



PROVIDENCE ROW

A PLACE OF REFUGE, A PLACE OF HOPE

Summer 2008

www.providencerow.org.uk

A sight for sore eyes

As part of our ongoing commitment in the fight against homelessness, Providence Row has had a history of providing essential medical care to many of our clients. Luthfa Nessa, one of our advice and support workers has been instrumental in making this happen. Luthfa has worked at Providence Row for six years and is dedicated in her work.

"I had a burning ambition to work for a worthy cause."

In response to our client questionnaire, and in holding with our plans for service development, Luthfa instigated bringing in several new services. One such service provided by our local Primary Care Trust is an Optician satellite service.

From the 21 April 2008 at 10am, a company called Budget Spex began the first of many weekly visits to Providence Row. With a qualified team of opticians operating from the Treatment Room, the service was quickly taken up by many of our clients. However only people who have recourse to public fund were eligible for the service, meaning we had to turn a few away.

On one extremely successful morning with the Optician, we had 19 clients take up the service, including, as a favour to one particular client, who was ineligible for the service, the Optician very kindly provided her with a free eye test as well as a pair of glasses, a service she would not have been able to access, let alone afford, anywhere else.

After a 15 minute eye exam, clients can expect to receive their glasses within a week. All the clients are extremely happy with the results, with many feeding back to Luthfa their gratitude.

The opticians service is simply one of the many satellite and pro-bono services that we provide for our clients here at Providence Row. With Reed Smith Richards Butler and Freshfields

Bruckhaus Deringer providing legal advice on Tuesdays, the Department of Pensions and Trusts providing job hunting support on Wednesday, to Medicines du Monde providing medical care on Friday, Providence Row strives forward in the fight against homelessness.

Luthfa and Providence Row want to do even more for the clients, and with this in mind, we will soon be setting up two new satellite services. Waterfields, another legal firm, will be running a pro-bono street legal advice service, which comprises of dealing with cases such as crime, family law, welfare and benefits, housing, employment law, etc. Providence Row will also be setting up a debt advice service, run by Capitalised Toynbee Hall, which will help people recover from debt, a major issue that leads to homelessness.

Luthfa is excited by the progress Providence Row has made in broadening the services we can deliver to our clients. However she also realises that this is an ongoing battle and not something that will be won easily.

"I have seen many things come and go in my time here, but the problem of homelessness has stayed the same."



Luthfa Nessa

www.freshfields.com

CLIFFORD
CHANCE



Web heads

In response to our client survey, Providence Row has set up a new internet access project. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, between 10.15am and 11.45am, Laura Bidgood and Mohammed Chowdhury, two of our project workers, help with training and advice for our clients using our new internet café.

We now have six internet ready computers in the centre which clients can use to search for jobs, find training courses to obtain qualifications they might need and help with education. We've already had very positive feedback with several clients commenting on how useful it has been, especially those that are attending college and need to write essays and assignments.

Whilst the café is still in its infancy, Mo and Laura have big plans for the future. With an IT training volunteer currently being recruited, we plan to set up structured training to help clients with CV writing, improve their IT skills and generally help them search for jobs and accommodation. If you are interested in being an IT training volunteer please contact Graham Baines, Volunteer Coordinator on 02074 226381 or gbaines@providencerow.org.uk

Befriending

In March we set up a new befriending scheme run by volunteers. The befrienders build up a good rapport with the clients and help access the range of services we offer based on their particular needs. If you are interested in being a befriender please contact Graham Baines, Volunteer Coordinator on 02074 226381 or gbaines@providencerow.org.uk

Providence Row's first annual art exhibition.



On Thursday May 1 2008, Providence Row hosted its first annual art exhibition of our clients' artwork. It was an exciting day focusing on our clients' talents and artwork, showcased through various mediums, including photography, a video installation, sculptures paintings and an interactive mosaics workshop. The art reflected the lives, of our clients, both the

good and the bad, as well as their personal interests.

There was a good turn out of people with roughly 40-50 people attending and several pieces of art were sold. We would like to thank all those that supported the evening, most notably Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer who very kindly supplied the refreshments.

