

# Press Release

13 January 2012



## **Mayday Trust celebrates positive start for 2012 : Planning Permission granted for new site at St Andrew's Road, Bedford**

Plans to convert a former independent nursery received unanimous support when they went before Bedford Borough Council's Planning Committee recently.

The new development will involve the conversion of the former nursery into supported housing for local people experiencing mental health issues. The property will be redeveloped to a high standard, providing 19 self contained flats as well as communal living areas where people will be able to socialise and participate in organised activities run by staff.

Work is scheduled to commence in Spring of this year with completion predicted by Christmas 2012. When up and running, the proposed scheme will replace the Trust's existing service operating from Ashburnham Road and Conduit Road, Bedford.

Pat McArdle, Chief Executive said: *"This is fantastic news for Mayday Trust and a wonderful way to start the New Year. The development will offer a modern, and open environment from which we can continue the work we have undertaken in Bedford for 25 years. The St Andrew's Road property will set a new standard of accommodation for Mayday with the aspirations of those using the service at the forefront of the agenda."*

Cara Passfield, Scheme Manager said: *"We have a proven track record of supporting adults with mental health needs in this community and are very excited about the move."*

Hannah Patenall, one of the people currently using the service, added: *"This is brilliant news. It will enable us to have our own flats and our own space and prepare us for living independently again. It is nearer to mental health services and in a much nicer and quieter area."*

The plans were approved on 3 January under the proviso that a small amendment was made to one bedroom. Having submitted revised drawings the planning committee has today (13 January) given the formal go ahead for work to begin.

### **About Mayday Trust**

Mayday Trust has supported thousands of people for more than thirty years to take control of their lives and live independently. The charity provides the bridge that people often need to get them to the next stage of their life.

Mayday Trust work with and for people from all backgrounds and experiences but who need support to live independently. They work with people who are experiencing mental health problems, eating disorders and homelessness. Anyone can access their services if they consider they want or need help to live independently.

They provide a range of support which enables people to take that often huge step to independence. Services offered include individual one to one work as well as advocacy and mentoring, group programmes focusing on life skills for independent living. People coming to Mayday are also supported to volunteer and get involved in Mayday as well as accessing education, employment and training through partnerships and focus on community integration.

### **Key facts about Mayday's work in Bedford**

- Mayday Trust has operated a service in Bedford for the past 25 years
- Operating from Ashburnham Road, the existing service has supported in the region of 300 local people experiencing mental health related problems
- The charity has a wealth of experience in both supported housing and mental health recovery
- Mayday Trust have worked hard over the past 25 years to establish a strong network, within Bedford and the surrounding area, to support clients overcome mental health problems
- The proposed new service will initially work in parallel with Ashburnham Road to provide a smooth transition to the potential new site

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### **Editors Notes:**

Interviews and photo calls can be arranged on request.

For more information please visit [maydaytrust.org.uk](http://maydaytrust.org.uk) or contact Lisa Carroll, Marketing & Communications Manager on 01788 534961, 07801 387959 or [communications@maydaytrust.org.uk](mailto:communications@maydaytrust.org.uk)