

Newsletter 2021

The Official Centre 404 Newsletter

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Vol. 1



Touriya and Jamilah on our Annual Review Cover

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Happy Spring from Centre 404!

Hello and welcome, we are so proud to introduce the 1st volume of the new 2021 Centre 404 Newsletter. On the following pages you'll find a summary of the last three months from across our services. We hope that you enjoy the photos and the stories!

Welcome and Annual Review 2019-20

In addition to these newsletter pages, which help to summarise and celebrate happenings from around our community over the last 3 months, we are also delighted that we will be able to share our digital Annual Review for 2019-20 for the first time very soon. You can see our wonderful front cover photo featuring Jamilah and Touriya above and also our Covid-19 Response centre page spread below. The full document will be available very soon and the link sent to everyone.



This Annual Review is from April 2019 to June 2020 and so showcases all our wonderful impact stories, as well as coronavirus response and Phase 3 building updates during this time period.

We're currently working on our next Annual Review from June 2020 to June 2021, which will have all our up to date information on Phase 3 and how we have continued to respond and adapt to the coronavirus pandemic.

Independent Living

Our Official New Name

As of the 1st April, the Housing Service and team officially changed its name to Independent Living and Specialist Services. The service name has always been a little confusing as we do not provide housing, we provide the support for people to live as independently as they can.

Independent Living will incorporate:

- Our 8 Supported Living Locations.
- Outreach Services: Islington Outreach and Camden Floating Support.
- Specialist Services - Positive Behaviour Support (PBS).



Renewing the Leigh Road Contract

We're delighted to announce that we have been awarded the contract for the Leigh Road supported living project, following five successful years running the service. Huge congratulations to Maria and her team for all of their hard work and it's recognition throughout the tendering process.

The Independent Living Service has also recently been successful in gaining a place on the tendering framework for Waltham Forest and surrounding boroughs and is looking forward to setting up some new supported Living in Brent. An exciting year ahead with new opportunities for the team.

Supporting Families

Events

Covid has made winter seem very gloomy and miserable so we've tried hard at Centre 404 to make sure we put on some informative and fun events for family carers and whole families!

Since January 2021 we have hosted 30 different events online! This includes the Science Day we ran in collaboration with Learning & Leisure Service (pictured right).

Zumba and Yoga have been a real hit too with those attending learning new stretches and some great dance moves!



Islington Parent Carer Forum

Islington Parent Carer Forum is run by a group of parent carers who have built strong relationships with Islington Council and other organisations within the borough.

The group work towards helping to provide its members information about services in the borough and work to improve services and issues around Health, Education and social care.

In January the Forum was awarded funding which enabled them to fund Essential Food Parcels for families and carers struggling during Covid times.

The Forum have been able to help 84 families in Islington!!



Learning & Leisure Lockdown Case Study

On 14th March our amazing service user Lameen turned 18 years old! He has been attending Centre 404 since he was just 6 years old!

Our Aiming High clubs had planned a socially distanced birthday dance party to celebrate his birthday, however unfortunately Lameen was advised by his GP to shield, which meant he couldn't come!

So we decided to bring the party to him! His Aiming High mates bought him some balloons, made him a card and a poster. Then we all drove to his house in the minibus and had a drive-by party and sing-a-long just for Lameen!



New Clubs and Activities!

In response to changes to the way our clubs and activities are provided due to Covid-19 restrictions, we have been working hard to adapt our services to reach more people.

Therefore we are delighted to announce that we have the following new clubs and activities:

- Friday Coffee Mornings
- Movie Club
- Games Club

We are also delighted that Happy Tuesdays and Zumba will also be coming back soon.



Volunteers



Star Volunteer

We are so proud to announce that Liam, 17 years old, won both our Jack Petchey Foundation Star Volunteer Award and Centre 404 Volunteer of the Quarter for February 2021!

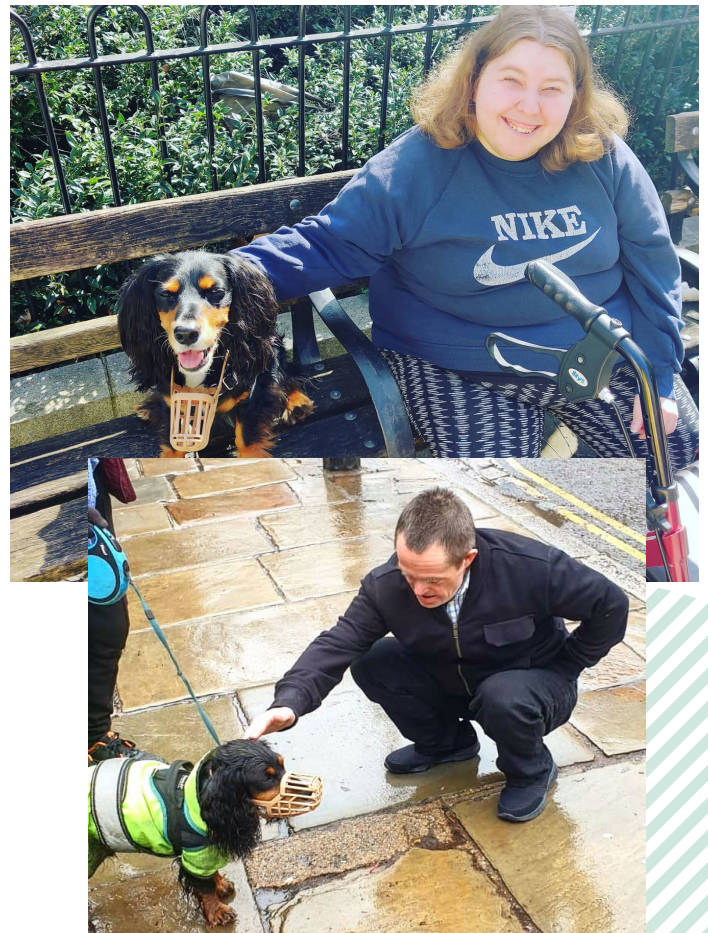
Liam can be very proud of the passion and enthusiasm he's shown for volunteering and to giving back to the clubs that he has come through himself. Liam is an excellent role model for the younger service users and they respect and listen to him. He provides positive support and is very patient and empathetic. Well done Liam!

