



Exciting times ahead - CEO Sue Tyler

OUR NEW NAME!

We have changed our name from Headway West Midlands to **Headway Birmingham and Solihull**.

Why the change? Editor Rick Wise spoke to our CEO Sue Tyler: *"There are now many other groups operating within the West Midlands, and the name Headway West Midlands was causing confusion"* explained Sue. *"We felt the time was right to more accurately reflect the area we serve - Birmingham and Solihull. The new name enables us to have a clearer definition, focus, and direction. It has also given us the opportunity to refresh our image and branding to help make us more contemporary and vibrant."*

Are there any implications for the existing services offered to clients? *"I can assure everyone that the name change is a positive step that will enable us to develop the already excellent services we offer"* said Sue, who is pictured left. *"We also look forward to projecting our new name and image with the launch of a new website, with new promotional materials, and with the planned launch of our new charity shop in Rubery."*

Fundraiser launches Brain Injury Awareness Week!

Headway Birmingham and Solihull launched **Action For Brain Injury Awareness Week** with a fundraising dog walk on Sunday 8 May.

Held in picturesque Kings Heath park, the sun shone throughout the event which was a perfect opportunity to raise a few pounds for Headway and to raise awareness.

Brain Injury Week is organised by our parent organisation - Headway UK. This year the focus is on **Concussion Awareness** and more information can be found on www.headway.org.uk

Many thanks to all the owners and their dogs who supported the event! Pictured are doggie friends Dexter and Mollie being presented with their well deserved goodie bags after completing their walk. *Photograph by Rick Wise, who said it was a 'ruff assignment!'*



HOMELESSNESS AND BRAIN INJURY

A new Homelessness Caseworker has been appointed thanks to a unique partnership with Headwise.

Headwise, based at the Longbridge Technology Park, delivers rehabilitation to those with a range of impairments resulting from a brain injury or other neurological condition, and specialises in working with those with complex needs.

The new post, which will be funded by Headwise but based at Headway, has been created as part of a research project to explore links between brain injury and homelessness. Previous research has highlighted that a significant number of those who sleep on our streets have a brain injury, but there is much more to learn about the reasons behind this.

Lee Edwards, who has previous experience of working with brain injured people, has been appointed as the new caseworker for the project. He is tasked with assessing the particular needs of the homeless brain injured person and helping them move forward with their lives. He will also be involved in evaluative research to analyse the benefits and outcomes of early intervention, and helping promote these findings to the wider brain injury community.

Dr Andrew Worthington, Consultant in Neuropsychology and Director at



Nancy Khan, Lee Edwards, and Dr Andrew Worthington

Headwise, explained: "Research shows that many people who are homeless have suffered a brain injury but too often they slip through the net of support services. I am very pleased to be working with colleagues at Headway to raise awareness of their needs and provide a dedicated service to help homeless people get the understanding, help and care they require."

Nancy Khan, Carer Services Manager at Headway Birmingham & Solihull said: "Here at Headway, we do all that we can to support brain injured people and their families, and we are constantly looking at ways to improve the services we provide. We are therefore very keen to be part of this research project with Headwise and will give our full support to Lee as he takes up the new post of Homelessness Caseworker."

PEOPLE AT WORK

Rick Wise interviews Kerry Farrell



Kerry Farrell, 24, studied Health and Social Care and then came to Headway six years ago on a Hall Green College placement. She graduated first to Care Assistant, and has been a Skills Trainer since 2012. "I made a choice at 18 to start at Headway" said Kerry. "I was impressed with how much the clients benefit from Headway services. As a Skills Trainer there are always new challenges and I feel good about coming into work every day. It's a brilliant feeling seeing clients progress - even in small ways."

Kerry is now in year two of a six year course for a Degree in Psychology and Counseling with the Open University. This doesn't leave a lot of time for boyfriend Will who is based in Nottingham - so they only see each other at weekends!

Kerry lives at home with mom, dad, and her dog Boo. To relax she enjoys music, especially Rock, spending time with family, and photography - an interest inherited from her dad. Oh, and she hopes to pass her driving test this year!

