



BYHP

(Supporting Young People in Housing Need)

## Newsletter March 2007

# BYHP News

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### GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We have helped a young person find a private rented flat and also helped her to attend a fashion course at college. Our support has enabled her to secure a base from which she can complete her college work. We have also helped her rebuild a better relationship with her mother.

A young person aged 19 has been saved from being evicted from his flat; we will be working with him to help him maintain his tenancy.

Another client, aged 20 is now able to move into a private rented flat in Banbury which will give him security and a chance to live independently. He is actively looking for work and has been on two interviews. Another young person has recently been accepted by Stonham Housing in Bicester.

Gateway Housing has found accommodation for up to 2 years for a young mum aged 16 and her 9 month old daughter. The accommodation is near to a mother and toddler group which will provide an opportunity for the young mum to socialise and meet other mums and share experience.

*Lou Stevens, Project Worker – Floating Support*

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### .....AND FROM THE WILD WEST OF WITNEY

WOHPP (West Oxfordshire Homeless Prevention Project) is a project managed by BYHP. WOHPP is putting together a presentation for schools on homeless prevention. The aim is to dispel the myths surrounding homelessness, raising awareness of the hard facts of leaving home and giving information and advice to those young people who are at risk in their own home.

We have seen four new referrals this year and have a client list of thirteen young people. We are now referring all new clients, where appropriate, for family liaison which, thanks to Catherine Davies's sterling efforts, is going really well.

We are currently promoting the supported lodgings scheme to find hosts who can give emergency overnight accommodation to Young People. Our new office at Witney Youth Centre is a good place as it is non-threatening for young people and there are many options for joint working with the Youth Service.

*Dave Holgarth, Project Coordinator*



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### Supported Lodgings (SPLODGE) IN OXFORD

I've been busy in Oxford coordinating BYHP's Supported Lodgings Scheme. I have also been developing an effective working model that we can use for all our Supported Lodgings Schemes. SPLODGE is a favourable alternative to Bed & Breakfast and has recently been thrust into the spotlight by local government secretary, Ruth Kelly. Young People are provided with accommodation and receive support. Working on this dynamic project has proven to be both challenging and exciting as it possesses real potential for BYHP to become a leading organisation in the Supported Lodgings field.

*Roz Denson, Development Worker*

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### DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all the schools, churches and individuals who have kindly donated food and toiletries to BYHP. Often the Young People we see are without access to money and are quite vulnerable. Your donations make it possible for us to be able to give them food parcels.

Over the Christmas period many schools and individuals made up Christmas parcels filled with thoughtful gifts. To see the look on the Young Peoples faces was magic!

Donations are always so gratefully received.

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### COUNSELLING SERVICE

The young people who come to BYHP have often experienced traumatic circumstances. Counselling can be a safe place where they can regain some of their self worth and explore issues that may be preventing them moving forward. BYHP's counselling service is making good progress, with Nikki and Catherine having both taken on new clients this month.

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### NETWORKING

BYHP and the Foyer (a supported housing provider in Banbury) are working closely with Cherwell District Council on the new arrangement of assessment beds. Vulnerable Young People aged 16 and 17 who would have been at risk of becoming homeless can be directed towards secure accommodation.

*Louisa Elliott, Project Worker – Advice & Information/Assertive Outreach/Family Liaison*

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### ACCOMMODATION

Due to a lack of accommodation options for Young People in Banbury we now need to look outside Banbury to find alternatives and have referred several young people to a project in Leamington Spa. We are working on finding more emergency volunteer Nightstop hosts and private landlords who can provide accommodation for local Young People.

*Petra Salisbury, Project Worker – Connexions*



## March Newsletter

### REVIEW DAY

BYHP recently held a Review Day for all staff and volunteers. The aim of the day was to:

- Formulate the basis for a future organisational Work Plan in line with BYHP's Business Plan
- Revisit our strengths and weaknesses as identified at the previous Review Day
- Communicate together as a whole team.

The event was facilitated by Nicky Brodie, former Management Committee Member of BYHP. The day was very useful and proved to be a positive shared experience whilst also identifying agreed action points for the future. We would like to thank all staff and volunteers who participated in the day and extend our thanks to Nicky Brodie who contributed in making the day such a success.

*Yvonne Gunn, Chief Executive – Job Share*

## Fundraising Update

### BLOXHAM, TUDOR HALL and SIBFORD SCHOOLS

Local schools made a fantastic contribution to our Christmas fundraising this year. Bloxham raised nearly £900 with a Gift Fair at the school, Tudor Hall £860 with their Gift Fair and Carol Concert and Sibford School held a Sargeant Pepper evening, donating the £350 proceeds to BYHP.

Our enormous thanks to everyone involved in this fantastic support.

### VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Do you have a few hours a week to spare? Are you looking for an interesting and exciting challenge? Do you have good communication skills and like dealing with people? Then you may be just the person BYHP is looking for. We need someone to join our team and help raise BYHP's profile in the local community. Please call Joanna Cook on 07880 741160 to find out more.

