



Brain Injury Awareness Week 2008 **Monday 31st to Sunday 6th April**

A recent survey, commissioned by Headway UK and prepared in conjunction with the clinical neuropsychology team at the University of Exeter, aimed to uncover what people with brain injuries really think and feel, from how they feel about their brain injury to how they are treated by society. It also looked at personal relationships and how they may have changed since their brain injury.

The results of the survey are disturbing and highlight the challenges and prejudices people with brain injuries face in their everyday lives.

Overview of survey results

68% of people with brain injuries feel they are discriminated against in society

60% have been discriminated against by one or more social service

17% have not received any support at all from any social services team

89% said their brain injury had changed their personality

78% have had relationships break down following brain injury

48% find it hard to tell people about their brain injury

64% are unemployed

As well as raising awareness of the plight people with brain injuries can find themselves in, we will be focussing on the provision and availability of support. We have arranged an Awareness & Advice Day on Monday March 31st from 1.30 to 4.30 pm.

Deborah Wearing, author of 'Forever Today' and wife of Clive Wearing, former eminent conductor, and more recently subject of the ITV documentary 'The Man with the 7 Second Memory' will be giving a talk about the effects of brain injury on survivors. This remarkable and resourceful woman is bound to inspire you!

Advice will be available regarding Benefits, Housing, support for Carers, or getting legal advice.

We announced, in the September issue of Headlines, our imminent relocation to new premises in the Upper Stratton area of Swindon due to the closure of the Victoria Hospital. With much hard work, support and encouragement from our trustees, staff, volunteers and supporters we are now settled in and enjoying the opportunities the new property brings.



"Our new Headway is modern, has easy access, is more peaceful It has less noise, is more relaxing. and has a good atmosphere"

If you are yet to visit us, we have much more space now. As before, there is one big activity room, but we now also have a dedicated computer suite, quiet area and a separate kitchen which we are equipping with a view to clients developing their domestic skills. We also have a separate meeting room and offices.

Headway Swindon & District

Unit 17B Headlands Trading Estate, Headlands Grove, Upper Stratton, Swindon, Wiltshire. SN2 7JQ
Care & Support 01793 436908 Business & Administration 01793 617109 E-mail: info@headwayswindon.org.uk

The additional space and separate rooms will enable us to provide a wider range of activities for clients who will also be able to work in smaller, project focussed, groups.

“The new premises are much better than the old place. There is more room in here to get on with what we are doing.”

All of us at Headway Swindon & District are extremely grateful to everyone who provided the practical and financial support to facilitate our move to new premises and to equip the Centre .



The new Centre was officially opened in January by the actor Simon MacCorkindale who, until recently, played Senior Consultant Harry Harper in the BBC's hospital drama Casualty. He commented,

“What is amazing is to talk to some of the people who have had head injuries and how much they really feel the support they are getting from here; the mutual support they get amongst themselves, the fact they have regained confidence to deal with their injuries. It's fantastic”

Good media coverage from local press and radio raised awareness of the activities of Headway and the plight of those we support.

The clients quickly made their mark on the premises with this eye catching art. Designed by Belinda, who also produced the work with Mark and Ian, this impressive piece adorns one wall of the main activity area. Many thanks to who all contributed.



You may have read in the Swindon Advertiser of the recent vandalism to the Centre; approximately 50 roof tiles were ripped off and broken and the garden area left in a mess including damage to the hedge.

Fortunately we were able to get the roof repaired swiftly and we are hopeful that the hedge will grow back into shape before long.

As well as changing premises, we have made some role changes too, in particular the division of responsibilities for the client focussed and business aspects of Headway.

Alison is now Centre Manager and responsible for Client care, Staffing and Centre matters, including Health and Safety. She is assisted by Senior Support Worker, Sonia who heads up the team of Support Workers, Mel, Pauline and Lucy. Lucy, pictured right, recently joined us as a welcome and much needed addition to the Support Worker team.



Joanna is now Business Manager responsible for business matters including finance, policies and procedures, fund raising and raising awareness of Headway.

Christopher continues as Administrator and is now also ICT Tutor providing computer tuition.

We are also pleased to welcome two new Volunteers, Gail and Kerry who are both making a valuable contribution. We were sad to say goodbye to two volunteers Jen and Caroline. We wish Jen all the best in her new job as an Occupational Therapist, and Caroline in her new job too.

Please visit our website

www.headwayswindon.org.uk