Bradbury Fields 160 Years

Building on our past to see a brighter future

A Welcome from the Chairman

At a service level, I am delighted to report that our services have received positive feedback and are clearly valued by those people living with sight loss.

Key services at the point of diagnosis, support and training include:

· Eye Clinic Liaison Officers – support individuals at the point of diagnosis at the hospital and then help build the bridge from the hospital to community services;

· A Specialist team of Rehabilitation Officers – They assess and deliver a range of services including dual sensory loss, those living with strokes, low vision assessment and training and individually tailored support for the BME community living with sight loss;

· Rehabilitation Services In Knowsley for Adults and Children

· Provision of awareness Training across a variety of agencies;

· Delivering a day service through our Active Vision Clubs which offer a safe environment for Blind and Partially Sighted people to socialise and undertake many activities.

Within the community we offer a range of social activities including tandem riding, art, music, walking, swimming etc., supported by an ever-increasing army of Be Active volunteers.

As always, we are facing the inevitable challenges in trying to provide our services in the context of significant funding reductions. Fundraising has also proved to be even more difficult this year as a result of the adverse media coverage appertaining to the fundraising approaches of some of the large national charities.

In an effort to stimulate new income streams for the organisation, four years ago, the charity loaned some money across to our new trading company to establish our Garden Suite Venue. Whilst the Garden Suite and Bistro are proving popular and being used, it is clear that we will never realistically be able to have the loan repaid and therefore, as Trustees, we have decided to right-off this loan and take a heavy hit is

this year in order that our accounts more accurately reflect the performance in this area.

I am delighted and pleased that our staff have yet again risen magnificently to the challenge. I applaud and thank them all for their dedication and professionalism. There are many people on Merseyside who can bare testimony to the excellent service that Bradbury Fields staff provide. Well done everyone!

I don’t want this opportunity pass without saying a big “thank you” to my fellow Trustees. They are a great support to our organisation. I am so fortunate to be their Chairman.

My final comments are for Phil Longworth, our Chief Executive. His experience and know-how enable him to steer us through the right course. Thank you, Phil, for your hard work which sets a fine example to our excellent staff.

A Message from the Chief Executive

As Chief Executive of Bradbury Fields I can safely say that 2016/17 has again proved to be a busy and rewarding year. We were delighted to be awarded a grant from the Steve Morgan Foundation to support the development of our Be Active service and I am delighted to report that more people benefitted from this service in the first year than we had envisaged might do. This funding will continue for two more years and the impact will be enhanced further as we move into the next years by seeking external evaluation to help demonstrate the health and wellbeing benefits. We hope the evidence will help us sustain the service beyond the current funding imput.

This year also saw us commence preparatory work for our 160th Anniversary celebrations which began in February 2017. We were delighted to learn that through Liverpool City Council, we are to receive Freedom of the City recognition for our contribution to the community during these years.

We launched our first impact report at our Annual Public Meeting in September 2016 which summarised our activities and demonstrated the impact of our work. We have received tremendous feedback from

funders with regard to the report as it was a short read that succinctly summarised what we do.

Our staff awayday focused upon what Bradbury Fields would need to look like in 5 years’ time and two key strands emerged; understanding and offering support around digital devices, and the need to try and support those people living with sight loss into the world of employment. The employment rate of people eligible for work has dropped to only 20%.

We have continued to be challenged by the delays experienced through attempts to commission a single sensory contract across the City Region, which has not materialised and as the year end approached we were advised that Knowsley were proceeding on their own to commission an integrated sensory service.

Our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers, Rehab Officers/Assistants and benefits team have done a sterling job in supporting many people at various stages of sight loss. Our Active Vision Clubs offer a safe environment for those people who are often isolated within the community because they can’t get out and about and they constantly praise the friendships that are developed as a result of attending the clubs and engaging in a range of activities.

We have continued to promote our Bistro which is going from strength to strength and whilst the bookings for the Garden Suite have stabilised, we hope they will increase as we move forward.

We have also recognised that the cost of running the centre is now increasing given that more people now use the site and that significant items are beginning to be maintained more frequently or replaced completely. This will be a challenge as we move forward and we have started to try and plan for a phased way in which this work can be undertaken, but for a charity of our size these costs are significant and are beginning to eat into our reserves.

