



Local Solutions News

Engaging, Enabling, Enhancing



Charity Shop Launched by Ken Dodd OBE

Meeting and Greeting

Local Solutions welcomed a number of visitors to the organisation to explore ways of working in partnership to meet the needs of people in the community. Key issues discussed included unemployment, climate change and transport solutions for people with disabilities.

Luciana Berger, the Labour MP for Liverpool Wavertree and Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change visited in April. Luciana (pictured right with Snr. Manager Mark Rogers) came to discuss issues of energy efficiency and Local Solutions' contribution to assisting people affected by fuel poverty through its Keep Safe and Warm home insulation programmes.



Also in April, **Esther McVey**, (pictured left) Conservative MP for Wirral West visited. Esther is the Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to Chris Grayling, Minister of State at the Department for Work and Pensions, with responsibility for employment. Discussions were had on the Government's plans to assist unemployed people get back into the job market including the new Work Programme that will be introduced this summer. Local Solutions is pleased to have succeeded in securing a supply chain contract to deliver the new Work Programme.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service have been long term partners with Local Solutions utilising the Liverpool Watersports Centre as a base for their training. We were therefore pleased to welcome Merseyside Chief Fire Officer, **Tony McGuirk** (pictured right) and Assistant Chief Fire Officer, **Dan Stephens**. Steve Hawkins said: *"One thing that impresses me about MFRS's strategy is that it involves reaching all parts of the community in order to fulfil its mission. This inevitably means that they are willing and enthusiastic partners for Local Solutions and a pleasure to work with"*.



We also welcomed **Jack Stopforth** (left) Chief Executive of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, the voice of Liverpool's business community. Mr Stopforth learnt about our contribution to the local and regional economy when he was given a tour of our services, including Shopmobility and the Liverpool Watersports Centre.

Another notable guest was **Louise Ellman MP** (centre) who has been the Labour MP for Liverpool Riverside since 1997. Louise met with staff from the Liverpool Carers Centre to learn more about its work with unpaid carers. The visit concluded with a trip to Liverpool Shopmobility in Liverpool One where Louise was joined by Chair, Robert Owen and Manager Hazel Brown. An elected MP and Chair of the Transport Select Committee, Louise was delighted to see the progress we have made in meeting the mobility needs of people with disabilities through the Shopmobility service.



'National Treasure' Supports Charity Shop

In continuing his dedicated association with local charities and good causes, legendary comedian, Ken Dodd OBE, launched Local Solutions' first charity shop on April 6th.

The shop (626 Prescott Road, Old Swan) is our first venture into retail and is a continuation of our commitment to engage with people in their own communities. Other guests included Liverpool's Lord Mayor, Hazel Williams, Luciana Berger MP and Skelmersdale and Lancashire town crier, Don Evans, who rallied up a large local crowd!

Local Solutions' Chair, Robert Owen was Master of Ceremonies and informed the guests of the scope of the organisation's services in supporting vulnerable people in communities. Hazel Brown, Operational Manager gave a speech thanking all those across the organisation who had made the venture possible.

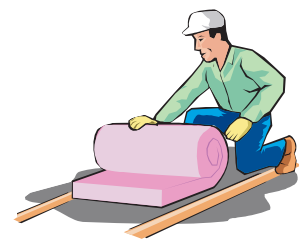
In his speech, Ken praised the new venture and urged the local community to support the shop, the proceeds of which will help to maintain Local Solutions' services for young homeless, victims of bullying, domestic violence survivors, people with disabilities, families on low incomes, older and vulnerable people, unpaid carers and long term unemployed. He also praised the team of volunteers who will be supporting this venture by dedicating their valuable time to working in the shop.

We would be more than grateful to receive unwanted goods, in particular clothing as well as shoes, handbags, CDs, DVDs, bric a brac and books to support us in our initiative. Our main drop off point is Local Solutions' headquarters (Mount Vernon Green, Hall Lane, L7 8TF). Alternatively we can arrange to collect items. Please call 0151 705 2422 for further information.



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It's all in the name...

Merseysport has officially changed its name to **Liverpool Watersports Centre (LWC)**. The project was set up in 1979 in answer to the lack of affordable leisure and recreational facilities in inner city areas. The aim was to encourage more people to participate in watersports activities at a reasonable cost.

In 1994 the project took over a purpose built complex in Queens Dock, Liverpool, a venue offering a safe environment for people to take part in water-based activities.

From here, high quality tuition in sailing, windsurfing, canoeing and powerboat handling is offered. LWC which has its own conference centre can be booked for corporate events such as team building, training and away days. The conference room is equipped

with free WiFi and an interactive smartboard. Other occasions such as children's birthday parties can be celebrated in a unique style at LWC. Visit or call for further information call **0151 708 9322** or visit www.liverpoolwatersports.org.uk

The Merseyside Accommodation Project (MAP) is now formally known as **Supported Lodgings**. The service, which has been running for 25 years, provides accommodation in a 'family environment' for young homeless teenagers. This is achieved through a network of registered householders and ongoing support from key support workers.

