



Press Release

23 July 2007

KEY APPOINTMENTS ALLOW CHARITY TO RESTRUCTURE AND “FUTURE PROOF”

Following her appointment earlier this year Mayday Trust’s Chief Executive Officer, Caroline Ward, has been overseeing a senior recruitment drive. These appointments will allow the Trust to “future proof” its current practices and ensure that it can continue to provide a much-needed service to vulnerable people.

Miss Ward said: *“We are approaching a new chapter in Mayday’s history. The changes will be implemented over the coming months will strengthen the Trust’s position and allow us to move forward in an ever-changing and competitive environment.”*

Mayday Trust is a regional registered charity (1035524), which provides temporary supported accommodation and life-skills training for vulnerable people. The Trust was established as a Charity in 1979 and now runs Projects across Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Bedfordshire. Last year Mayday supported over 500 people to achieve greater independence.

Board of Trustees and Visiting Associates

Jim Arnold and Lyn Stacey join the Board of Trustees, bringing a wide range of skill and expertise with them. Lyn, from Northamptonshire, works for Sanctuary Housing in the field of HR. Jim, from South Warwickshire, is a Senior Commercial and Procurement Manager for Royal Mail.

The Board also welcomes Gordon Armstrong, Jayne Simmons and Lalitha Webb as the Trust’s first Visiting Representatives. Responsible to the Board of Trustees, the Visiting Representatives will provide a link between Mayday Schemes and the Trustees.

Visiting Representatives will also work with the Board; contributing to the strategic aims of Mayday. Lalitha, a Public Health Specialist from North Warwickshire; Jayne, a HR and Personnel Manager and Gordon, who has worked in the Public Sector (principally as a Policy Advisor) will be responsible for regular scheme visits, offering support and feedback to staff and clients.

The appointments have strengthened Mayday’s existing Board, which comprised of Chairman, Chris Holman – a Rugby Councillor and retired GEC manager; Vice-Chair Anne Ranstall-Conrad, a self-employed HR consultant from Northamptonshire and Bill McFarland, Director of Finance for the Northamptonshire Health Care NHS Trust.

Senior Management Team

Completing the new Management Structure are Stuart Sullivan and Gill Jackson. Stuart, who lives in Coventry with his family, has been appointed as Head of Operations and Property Services. He joins the Trust from Orbit Housing, where he was employed as District Housing Services Manager for Rugby and Daventry.

Mr Sullivan said: *“I have joined the Trust at an interesting and challenging time. I look forward to supporting the charity, its staff and clients as we build upon Mayday’s strong reputation”.*

Finally, Gill Jackson will take up her post as Head of Corporate Services when she joins the Trust on Monday 3 September. Gill, a chartered accountant, is currently Senior Manager at a Rugby accountancy practice. She is also a Trustee for Rugby Relate.

New Structure

Following a detailed financial and operational independent audit of the Trust, a restructuring programme was announced on 12 July 2007. The audit identified that the existing staffing structures are no longer appropriate to meet current and future demands. To remain competitive, new job descriptions have been implemented to reflect the skills, knowledge and competencies required to take the Trust forward. Sitting alongside this will be an extensive programme of skills and knowledge training, for both management and staff, to develop the calibre of the teams to meet future business needs.

Consultation with staff will run through until late August, with completion of the restructuring programme targeted at October 2007. The overall headcount will not alter dramatically although a limited number of existing roles will not feature in the new structure. The number of redundancies cannot be confirmed at this stage; numbers will be confirmed following the end of the consultation process. All affected staff will be provided with internal management support, together with external support by GMD People and Clare Burrows, an external consultant specialising in change management.

Miss Ward said: *“Mayday’s clients and our capacity to support them are the driving force behind these changes. The welfare of clients will remain our strongest priority throughout this process, in line with our core values.*

“It is unfortunate that the necessary changes will lead to some job losses. The decision to restructure was not made lightly and has been in response to changes in our core funding streams. Following the restructure, the Trust will be better positioned to develop new business, build strategic alliances and enhance the service provision to our clients”.

Spreading Mayday’s message to a wider audience

The Trust has recently launched a website www.maydaytrust.org.uk designed to promote its work to future and existing clients, supporters and stakeholders. The site includes downloadable newsletters, reports and articles written by Mayday clients as well as details of how to support the Trust’s work with vulnerable people.

Residents, staff and stakeholders have been actively involved during the design and testing of the website, helping to make the site as accessible and user friendly as possible.

Caroline added: *“Mayday has a strong reputation within the field of Social Housing and we are keen to build on this. I am confident that this website will help the Trust to raise its profile amongst prospective and existing clients, stakeholders and funders”.*

Ends

For more information please visit www.maydaytrust.org.uk or contact: Lisa Carroll, Fundraising Manager, on 01788 568176, 07872 378451 or lisa.carroll@maydaytrust.org.uk

Editors: Please note that the charity is no longer known as the ‘Rugby Mayday Trust’. The organisation was renamed ‘Mayday Trust’ in 1999, reflecting the wider geographical area in which we operate. Please amend your records accordingly. Thank you.