The support that we received from the Board of Trustees has been invaluable and as we start work on our next strategic plan, we can rest assured that we have a range of expertise on the Board that will help ensure that we continue to make robust informed decisions that help us sustain the organisation and continue to provide such a fantastic range of services delivered by some fantastic staff and volunteers.

We will see changes over forthcoming months as we focus the organisation to adopt a more prominent fundraising position.

As always, your help is and will continue to be appreciated. Please ask your family and friends to remember us in their wills and we can also sort a free will writing service if you commit to make a donation to the charity when it is drafted.

With regards

Philip Longworth

Chief Executive

Active Vision Clubs

Breaking Isolation, Combatting Loneliness and Enhancing Wellbeing

Bradbury Fields offers an increasingly diverse range of opportunities to help blind and partially sighted people break isolation and enjoy their leisure time.

The Clubs which are at held The Bradbury Centre provide a vital link for those who often live alone, are isolated, and need to come together for mutual support and encouragement in order that they can remain living independently within the community.

Our mini buses provide transport for more than twenty-five people each day, Monday to Thursday, and cover all areas within the Liverpool and Knowsley boundaries.

A wide range of activities are organised on a weekly basis including keep fit, health information from a variety of guest speakers from Health and Social Care agencies entertainment, issues around low vision and rehabilitation, and the opportunity for service users to have direct support on a weekly basis from specialist staff at Bradbury Fields.

By far the most important aspect of this service is the ability for people to meet and talk through the different issues each person faces on a daily basis.

The Clubs can also cater for individuals having dual sensory impairment who meet on a Monday as part of the ordinary Club activities. These individuals gain information on a weekly basis through specialist manual sign language communication which can sometimes be the only contact that they have.

Financial review

The financial reports this year show a very disappointing deficit of £225,585 (which includes the writing off of the intercompany debt with Bradbury Fields Trading Limited of £175,384) in comparison to the surplus of £19,544 shown for last year. Despite bringing in significant donations and grants our costs have risen significantly. The write off of the loan referred to is in respect of the intercompany support provided by the Charity for its subsidiary trading company over the last few years. The Board has taken the decision to write off this debt this year as there is no realistic expectation of its being repaid by the trading subsidiary due to the poor financial results of that company and no significant improvement is expected in the future.

The local government grants have been stable during the last year pending the new tender process which is still a work in progress, so at least we have not had to endure the same level of cuts that we suffered in the previous years.

Our trading arm in the Garden Suite has produced more income in the last year than in earlier years and is showing very encouraging signs for increasing income on a year on year basis but insufficient to enable it to repay the support it has received from the Charity. It is good to report that the Garden Suite and the Bistro are being used more and more by third parties as well as by our service users.

Some key figures for you are shown below and compare the year ended 31st March 2017 with those figures from the previous year to 31st March 2016

2017 2016

Total Income 788,869 795,377

Total expenditure 1,014,454 776,751

Surplus / ( Deficit ) (225,585) 19,544

Cash & Investments/reserves 177,881 171,741

Balance sheet total 996,961 1,222,546

As always our main sources of income have been from Liverpool City Council, Knowsley Council and Sefton Council, with contributions made by the Royal and Aintree hospitals towards the cost of our Eye Clinic Liaison services. These are boosted by the many events and efforts carried out by our entire Bradbury team here, our Service Users and our Volunteers as well as the legacies, donations, grants and collection boxes that we have received during the year.

The entire team within the organisation deserves a great deal of thanks and appreciation for the hard work put in by everybody.

Full copies of the accounts are available upon request.

Legacies

Leaving a legacy to Bradbury Fields enables the organisation to continue its voluntary activities. Many of the activities we provide are funded through donations and the generosity of our supporters.

Remembering us in your Will allows us to continue our activities and helps us to develop new ones. Every penny donated will remain in our area, and will go towards ensuring a brighter future for blind and partially sighted people.

We can recommend a number of specialist Will writers. In some cases they will make home visits. There may also be funding available to cover the cost of writing your Will and Bradbury Fields will receive a donation for every Will that is written.

ould like any further information on writing your Will, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0151 221 0888.