Dog Befriending

We have been so happy to see our Dog Support Volunteer Project finally get started during this last lockdown.

Our lovely volunteer Alizée and her dog Guizmo have started doing weekly walks with some of our tenants from within our Independent Living Service.

This project has been going really well so far, with our tenants benefiting from regular social interaction with the dog as well as the volunteer, whilst also getting the positive effects of getting out and about in the community and in nature, and getting some exercise.



People and Staff Engagement

Centre 404 are delighted to announce that we are part of the government's...

KICKSTART SCHEME

- Aged 16-24 and currently on universal credit?
- Interested in working for a charity that supports people with learning disabilities, autism and their family carers?
- Looking for a role which has a real, lasting, positive impact?

Then get in touch with your local job centre today and find out about all of Centre 404's brand new roles!



Kickstart Scheme

Over the past 8 months, Centre 404 have been preparing to participate in the government's brand new initiative, the 'Kickstart Scheme'.

The purpose of the scheme is to help young people aged 16-24 years old, who are also on universal credit, gain essential skills and experience to assist them getting into future long-term, sustainable employment.

We have created 30 brand new roles and are now starting to receive referrals and applications through from the DWP. We can't wait to welcome the Kickstarters on-board over the coming months!

See our website [here](#) for details of the roles.

Thriving Thursdays

On 4th March 2021, Centre 404 launched a brand new monthly engagement initiative called 'Thriving Thursdays!'.

- The first session was with mental health service 'Able Futures' who are there to support Centre 404 employees with their mental health.
- The second session gave staff the opportunity to meet with three of Centre 404's trustees. Staff were able to learn more about their roles within the organisation, what lead them to joining Centre 404 and a Q & A session towards the end.



- The final session was lead by our very own Josie Korda who lead a 'Vinyasa Flow' yoga class which helped staff and volunteers to relax and reflect on their day.

Thriving Thursdays will continue to run on the first Thursday of the month. Staff have already asked to learn more about CQC and this will be featured in one of our next sessions.

Staff Retention



Staff and service users taking part in International Women's Day

Centre 404 regularly receives positive feedback from our service users and/or their family carers that our presence is reassuring and that we provide a solid foundation and back drop to their lives. A huge part of this is the staff and volunteers who continue to work at Centre 404 and stay with us over a number of years 5 years, 10 years and longer. The importance of this consistency and dedication to our service users cannot be underestimated. We are proud to have a lower staff turnover than generally within the sector and will continue to work with staff and volunteers to understand how we can continue to make Centre 404 a great place to work.

Turnover

Skills for Care (National Average): 38.1%
Centre 404: 21%

Retention Rate

Skills for Care (National Average): 58.3%
Centre 404: 78%

Covid Secure at Centre 404!

We have been delighted to be able to continue running our vital clubs and services at Centre 404 during the coronavirus lockdowns after September 2020. A big part of this has been ensuring that we are Covid safe and secure. This includes temperature checks and hand sanitisation upon checking in to the building, housekeeping signs and instructions, as well as our wonderful cleaners who come around daily wiping down door handles and surfaces etc.



Accreditation Awards

We are delighted to report the successful reaccreditation of a number of our quality marks during 2020 despite the pandemic.

This includes AQS (which monitors the quality of our advice in Supporting Families Service) in September 2020, our Investing in Volunteers in October 2020, and our Silver Award of UKIED, which marks our equality and diversity commitment.



Fundraising for our Garden

[Click Here to Donate](#)

Clubs and Activities

Learning and Leisure Service clubs have been raising money for developing Centre 404's garden and purchasing toys and equipment for outdoor activities for our service users and community to enjoy, allowing us to come together in a safe and fun environment.

Youth Group: "The garden is a special place for us. We plant and play in it; we relax and hang out in it. We would like to plant herbs and colourful flowers that smell amazing and look vibrant! We would like to have rose arches and bird tables with fountains, wind charms and new toys that will make play time special."

Each group came up with their own fundraising campaign and we've seen some amazing ideas, such as making Mother's Day cards to be sold at the Centre 404 reception!



Quiz Night 2021

We also had a very successful virtual version of our Annual Quiz Night on Friday 26th March, so thank you to everyone who came and supported.

We had 10 teams and 44 people participating, totalling in 48 people in the Zoom room with Centre 404 hosts! Congratulations to the winners, Nerd Immunity team! The trophy will be finding its way to you very soon.

We are incredibly pleased to announce that we have collectively raised £610 via the quiz event, with a grand total of £955 raised so far from all fundraising projects. This will go a long way towards improving our garden for everyone!

If you would still like to donate, please click the donate link at the top of the page.

CENTRE 404 IS INVITING YOU!

THE LAST OF THE ZOOM QUIZZES!

Friday 26th March 2021 • 6:30-9PM

This is a non-ticketed event but we are grateful for donations.
We are fundraising for our garden project.
Register with Sille at SilleA@Centre404.org.uk

zoom