FUNDRAISING

FREEMASON DONATION

We'd like to thank the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire for their kind donation of £500. Warwickshire Freemasons support many deserving charities throughout the Warwickshire and West Midlands areas, and we're really pleased to be one of these!

MARATHON MONKEY

Student nurse Mandeep Kharpal set himself a challenge - to run four marathons in four weeks dressed as a monkey! We are delighted to



Above: Mandeep in training!



Our first Easter Fun Run, held in Cofton Park in March, attracted almost 100 runners and raised over £1,500. Special thanks go to Frenkel Topping for sponsoring the medals, to local supermarkets (Morrisons, Sainsbury and Tesco) who donated the Easter eggs and water for race finishers, and of course, to everyone who ran, jogged or walked the 5k route!

Look out for details of next year's event!

*Above: They're off!
Below: CEO Sue Tyler with winner Jack Dawkins*



report that he completed all four races (Manchester, Bungay Black Dog, Blackpool, and Milton Keynes) and has raised over £1000 for Headway Birmingham & Solihull through his amazing running efforts. Thank you Mandeep!

FUNDRAISING IN LINE!

The *Double R* Linedancers in Shirley hold a monthly line dance social. They donated the £100 proceeds from their get together in May to Headway Birmingham & Solihull. Many thanks!

Action for Brain Injury Awareness Week!



Staff and clients have been busy with some special events during Brain Injury Awareness Week, which ran from 8 - 15 May.

Sharon and Sue from Carer Services visited hospitals to promote awareness with an information stand. They are pictured (right) at Solihull Hospital with hospital volunteer Gill Regon.

'Hats for Headway' was once again a client favourite. This year had a sporting theme (picture top left) which was also evident in the inter centre Boccia match (bottom left) which Headway House won by only 2 points!





Improving life after brain injury

Registered Charity No 1008798

Company Reg number 2686647

Leighton House
20 Chapel Rise,
Birmingham Great Park,
Rednal,
Birmingham B45 9SN

Headway House
Moseley Hall Hospital,
Alcester Road,
Birmingham B13 8JL

www.headway-bs.org.uk
enquiries@headway-bs.org.uk

Main Contact telephone:

0121 457 7541

Headway Charity Shops:

69 Thornbridge Avenue
Great Barr
Birmingham B42 2PW
tel: 0121 357 1296

Opening soon!
New
charity shop
in Rubery!



LOTTERY FUNDED

Volunteers Wanted!

We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

The Carer Services Team, Counsellors, Mini Bus Driver
Sports & Well Being Assistants, Fundraising Helpers

Office / Admin / Reception duties, Gardener / Handyman

Charity Shop Assistants: both in our existing shop in Great Barr and the new shop in Rubery which is opening soon!

Interested? Please call Alison in Personnel

0121 457 7541 for more information

LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES

Long service certificates have been presented to **Becky Whenham** for 15 years service; **Trish Samuels** for 10 years service; and **Tracey Marlow** for 10 years service.

At the Board of Trustees meeting in May, CEO Sue Tyler was presented with a certificate to mark 25 years of service with Headway.



Speaking afterwards Sue said: "I can't believe how quickly my time at Headway has flown by. I can honestly say I have enjoyed every year so far, as no two days are the same and I work with such a dedicated bunch of people. It is such a pleasure to see how we have grown from just myself to more than 70 staff over the 25 years and we now provide such a brilliant range of services across the whole pathway. **I am proud of all the staff and volunteers who work so hard to improve the lives of those affected by brain injury and look forward to seeing what the future holds for Headway Birmingham & Solihull.**"

Sue is pictured with Rachael Kinning, David Chater, Delini DeSilva, Chris Roach and John Barnes.

PUPPET SHOW

Leighton House clients are pictured below with their Puppet Show creation. All the puppets were made by hand, a script was written and then all put together for an unforgettable performance. "That's the way to do it!"



GOLF TASTER

Bromsgrove Golf Club kindly hosted a golf taster session for Headway in March. Three clients, who really enjoyed themselves, took up the opportunity to swing their clubs! Thank you Bromsgrove GC.