WHO’S WHO AT BRADBURY FIELDS

Chief Executive, Philip Longworth MBA \* +

Deputy Chief Executive & Services Development Manager, Nicky Barnett LLB + #

Income Generation & Facilities Manager, Amanda Davidson MAAT +

PA to the Chief Executive, Maria Schofield +

Finance Officer, Linda Deery-Lee +

Funding Officer, Glen Flatley \* +

Activities & Social Media Coordinator, Louise Cannon \* + #

Equipment & Registrations Officer, Viv Middleton

Receptionist, Lorraine Edwards

Facilities Assistant, Wally Eyres

Catering Supervisor/Chef, Vincent Cragg

Hospitalities Assistant, Chris Moore

Hospital Advice Services

St Paul’s Eye Unit, Royal Liverpool University Hospital

Eye Clinic Liaison Officer, Corinna Swift

Telephone 0151 706 3995

Aintree University Hospitals

Eye Clinic Liaison Officer, Hilary Butter

Telephone 0151 529 0183.

Liverpool Rehabilitation Services

Rehabilitation Officers, Jamal Abdullah, Carol Byrne, Dawn Scott,

Rehabilitation Assistant, Pat Dwyer

Welfare Benefits & Advocacy Worker, Paul White

Welfare Benefits Assistant,Rehabilitation Assistant & ECLO cover Curtis Miller

Registration & Equipment Officer, Nita Canning

Knowsley Rehabilitation Services

Telephone 0151 244 4094

Rehabilitation Officer, Josie Lynch

Rehabilitation Officer (Adults and Children) Marie Messin BA (Hons), MA,

Rehabilitation Assistant, Joanne Carine

Clerical Assistant, Amy Greenwood

BRADBURY FIELDS WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PEOPLE IN MERSEYSIDE

Bradbury Fields aims to promote independence through rehabilitation training, support services and opportunities for social activities. To ensure a high quality service using well trained and motivated staff to provide assistance and maintain high levels of service delivery.

Bradbury Fields welcomes suggestions on how our service can be improved.

CONTACT DETAILS

Bradbury Fields

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Registered charity number: 222798

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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With Thanks to Bradbury Fields Staff,

Volunteers and Service Users

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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COMPANY SECRETARY, Paul Barrow

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Naomi Ditchfield

Margaret Guppy

Matthew Hughes-Paton

William Newman (left February 2017)

Roger Phillips

Eamon Preston

Tudor Roberts

Edward Robinson

Mike Scanlan

Sue Turnham

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, Philip Longworth

AUDITORS, Gibson-Schofield Limited

SOLICITORS, Quinn-Barrow

Our Volunteers don't get paid “not because they're worthless,

but because they're priceless!”

Volunteering is at the heart of Bradbury Fields and without the phenomenal support given by an average of 160 active volunteers giving 23,424 hours of their time each year much of our work would simply not be possible. If we were to pay the minimum wage for this contribution the cost would be £156,940.

Bradbury Fields has many volunteering opportunities, from assisting in our daily Active Vision Clubs, baking delicious cakes with those using our services, escorting on the minibuses, piloting tandem bikes, gardening, administration, transcription services, helping at fundraising events such as bag packs, music nights, Christmas Fair ... the possibilities are endless.

This year has seen the launch of our “Be Active” service and is a clear example of how without the support of volunteers we could not continue to develop our services to meet the individual needs and aspirations of blind and partially sighted people.

For some of our volunteers they gain a benefit by undertaking training in such things as NVQs in Health and Social Care, food hygiene, first aid, visual equality training, practice in sign language or deaf-blind manual, Bikeright cycling proficiency and leadership, and cycle maintenance courses.

We are always looking to recruit new volunteers.

If you would like to discuss ways in which you can get involved with us, just call Jamal Abdullah on 0151 221 0888 ext 214.

Be Active Service

If you are blind or partially sighted and need a companion to get out and about, then the Be Active Service is for you. With Be Active Service we select the right volunteer to support you with your recreational, social or leisurely pastime. You could initially just want to get out of the house or join a local walking group or get to the shops on the bus or enjoy a football match or re-visit a place of interest. There are plenty of opportunities to interact with your favourite pastime or you may wish to recapture that experience and rebuild that personal network, which can help to build one’s confidence, support and interact with the local community, give one a sense of belonging and companionship.

“Having an approach that values individuals cultural and religious identity enables Bradbury Fields to link in mainstream rehabilitation services to an individual’s specific needs. This combined approach works effectively and enables the service user to access the services they need to assist them in achieving their own set of goals and objectives to learn and retain the skills needed to lead an independent and fulfilling life.”