Street league

Providence Row has set up a regular football training project for our clients on Wednesday afternoons run by Mohammed Chowdhury working with Street League, a London based football league for socially excluded people. London charities working with homeless people, ex-offenders, drug dependent individuals in rehabilitation, long term unemployed, refugees and asylum seekers all take part.

24 teams train every week with an FA qualified football coach, where they prepare for a monthly league game. Mohammed believes this is key to helping our clients on their pathway out of homelessness.

“Regular training allows the clients to not only build their fitness and health, but it also gives them stability and something regular that they can build around. Having a planned activity like Street League helps clients to plan themselves.”

– Mohammed Chowdhury, Project Worker.

Every six months there is also Street League cup competition with the winners receiving a shield. Last years winner were invited for a tour of a Premiership football club as well as tickets to a Premiership football game.

This regular training not only improves the fitness and health of our clients, but gives them a focus and regular commitment that can bring an idea of goal orientation back into their lives. Street League also run a Lifestyle Development Scheme for teams and individual players that demonstrate regular commitment, where they undergo personal development work, skills training and work experience.

Open heads

On Thursday 24 July 2008, Providence Row will be hosting an Open House for supporters and the local community.

Our CEO Jo Ansell welcomes everyone to come along: “We’ve been a part of the East End since 1860, and we want to open our doors to the public, and help people be aware what we do. Our Open House will allow people to see our facilities, talk to us about the work we do and our long history, and mix with others from the local community – all in a relaxed environment.”

There will be displays of art work by clients and a festive summer barbecue, as well as informative talks, tours and activities. Come and see in person what we do!

Doors open from 2pm on 24 July. For more information contact 020 7422 6385.



Gifts in Kind appeal

With our clients taking part in regular training sessions every week, Providence Row is in desperate need of sports and training clothes. This includes the following:

- t-shirts;
- trainer/sports shoes;
- socks;
- shorts;
- jogging bottoms; and
- sweat shirts.

In order to achieve this, we are not only asking for your assistance right now, but we are also looking to build a long term relationship with individuals, companies, schools and other organizations. Your support would be most helpful in supporting drives for Providence Row every couple of months for specific items. If you would like any more information about Providence Row, or indeed have any questions, then please do not hesitate in contacting Philip McCarthy on:

T 0207 422 6385

E pmccarthy@providencerow.org.uk

coming&going



We would like to bid an extremely fond farewell to Maciej (Magic) Azarewicz!!!

Magic has been an extremely popular member of staff, both with clients and colleagues alike. With his unique outlook on life he often brought a smile and a wave from everybody who came into the Dellow Centre, even on the wettest of days.

Magic will be sorely missed and we wish him well on his travels.

Donation form

We depend on voluntary contributions to meet the costs of our services. Any donations you make will help.

I enclose a donation of
for the work of Providence Row

£

Title

First name

Surname

Company

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone

Standing order

The most convenient method of donating is by standing order. Please complete this form and send it to:

The Fundraising Department
Providence Row
The Dellow Centre
82 Wentworth Street
London E1 7SA

To the manager

Bank

Address

Postcode

Please pay to HSBC plc
Poultry and Princes Street
London EC2P 2BX,
for the credit of **Providence Row**,
Bank code 40-05-30 Account no 50674788

The sum of £ [Annually] [Quarterly] [Monthly]

Sum in words

Payment date on the day of 2007

and a like sum:

Annually on the day of each year

Quarterly on the day of each third month

Monthly on the day of each subsequent month

Title

First name

Surname

Account number

Bank sort code

Signature

Date

Telephone

Email

Gift aid

Please tick the box below so we can claim back 28p for every pound you give.

I am a tax payer and would like Providence Row to claim back the tax on all my donations from 6 April 2000 until further notice.

Signature

Date

I would like to receive further information on:

Fundraising

Volunteering

Donations in kind

Legacies

Please return this form to:

The Fundraising Department
Providence Row
The Dellow Centre
82 Wentworth Street
London E1 7SA

Please tick here if you would like to receive an acknowledgement of this donation.