the park and feeding the ducks, going for drives and walks, having fun at Ten pin bowling, playing pool, having lunch in a local pub, shopping, cinema trips, going to Billy Bob's Parlour, Darley Street Market, the National Science museum and a day trip to Whitby where they purchased souvenirs and enjoyed fish and chips. At home everyone celebrated Eid with Fozia and Zaid by decorating the service and cooking traditional food. Catherine was taken out for a pamper day and Ben thoroughly enjoyed a family holiday.



Ashley at **Sandhurst Court** had a amazing immersive experience at Bubble Planet Manchester where he was taken for his birthday. He was accompanied by Reece and they both explored all the different sensory areas; their delight was shown by lots of smiles and laughter. Julie, Lauren and Helen enjoyed a girls trip out to celebrate Pride where lots of fun was had by all. Julie and Lauren also had a great time singing, dancing, laughing and "booging the night away" at Kerry Katona's Super Trooper show.

The People Supported at **Windsor Court** have spent time together at home enjoying different activities. These have included: gardening, baking cupcakes and cookies, painting plants pots to be displayed outside the home, having a race day, celebrating Easter with displays, crafts and bonnets, and enjoying each others company in the garden with ice-creams in the sunshine. Both Robert and Elaine have celebrated their birthdays since the previous newsletter and the team made them both feel very special with parties, gifts, cards and cake; Elaine even enjoyed a cheeky Tai-Maria and Coke! Outside activities have included trips to Yeadon Park to watch the planes and feed the ducks, a day trip to Blackpool to spend time on the prom and beach, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, The Deep where the jelly fish were favourites and Wet Wheels in Whitby, although Jeffery decided to stay on dry land to enjoy a cream tea.



GENERAL NEWS

What a wonderful afternoon we had at Horizon's Summer Sports Day!

For the fourth year running Horizon Healthcare Homes Ltd held a Summer Sports day for all the People Supported and staff from all the services to participate in. The event was held at Northfield Hall in Huddersfield on Friday 3rd July with old school sports day events, including, egg and spoon races , 3-legged races, bean bag throw, and up and over with a ball. Individual medals were awarded for First, Second and Third place and team points allocated so that there was an overall winner and runner up. On this occasion Cranmer Court were the winners and Hampton House the runners up. Staff teams also participated in a Tug of War contest with the Sandhurst Court team overall winners. To end the races the senior team dressed up in inflatable outfits to do a running race which they admitted was so much fun. During the afternoon various games were also available, hook a duck, tin can alley and skittles with prizes just for having a go. We also had an ice cream van on site and White Watch from Huddersfield Fire Station came to show their support. All in all the event went brilliantly, "fun from start to finish, an excellent day".

Prior to the event each service organised and held a fundraising activity, sponsored walks (as mentioned above) were completed, coffee afternoons, name the teddy and elephant, tombola, stalls selling different items, a World Cup Sweepstake and guess the money total in the jar. This year the Management Team decided to pledge the funds raised to Focus4Hope, a local charity based in Brighouse supporting the homeless, vulnerable and elderly. Two representatives from the charity came to the event and were amazed and delighted to be presented with an outstanding total amount of just over £3000.

Roger thanked everyone for this amazing event and for enabling the PWS to enjoy the afternoon of fun and activities. Roger commented: " it really was outstanding". He also said that "the money raised for Focus4Hope was truly incredible and makes Horizon Healthcare Homes very special in raising money for others in need within the community – the efforts of everyone involved is really appreciated"



We hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of our newsletter, if you 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 You can also find us on Facebook.