## Diary

### DROP IN DIARY

Tailored specifically to each young person BYHP offers a Drop-in service. Activities include healthy cooking, budgeting, numeracy/ social skills, literary courses and job clubs to enable Young People to gain the skills to live independently. This Month's Drop in Diary is:

Monday	2 – 4pm	Me, myself and I (a selection of fun workshops)
	4.15 – 6.15pm	Girls Only Drop In
	6.30 – 8.30pm	Mayhem & Madness!!
Tuesday:	1 – 3pm	Drop in
	6 – 8pm	MIND @ BYHP Group
Wednesday:	1 – 3pm	BYHP Drop in

Patrons: Lady Saye & Sele, Lady Cadbury, Ritchie Neville

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Telephone: 01295 259442 Email: [byhp@freeuk.com](mailto:byhp@freeuk.com) Website: [www.byhp.org.uk](http://www.byhp.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 1115514



## March Newsletter

Thursday: 12 – 3.30pm Drop in  
Friday: 11.30 – 1pm Young Parents Group  
10.30 – 2pm Challenging Depression  
(in conjunction with Oxford MIND), starting 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
Saturday: Drop in every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday

*Jo Rosenthal, Drop in Coordinator*

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## BLenheim TRIATHLON CHALLENGE!

The indomitable Laura Yates is taking part in the Blenheim Triathlon on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and is looking for other masochists to join her, or stay at home and sponsor her. The triathlon consists of a 400m swim across Blenheim Palace lake, followed by a 10km bike ride (not too hilly), and a 2½km run (or walk if you're tired by then!) To date our team totals 10 including BYHP clients and staff, but to ensure a successful event we need to double the amount of participants and find people who are willing to sponsor them. Why not get together with a group of friends or colleagues, join us and get fit for the summer? Every pound you raise or donate will affect the life of a homeless young person in our community.

All participants will be given a team t-shirt and full support from BYHP. For more information and to register log on to [www.thelondontriathlon.com](http://www.thelondontriathlon.com) then call Laura Yates on 01295 267776.

## People News

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### New Chief Executive

I have now been working with Yvonne Gunn for almost 3 months on a job share basis, having replaced Lynda Chalcraft. The key objectives of the shared post are as follows:

- To take overall responsibility for the strategic direction of the organisation
- To ensure the co-ordination and management of the project to ensure the effective delivery of services to Young People
- To take responsibility for the overall financing of the organisation

A successful job share calls requires good communication, mutual support and trust, all of which we have established within this short time working together.

We have shared roles and responsibilities however we also take the lead in specific areas of our work. I lead with the management and development of supported lodgings and family mediation. Yvonne leads with the management and development of Central Services and the Drop in.

Also significant to our role is developing positive partnerships with external agencies and participation in external operational/strategic forums.

*Jenny Harris, Chief Executive – Job Share*

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### CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERS!!

With all the fun and festivities happening at BYHP we have had a wonderful influx of Young People wanting to volunteer, including a group of students from Tudor Hall who have spent time with BYHP as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. They have all been keen to get stuck into everything from helping at fundraising events to encouraging Young People to participate in activities at BYHP.

We would like to say a **MASSIVE** thank you to them all, and congratulations to Liz Jamieson, Lee Ferris, Olivia Ross, Luke Britton and Craig Barson who have all received 50 and 100 hours Volunteering Certificates as part of the Millennium Volunteers Project.

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### STUDENT PLACEMENTS

We are very lucky to have 3 great students on placement: Carole, a third year Social Work student and Lydia and Holly who are both studying on a foundation course in Social and Health Care. They have all been eager and willing and have not said No to anything – yet! A big THANK YOU from BYHP to all - you've all been brilliant and much appreciated.

*Louisa Elliott, Central Services*

I chose BYHP as part of the second year of my 'Access to Youth, Community and Social Work' course, after which I am hoping to complete a degree in social work. I needed to complete 120 hours of work experience. The aim of my placement is to gain a general understanding of the day to day work of BYHP. I have gained a great insight into the voluntary sector and working with young people. All the BYHP staff have been very supportive and helpful and included me in as many activities as possible.

*Holly McClintock –Student*

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### WEBSITE

A huge big thank you to Ron Barnett, Chairman of our Trustees who has resuscitated the website wonderfully!

It is important that the website is kept up to date and relevant. Any suggestions for improving or adding to the existing content would be very much welcomed and should be e-mailed to [webmaster@byhp.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@byhp.org.uk)

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## Circulation

If you are receiving this newsletter by post and would like to help us conserve funds (and trees) please send your email address to [byhp@freeuk.com](mailto:byhp@freeuk.com) so we can add you to our email mailing list.

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## Start Spreading the News

We hope you find this newsletter informative. If you know someone who would like to receive a copy but is not on our mailing list, please let us know and we will be delighted to include them.

Equally, if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter please contact Joanna Cook on 01295 259442 or email [joannabyhp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:joannabyhp@hotmail.co.uk). **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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