

Newsletter 2024

The Official Centre 404 Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to our summer newsletter, where we have lots to share from our work this year. There's a great deal to get involved with including arts, crafts, cooking, and our family coffee mornings. We are also looking forward to the warmer weather so we can see our garden blooming again. A special thank you to all our staff, service users and volunteers for supporting and getting involved in all our projects.

June features Learning Disability week and we are looking forward to adding our voice to raise awareness and understanding of people with learning disabilities. This year's theme is 'Do you see me?', which is all about being seen, heard and valued which is something we work towards every day at Centre 404.

A number of new appointments have continued to add to the skills and experience of our Trustees and Senior Management Team. You can find out more on the following pages.



Centre 404 in bloom

Contents

Key Updates

- Organisation Announcement
- New Trustee
- Senior Management Team
- New Contract Awarded
- Camden South Transfer

Spotlight On Staff

- Celebrating Training
- Celebrating Social Care
- Great Place To Work

Volunteering

- Shortlisted Volunteer Organisation Of The Year
- Volunteers' Week 2024

Events With Service Users

- Dying Matters Week
- Have Your Say Group
- Enable the Vote Workshop

Fundraising

- Run For Centre 404
- Donor Appreciation

Upcoming Events

- Sponsored Walk
- Friday Night Social
- Warm and Welcome Wednesday



Key Updates



Linda McGowan
CEO

Organisation Announcement

Linda McGowan has been on a period of extended leave from her role as CEO of Centre 404 since the Autumn. Our policy in this instance is that Tracy Seymour, Director of People and Resources, acts up to assume the duties of the CEO to ensure that we can continue to help those we support. While we cannot yet say when Linda will be returning to her role, we wanted to ensure that you were aware of current arrangements. Our staff continue to provide an excellent service for people with learning disabilities and autism and their families. We would like to thank Tracy for acting up as Interim CEO and look forward to Linda returning.



Copeland
Ingram



Tara
Willson



Derek
Weist
Treasurer



Felix
Arnold



Paul
Formosa
Chair

New Trustee

Centre 404 has a remarkable history of attracting talented and dedicated Trustees. We have always strived to maintain a balance between family carers and professionals, who bring specific skills in areas such as finance, management, and law. We're thrilled to welcome our new Trustee on board, Sean McLaughlin, whose experience in social care will enrich Centre 404's team of Trustees. Thank you for joining us!



Maggie
Elliott



Faye
Oliver



Etienne
Makosso



Sean
McLaughlin

With our newly appointed Trustees now in place, we are in one of the strongest positions we have ever been. Please join me in warmly welcoming them. As a family carer, I am continually inspired by the dedication and energy our Trustees have shown over the past year. We have been meeting regularly and going above and beyond to ensure Centre 404 remains an effective and safe place for the people we serve. Additionally, we continuously audit our governance alongside the management team to ensure that we maintain our commitment to excellence in every aspect of our work.

Key Updates

Senior Management Team

We're pleased to announce that Wayne Botha has joined Centre 404 as Head of Supporting Families, formerly from KidsOut where he served as Chief Operating Officer. Additionally, following the restructuring of the Independent Living and Specialist Service last year, we're delighted to announce the appointment of Rory Howlett as the Head of Community Support Services.



Sarah
Spinetti



Tracy
Seymour



Anamaria
Vrkic



Rory
Howlett



Wayne
Botha



Marisa
McDermott

I am absolutely thrilled about the new contract! Working with Virginia and her group has been nothing short of fantastic. Their professionalism, dedication, and expertise have truly made our partnership a success. Knowing that we will continue to work together for another four years fills me with excitement and optimism for what we can accomplish in the future. Our continued partnership is truly something to celebrate.



Virginia Bovell

**Chair of Islington
Family Carers Action
Group**

New Contracts Awarded

Centre 404 is absolutely thrilled to share the exciting news that the 'Family Carers Action Group' contract in conjunction with Islington Council will be extended for another four years! This grant has been crucial in enabling us to provide vital services and support to individuals in need within the Islington community. Centre 404 is committed to aiding and guiding for carers, whether you are looking for emotional support, practical advice, or simply safe space to connect with others facing similar challenges.

Camden South Transfer

We are delighted to have been awarded the Camden South Contract. We look forward to widening our services across Camden for the benefit of the people we support.

Spotlight On Staff

Celebrating Training

A huge congratulations to our managers for completing their Level 5 and Level 3 leadership qualification in health and social care! Over the last 18 months, they dedicated themselves to a mix of online and in-person courses, successfully completing coursework, exams, and presentations. Well done, your commitment and hard work have truly paid off.



Shillah Muwonge, Oyedele Adelowo and Natalja Newman, managers from Independent Living and Specialist Service

Celebrating Social Care

This April we joined in the national initiative #CelebratingSocialCare. This is an event that is celebrated each year focusing on the incredible people who work in care and the people they support. We hosted many activities, including a special love and care Friday Night Social. It was a heartwarming celebration of the incredible work we do and the wonderful people we support and work with. It was filled with love and joy!



Great Place To Work

At Centre 404 we believe in the power of people's voices. Our dedicated staff shape the culture of Centre 404 and their feedback is invaluable in our continuous improvement. Our staff survey provided staff with the opportunity for their voices to be heard, so that we can continue to create a more resilient, successful Great Place to Work.

