

As 2007 draws to a close we would like to take the opportunity to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported Mind in Taunton and West Somerset over the last 12 months. As many of you will know 2007 has been a year of change within the organisation. Some projects have sadly come to the end of their funding, others have been successful in securing significant ongoing funding streams. Despite these ups and downs however we remain very positive about the future and are excited about the opportunities that 2008 will be bringing. For more information about our current range of services you can visit our website at [www.mindtws.org.uk](http://www.mindtws.org.uk).

Please enjoy our final monthly round-up of 2007.

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### **Board of Directors – two vacancies**

There are currently two exciting opportunities to join our Board of Directors. The Board provides strategic direction for the organisation and oversees spending and standards. Being a Director means making a vital contribution to the development and delivery of Mind in Taunton and West Somerset's independent, local mental health services.

The Board meets monthly and we are looking for two individuals who can commit to the equivalent of approximately two hours per week. We particularly encourage and welcome applications from people who have direct experience of using mental health services and who live in Taunton Deane or West Somerset. For more information please contact Stuart Hooper, Chief Executive, on 01823 334906 or [Stuart.Hooper@mindtws.org.uk](mailto:Stuart.Hooper@mindtws.org.uk)

### **Welcome to new staff**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome to our staff team Andy Pritchard. Andy has recently moved to the area, having previously worked for Mind in Westminster, and is taking over the role of Mindline Manager from December. Andy will be working hard over the next few months getting to know staff and volunteers – do introduce yourself if you see him in and around the office!

If you would like to find out more about Mindline or would like to contact Andy you can call the office on 01823 334906 or email [Andrew.Pritchard@mindtws.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.Pritchard@mindtws.org.uk)

## **Have your say about local mental health services**

Have you been affected by anxiety, depression and phobias and other stress related illnesses? Would you like to use your views to influence the future development of local mental health services? Somerset Primary Care Trust are asking people in Somerset to tell them about their personal experiences of accessing services in a bid to ensure that local people have access to the help they need, when they need it. This is your chance to have your say about the future of our local mental health service.

Copies of the consultation document can be obtained by calling 01460 238625 or from the PCT's web site at [www.somersetpct.nhs.uk](http://www.somersetpct.nhs.uk). There will also be a series of public consultation events being held around the county as follows:

STREET - Tuesday January 8th 2008, Wessex Hotel, Street at 7pm  
TAUNTON - Friday January 11th 2008, Albemarle Centre, Taunton at 10.30am  
BRIDGWATER - Thursday January 17th 2008, Bridgwater Town Hall at 2.30pm  
YEOVIL - Wednesday January 23rd 2008, Yeovil (time and venue to be confirmed)

## **Mind in Taunton and West Somerset take to the street**

Staff and volunteers from Mind in Taunton and West Somerset took to the streets of Wellington last weekend (Saturday 15) with collection tins, hats and scarves! Despite the icy winds and toe-numbing cold we stuck it out for several hours and were thrilled with the support and generosity of the people we met. We raised approximately £100, all of which will go directly towards helping local people in emotional distress.

We have another street collection planned in Taunton town centre for Saturday 1 March 2008. If you are able to spare an hour on the day to help with the collection we would be delighted, otherwise if you are out and about in Taunton please do stop and say hello (and perhaps put some money in one of our tins!). If you are able to help us please contact Jo Middleton on 01823 334906 or email [Jo.Middleton@mindtws.org.uk](mailto:Jo.Middleton@mindtws.org.uk)

*Very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

PLEASE TELL A FRIEND – Please forward this e-mail to anyone who you think might be interested in finding out more about Mind in Taunton and West Somerset.