Supported Lodgings now operates throughout Merseyside, Denbighshire and Flintshire, therefore the new name is much more appropriate given its wider geographical remit.

New Trustee Appointed

Local Solutions is delighted to welcome **Aileen Shepherd** to the organisation in the role of Trustee.

Aileen brings to the organisation a wealth of experience within the criminal justice field especially relating to young people as she has held senior roles within the Probation Service and Youth Offending Service.

As part of her induction to the organisation Aileen visited many of our support services which help young homeless people, domestic violence victims, those affected by bullying, the elderly, long term unemployed and people with disabilities.



Andrea Scoops 'I Care' Award

The 'Oscars' of the region's social care sector took place and Local Solutions is proud to announce one of its staff, **Andrea Doyle**, scooped the coveted 'Outstanding Support Worker with Young People' gong!

The 'I Care Awards' also saw a further three of Local Solutions staff nominated; **Kayte Eaton** (left of picture) of Bullybusters and **Karen Ryan** (right) and **Ursula Bell** of Homecare of whom we are all very proud.



Andrea (centre) is based at the Liverpool Watersports Centre at Queens Dock and is a member of the Mobex project where she works with various groups of young people from across the city. Many of the people she comes into contact with have complex needs and are extremely hard to engage.

Andrea's Line Manager, **Jon Hannaway**, comments, "*Andrea works tirelessly with great energy and humour and nothing is ever too much trouble for her. She is always the first to volunteer if someone needs a helping hand, so we are all delighted her hard work has been acknowledged in this way.*"

The event was hosted by local celebrity **Danny McCall** and took place at the **Marriott Hotel** in the city centre. Speeches were made by Cllrs **Nick Small** and **Roz Gladden** and guests

included the city's Lord Mayor Cllr **Hazel Williams**.

Householder Recruitment Drive

A call for householders across Merseyside, Denbighshire and Flintshire!

If you can provide a room within your own home for a homeless teenager and you are willing to engage in our programme of support which assists them to live independently, then we would like to hear from you!

All registered householders are paid £140 per week which does not affect most means tested benefits.

Householders will also receive training and support.

For further details or an informal chat please call:

0151 330 2016

www.localsolutions.org.uk

LFC Health Trainers Engage with Male Staff

On 3rd May, Rob Kayus a Liverpool Football Club Health Trainer commenced an eight week health awareness course at Local Solutions. The course will be completed in late June and will focus on all aspects of men's health including:

- Healthier diet and weight loss
- Smoking cessation
- Alcohol Awareness
- Stress and anxiety reduction
- Nutrition Talks
- Cancer Awareness
- Mental health
- Sexual health

Staff feedback has been very positive. Senior Manager Heather Akehurst who organised the course commented, "Local Solutions is committed to supporting staff who wish to adopt a healthier lifestyle and we were delighted with the high turn out of staff who are engaging in this initiative. We would like to thank Liverpool Football Club for all their support in this venture."



Fancy a Brew with a View?

On March 1st, the Liverpool Watersports Centre officially launched its new Coffee Bar.

Staff, partners and service users came together to celebrate the opening of the new facility, which has an outside seating area offering views of Liverpool's famous waterfront. Guests included Anne-Marie Jones (pictured above), a Project Manager at the Merseyside Probation Trust, who was invited to cut



the cake along with Centre Manager, John Hannaway. Coffee Bar Co-ordinator, Sophie Malone, is a qualified pastry chef who treated the guests to homemade cakes, cookies, sandwiches and quality coffees.

Why not visit the Coffee Bar at Liverpool Watersports Centre (110 Mariners Wharf, Queens Dock, Liverpool, L3 4DG) to sample a brew with a view!



When Wally Met Vicky!

Coronation Street star Vicky Entwistle – better known as the infamous Janice Battersby! – was only too willing to partake in our campaign to support vulnerable service users in the cold winter months.

This year, over 60 service users received useful packs consisting of items such as blankets, cold alarms, thermos flasks and warm clothing to help see them through the cold spell.

Vicky was delighted to present the pack to Homecare service user, Walter Fish, at his home in Salford. Wally, 88, receives care and help with domestic tasks, medication and having meals prepared for him – all of which allows him to remain living independently in his own home.



This year we were delighted to help even more of our service users further afield in Manchester and Salford.

Walter commented: *"This is a lovely surprise – thank you all so much and meeting Vicky is a joy!"*

Supported Lodgings.....