Your
words
have
power.



Volunteering



Ceremony at Bloomsbury Theater, UCL

Shortlisted Volunteer Organisation Of The Year

Centre 404 was shortlisted as a finalist for the University College London (UCL) Community Award 2024: Volunteer Organisation of the Year. Mandy Ziman Wu, a regular volunteer at Centre 404 who is also a UCL student, nominated us. Whilst we were not selected as the winner this time around, we are incredibly proud to have been recognised and are grateful for the nomination.

We have worked hard to develop powerful connections with UCL, which has rewarded us with tremendous student engagement. Students have volunteered alongside staff and service users in our clubs and workshops. Our 'Hackathon' event saw talented students coming into the charity to develop fundraising ideas. Thanks to all the students and staff at UCL for all the engagement.



Caroline Grimshaw
Volunteer and Engagement
Coordinator

Volunteers' Week 2024

A huge thank you to all our incredible volunteers, including corporate and service user volunteers, and Trustees. Your dedication and contribution is invaluable to us. We recently hosted a 'thank you' party in June to recognise their commitment.

To find out more about volunteering with Centre 404, please contact Caroline Grimshaw at CarolineG@Centre404.org.uk.



Events With Service Users



'Love and Loss Café' with service users

Dying Matters Week

We came together to mark Dying Matters Awareness Week by hosting a "Love and Loss Café" session with a group of service users, sharing a cuppa, some cake, and having a chat, discussing anything related to loss, illness, death, and dying. It included things that worried them about the future or sharing experiences from the past. We talked about what certain words meant to them, as well as thinking about how they would like to be remembered. It was great to share those thoughts and feelings about these topics with our service users within a friendly and understanding group. Additionally, we had an internal staff meeting to discuss how to support our service users in their end-of-life planning within social care settings.

Have Your Say Group

This is a friendly, inclusive group discussing issues that matter at Centre 404. From annual surveys to easy-read policies, events, interviews, and more, we empower service users to have their voices heard. The group meets regularly. To find out more, please contact Catherine Wordsworth through emailing catherinew@centre404.org.uk.



Have Your Say Group

Service users inclusion group

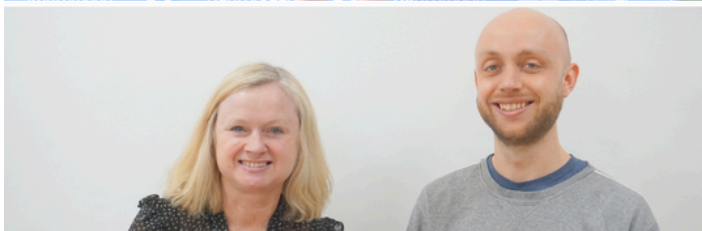
Service users and staff from Have Your Say Group



Enable the Vote Workshop

We held a workshop this month to ensure our service users can vote in the general election. Enable has produced an easy-read guide for this purpose. For more information, click on this link : <https://shorturl.at/UrdBe>

Fundraising



Tracy and Rory

Run for Centre 404

Huge congratulations to Rory for completing his 10k run at Regent's Park in April. big thank you to everyone who donated so far! The money raised will be spent on a range of activities to support the health and wellbeing of our service users and their family carers. Tracy, our Interim CEO is going to complete her run at the end of June. If you wish to support her please click the link here:

<https://shorturl.at/rMU5N>

Donor Appreciation

Last year we raised £4,000 for after-school activities for our service users and their siblings through the Big Give. We thank the Reed Foundation and Critico Security for supporting this appeal.

We launched an urgent appeal to fund our Happy Tuesday club, which provides activities and supports adults with complex learning disabilities. This club does not receive external funding. We have raised £6,731 enabling us to reduce their feelings of isolation and providing them with the opportunity to access activities within their communities. Thanks again to Critico Security for your generous support.

A heartfelt thanks to all our supporters, staff and volunteers who donated and attended our events, especially to the People's Army, and our long-term monthly donors for contributions.



Service users from Young Carer's Group



Service users from Happy Tuesday

Upcoming Events



Date: Wednesday, 26th June 2024

Time: 11am

Location: Finsbury Park

Sponsored Walk

Join us this June as we celebrate Learning Disability Week with our sponsored walk and picnic at Finsbury Park. We urgently need to fundraise to support the health and wellbeing of our service users and family carers. If you would like to take part, sponsorship forms are available from reception or you're welcome to email us at general@centre404.org.uk

Friday Night Social

404 Camden Road

Looking for a great Friday night out specifically designed for individuals with learning disabilities and/or autism? Join us on Friday's at 7pm- 9:30pm to disco the night away together! Why not join us on Friday 21st June and celebrate Learning Disability Week with us! Only £5 and free for carers!



Warm and Welcome Wednesday

404 Camden Road

Join us each Wednesday 7pm to 9.30pm, share a hot dinner together and take part in crafts activities, games and fun and so much more! This is a weekly term time only drop in Club for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism that focuses on reducing isolation and loneliness. If you require support please do come along with your support worker.

Follow Us on Social media

Would you like to know our latest updates? Follow us on social media to learn more about how we support our community.

