



**For better
mental health**

Richmond Borough Mind
Richmond Community Healthcare Hamlet
Kew Foot Road
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18th December 2009

To Richmond Borough Mind Members

Dear Participant

I am writing to thank you very much for attending our second meeting to discuss the services changes which Richmond Borough Mind is currently in the process of instituting. A number of Trustees were at the meeting and have asked me to write to you on their behalf.

Trustees have asked me to convey their appreciation for the ideas and enthusiasm that people brought to this meeting. The opportunity for them to hear how you are experiencing the changes, particularly at Ham and Centre 32, was important, and Trustees were impressed with your initiative in proposing ways forward which involved participants taking more responsibility for devising and running sessions and activities. Trustees really hope that a partnership way forward can be found for the future of our mental health services in Twickenham, and what follows focuses on decisions that affect RB Mind's current day services from 'Centre 32'.

After the meeting with you, Trustees went into their formal committee meeting and considered the services offered from Centre 32 in Twickenham as well as the future use of the building. They considered a full report on the building which set out three options, with one option being recommended by the Director. The Trustees decided to adopt the recommended option which they feel offers a basis for moving forward in partnership.



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The Committee decided:

The Centre 32 building will not be let or sold in the short term. Any decision on this has been postponed until RB Mind's financial situation is clearer. The Committee are keen that the building be used even though the staffed 'drop-in' service as currently constituted will end as planned on 22nd February 2010. This enables us to conclude all the human resources processes that are underway with staff.

- The staff team will continue to focus – with the input and energy of anyone who wishes to offer it – on setting up the new services 'Peer Led safe sessions' and the new 'One to one sessions'. To allow staff the time to set up these activities up there will be some reduction in opening hours of the current service at Centre 32 between now and the staffed service ending.
- A number of the activities associated with the new services will take place at Centre 32. This means we can continue to use the building but will not incur the cost of the old fully staffed service and will be working in more modern ways which encourage the contributions of as many participants as possible.
- Sarah Bristow Bailey and I will work with the user led group 'Taking Control' and other participants associated with this group to explore their ideas for how new services in the future could happen from Centre 32. To do this it is going to be necessary to merge the current 'Client Involvement Group' with this new group, for the short term.



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- Trustees feel it is important that the exploration and development of future services is done in a way that does not jeopardise the therapeutic services that Claire and Christine are offering to help individuals move from the fully staffed services that are currently happening at the Centre towards a more independent approach. This includes continuing to work with people affected on an individual and group basis and also to put individual arrangements in place for people should they need or want them. We will also be ensuring that the usual programme of activities is offered at Centre 32 in January and February.

RB Mind's Trustees look forward to hearing more from the Taking Control group once their proposals for Centre 32 are more developed, and also ask that you keep a look-out for more updates on our website (address at the top of this letter), in What's On (monthly) and New Beginnings (bi-weekly) newsletters.

Once again, Trustees thank you for the commitment you have shown to working in partnership with them to help ensure that local people get the services that they need to benefit their mental health.

Yours sincerely

Emma King

Director

For and on behalf of the Trustees of Richmond Borough Mind