The perfect occasion to launch Supported Lodgings' new name was at its annual party in support of young homeless people which was held on 11th March. The event was a huge success where householders, friends and staff all gathered to enjoy an evening of entertainment at the Sandon function suites in Anfield. This occasion also marked the project's 25th anniversary.

Longest serving householder, Hilda Johnston (pictured right) was invited to cut the celebratory cake. She has been a dedicated householder since April 2000 and has provided a home to over 24 young homeless people. Glynis Letts (Operational Manager Wirral Branch) took this opportunity to thank Hilda and all the householders for their commitment of the service which is helping to improve the lives of so many young homeless people.

Thanks to the support received from a range of local businesses including Costco, David Cakes of Distinction, Liverpool, Everton and Tranmere football clubs as well as Granada Studios, over £1,000 was raised for the Young Person's Forum. Generous donations and prizes were also received from The Marriot Hotel, Vauxhall Children's Paint Shop, Benson Signs, as well as householders and staff. The money raised will be used to organise day trips and recreational events to enable the young people to come away from their daily routine and give them an opportunity to have fun.



Mersey Care Call to 'Join In' Membership Programme

Mersey Care NHS Trust, the local provider of specialist mental health care, is determined to be accountable to its local community – and it is seeking involvement from local people. The Trust is set to become an equivalent Foundation Trust, meaning it has met the standards required of the very best NHS organisations. It

wants stakeholders to have a greater say in its future. The Trust aims to have 10,000 people signed up as members and is inviting service users, their carers and members of the public to sign up.

Members can choose their own level of involvement, from simply receiving information through to standing for

election to the members' council, increasing knowledge and skills in specific areas. All Members have access to the massive NHS discount scheme, with offers and discounted prices from retailers.

If you wish to become a member contact Julie Crompton or Debbie Clarke on 0151 473 2885.

Staff Awards Celebrate Dedication

Local Solutions' annual Employee Awards took place at Mount Vernon Green. Speeches were given by Chairman Robert Owen (pictured right of photographs) and Chief Executive Steve Hawkins who both highlighted key events for the organisation throughout 2010 and conveyed their appreciation of the hard work and commitment of all employees.

This year saw the inauguration of the David Shone Memorial Award in recognition of Local Solutions' founding Chief Executive - the award, to celebrate the contribution to the organisation by a young person, went to Connor Hitchmough (left of picture) who attended the University of Liverpool Children's Centre as a child and who later went on to volunteer there as a teenager.



Recognition for Equality of Opportunity was given to the Homeground homeless hostel team (left): Trustees Shelagh McGrath and Geoff Russell, who judged the nominations, were impressed by the story of a young resident of the hostel and how the team had encouraged him to participate in wider activities whilst living there such as utilising Mobex and the Liverpool Watersports Centre.

The award for Outstanding Service Delivery was presented to Nicola Roberts (centre) from Liverpool Homecare, nominated by a colleague Neil Johnston who commented: *'Nicola goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that her clients' needs and aspirations are addressed.'*



The Team of the Year award went to the University of Liverpool Children's Centre who were nominated by the parents for their commitment to children in providing a quality service and supporting the children with their development.

Children's Centre Highlights

The children in the pre-school room at the University of Liverpool Children's Centre have been learning to care for animals. They took delivery of 12 fertilised chicken eggs from Acorn Farm, Kirkby to handle with loving care. They watched over the incubator for a period of 21 days to make sure the eggs were turning and on it wasn't long before the first eggs hatched. The children watched ten more eggs hatch and then learnt to feed and care for them. They were all sad to see the chicks return to the farm but the experience they got from caring for them will last in their memories for a long time.



Youngsters at the University of Liverpool Children's Centre paraded their Easter bonnets as their parents watched on proudly.

The display included some very creative creations and the children were clearly delighted to show off their millinery skills in the glorious sunshine for all to admire.

For further information on the Centre, please call manager Jean Graham on 0151 794 1450.



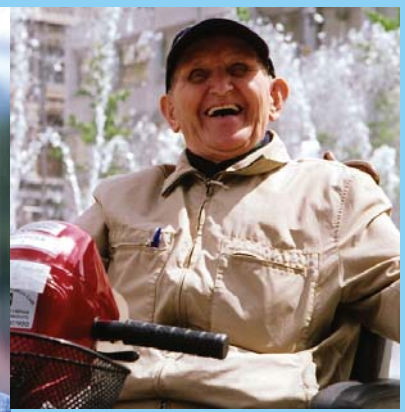
Local Solutions

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Local Solutions is a unique not for profit social enterprise that provides services for people across the age spectrum; from young children through childhood and youth to adulthood and old age.

The diversity of our services ensures we can reach individuals, communities and organisations to deliver services that improve the quality of people's lives.

Young people at risk
Children and families
Vulnerable People
Unpaid Carers
People on low incomes
Communities
People with disabilities
Older people



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