

# November e-news bulletin

Welcome to the November edition of Mind in Taunton and West Somerset's e-news bulletin – please read about our brand new advocacy project – it is very exciting 😊

We would like this news to reach as many people as possible so do please feel free to forward it on to anyone you know who might be interested. If you have been forwarded this email but would like to be sent it directly every month then please email me at [jom@mindtws.org.uk](mailto:jom@mindtws.org.uk) and I will add you to my mailing list.

## Contents:

- NEW ADVOCACY PROJECT!
  - Financial Capability training
- West Somerset Inclusion Project looking for new premises
  - Money Saving Expert Charity
    - Feedback needed
    - Thank you

## NEW ADVOCACY PROJECT!

We are celebrating a new large grant this week that will enable us to set up and run a brand new, much needed advocacy service across Taunton Deane and West Somerset. The £106,311 grant was made by Comic Relief under their mental health programme and will fully fund the new service for three years. The project will be aimed at anyone in emotional distress or with any kind of existing mental health problem who needs extra help understanding or accessing services. It will empower service users to have more of a say in the decisions affecting their day to day lives.

The first step for the project will be to recruit a steering committee, Project Manager and a team of volunteer advocates. Mind in Taunton and West Somerset would love to hear from anyone with an interest in advocacy who would like to get more involved with this new and exciting project. An advert for the Project Manager vacancy is attached.

## Financial Capability training

Andy Pritchard, our Mindline Manager, has recently completed some training through the Financial Services Authority and is now able to roll this out to other local organisations.

The aim of the training package is to introduce financial capability issues and the generic advice principles and skills that will help deliver support to service users on issues relating to the key areas of financial capability. Training is available for groups of staff or individuals and can be organised to be in-house or at a local venue depending on need.

For more information contact Andy directly on [Andrew.pritchard@mindtws.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.pritchard@mindtws.org.uk)

## West Somerset Inclusion Project looking for new premises

With statistics estimating that in Somerset one in three people suffers psychological stress at any one time, demand for the services the West Somerset Inclusion Project is rapidly increasing. As a result the project has outgrown its office in Parks Lane, Minehead and is looking for new premises to expand its listening and drop-in services in the West Somerset area.

The Project therefore has two options. It can look for an office with more space, or it can find a second office specifically as a drop-in centre. However, as a charity we need to keep costs down. Anyone who knows of any office space in the Minehead area that might be suitable for Mind's purposes is asked to contact Deborah Melmoth on 01643 708765.

## Money Saving Expert Charity

We have recently been successful in securing a grant of £4,036 from Money Saving Expert Charity to provide a debt and money advice drop-in session. The project is currently in the planning stages so watch this space....

## Feedback needed

How do you feel when this bulletin arrives in your inbox? Is it the highlight of your day or do you groan and delete it immediately? I would love to hear what you think, whether it be good or bad, so that I can make sure the information I am sending out is as useful and as interesting as possible. To encourage some active participation I have prizes! The first three people from this mailing list to

respond with their comments will win Marks and Spencer vouchers. What more incentive could you possibly need? (Sorry, but this excludes Mind TWS staff!)

## Thank you

Thank you to Comic Relief for a grant of £106,311 to set up a new advocacy service

Thank you to Sarah, our new volunteer Events Fundraiser, for volunteering her time and expertise to organise a car boot sale for us

Thank you to Money Saving Expert Charity for agreeing a grant of £4,036 to provide a money and debt information service