

## Coordinator's Report

### **New management arrangements**

On Friday 6 May a funding agreement was signed by Ben Brown of Urban Space Community and John Farrar of Social Services and Health. This made provision for a grant of £20,000 to be made to Urban Space Community to continue the Advocacy Network Development Project for the next six months.

My employment with SS&H officially ended on Sunday 8 May, and my new employment commenced on Monday 9 May. The most noticeable difference is that I no longer have the use of my Blackberry or the other Council mobile phone, so my only phone number is now my office number 01924 306875 (the same as before).

I am very happy with this move, and I think it will revitalise the project. It comes together with a renewed set of targets, which is a good thing as it will keep me on my toes (it has actually been difficult over the last few months because I haven't had much in the way of targets, and it has been difficult to develop them).

### **Moving forward**

I have attended a couple of meetings recently which have given me more work opportunities. There was a productive meeting with the Health Development Managers from Eastern Wakefield PCT, together with Sue Perry, their manager. One of the managers is also coordinator of the Aspire community counselling service, and there are lots of potential points of contact between this and the Community Advocate Project. The Health Development Managers also do a lot of community development work, and they asked me about providing support and self-advocacy training for some of the groups they work with. It was also suggested I contact the EWPCT Corporate Training Manager to see if an advocacy awareness course could be added to their programme.

Secondly, I attended the Mental Health Trust's monthly PALS/Public Involvement meeting. I renewed many links there and have arranged to go to speak to a self-help group for sufferers of depression, and to give some support to a developing befriending scheme for people detained in Fieldhead. I also met Tracey Abraham, an artist known locally for her World Mental Health Week posters as well as many other images, who is setting up an art project for mental health service users - Inspire.

Both of these meetings underlined for me the focus on health issues for most advocacy work, something I haven't highlighted as much as I should have in previous reports.

# ***Advocacy Action***

**Developing Advocacy in Wakefield District**

## **Community Cohesion**

I continue to contribute to the Wakefield District Partnership's Community Cohesion Advisory Group, and I will be facilitating a workshop at a community consultation event in early June as well as helping to write the new Community Cohesion Framework.

## **Funding**

I have previously been very confident about securing funding for Advocacy Action. There have been some recent announcements, or lack of announcements, which make me a little more cautious now.

Firstly the Tudor Trust announced a review of its funding priorities over the next year. In the meantime it will only fund projects that it has already supported in the past.

Secondly, there has been no announcement from the Big Lottery Fund about its new grant programmes, although rumours are that hardly anyone is getting funded in the final stages of the Community Fund, and any grants that are being agreed are very small.

Thirdly the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust and Lankelly Chase have both narrowed their focus considerably. I will still be applying to these two trusts, but the job will be harder.

## **Outline funding plan**

Coalfield Regeneration Trust:	£35k for Community Advocate Scheme in first year £30 a year for two more years to run it
Esmee Fairbairn:	Core funding for Project Manager/Director
Lankelly:	£20k a year for Training Development Worker
Lloyds TSB Foundation:	£7k for BME Development worker
Joseph Rowntree CT:	£15k for BME Development worker
Big Lottery Fund:	Core funding for Project Manager/Director and admin worker and other costs under the Infrastructure Development Programme (details not yet announced)

This leaves some shortfall (unless they all say yes) which we may have to go to the PCTs/WDP/Council to cover.

Henry Fisher  
12 May 2005