

# LEAVING CARE NEWS



ISSUE ONE

Summer 2011

## A WARM WELCOME

This newsletter has been designed to keep you up to date with what we're doing, what we've achieved and even how you could get involved in supporting a future where people live happily and safely in their own homes, a future where they can reach their true potential!

## Our first Newsletter!



LOTTERY FUNDED

## BIG LOTTERY FUND

### Big Lottery invest £1 million in Arch's Leaving Care partnership

We are really excited to announce that we have been successful in securing a Big Lottery award totaling **£988,538** to support young people leaving care through our Youth Support Network.

**Youth Support Network** is a four-year project targeted at young people leaving the care system and provides them with individual, tailored support to help with the transition to independence.

**Arch** will be the lead agent for the Youth Support Network partnership of key voluntary and statutory providers operating across the city and working closely with Stoke's Children and Young People's Services will mean that the project forms part of their work for improving services for care leavers.

**Paul Bridges Arch CEO** said *"The project will make a huge difference to the lives of young people leaving care by creating new kinds of help and support and providing them with the opportunities to succeed. It will also mean that there are some exciting new job opportunities contributing to the local economy"*

The competition for the **Big Lottery's** 'Youth in Focus' programme was fierce and we are one of only 30 organisations England-wide to have secured funding!



Partners Celebrate Success

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

At the beginning of 2009 I was in full-time employment and stable, and by stable I mean I had a secure place to live and enough money to pay my rent.

Then unfortunately, I was involved in an incident which led me to losing my job and my home. It happened one night when I had had a drink and was not thinking right. I was driving over the limit and was involved in a car accident. I ended up going to court and getting a criminal record, which resulted in me losing my job. This was because with the job I had, I could not have a criminal record. I was head door supervisor in charge of all the doormen at the nightclub that employed me.

After the court case, I started to drink heavily, using drink as a coping mechanism. I felt gutted as this was a job that I had done for 6 years and loved. As a result of losing my job in this way, I was unable to sign on which meant I had to give up my accommodation and my lifestyle.

Then a friend told me about a place called Arch and I went along for an interview. Then about three days later, I was offered a place to live.

Since that day, I got involved in doing different activities with Arch Community Learning including being a Peer Mentor. I lead a cooking session every Wednesday which new people attend every week and everyone is made to feel welcome.

Doing this has helped me with not drinking and also gets me out and meeting new people. It has also helped me to learn new things like learning how to budget my money and improve my skills when it comes to my incomings and outgoings.

After three months of being with Arch, I have cut down a lot on my drinking and I am also a lot happier. Don't get me wrong, I still have my bad days but the good outweighs the bad these days. I am now concentrating on getting my door badge back. Hopefully it will only be about six months time before I can make some progress with that. I also would like to thank everyone that works at Arch because I believe I would not be here now if it was not for them.



Learning to cook

## LEARNING FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE CASE TRAGEDIES

In April 2011, Home Secretary Theresa May announced local areas should undertake new action to tackle domestic homicide following any case where someone has been killed by their current or former partner.

Arch fully backs the changes in England and Wales which mean that every domestic abuse death will be automatically reviewed to make sure lessons are learned about violence in the home.

Together with the police and health services, local authorities, probation, voluntary groups and any other bodies connected to a victim will now have to examine together exactly what went wrong and consider how to spot the signs when someone's life is in danger.

Wendy Wainwright, Head of Arch Domestic Violence Services said:

*"Reviewing all domestic abuse homicides is a positive development. It will inform agencies involved in the field of domestic abuse about what is needed to manage risk effectively and prevent future tragedies occurring. It will also highlight shortfalls in services that require secure and consistent funding to ensure that victims can be kept safe and are able to make independent choices".*

## ARCH IS AWARDED INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED QUALITY MARK

Arch is extremely proud to announce that, following external audit on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011, we have been recommended for ISO 9001 certification.

The internationally recognised standard for the quality management of businesses shows our commitment to quality, to our customers and, our willingness to work towards improving efficiency.

The award is truly reflective of the values of Arch and the great work we do. ISO 9001 accreditation follows our award last summer recognising our status as an Investors in People organisation for 10 years (one of only 3000 organisations nationally) and more recently the award of the Positive about Disabled People quality mark.



## ARCH IN EUROPE

Relationships without Fear is currently part of a European Funded project working with Keele University called READAPT. As part of this project I was invited to attend a 5 day conference in Spain, arranged by our Spanish partners, titled “the mask of love”.

I was nervous but excited about this new venture into Europe. The weather was dismal for Southern Spain with plenty of clouds and rain! Other than that I really enjoyed the week, it was interesting and such a great experience, I am extremely grateful I had the opportunity to be part of the conference and would love to do it again.

The first half of the seminar explored the different organisations across the participants countries.

Each country presented information about their organisation and their project. The participants came from Spain, Bulgaria, Italy, Turkey, France, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Portugal and the UK.

The second half of the seminar focused on the GrundtvigProject. This project provides adult education across Europe.

The conclusion I came to towards the end of the conference is many of the EU countries represented are already heavily involved in EU projects around Domestic Violence. Even though the UK is further advanced in the field of Domestic Violence we should be sharing this knowledge and expertise. There seems to be a massive opportunity for innovative projects that would not only place Arch on the EU map of DV but also the UK as a whole.

**Kate Howard**  
Relationships without Fear Coordinator

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

“This is the first ARCH newsletter and we intend to do a regular update for our supporters and those interested in our work. We hope to give you a flavour of some of the exciting things that are happening at ARCH, what the money is being used for and what new work we are developing. In this edition we feature our new project in Cheshire East and a real life story of how we have helped someone pick their lives back up after a they made a few mistakes, we believe ‘everyone deserves a second chance and a helping hand’ .

Our sponsors and supporters are our lifeblood, you enable us to do important work that makes a real difference on peoples lives, so today I’d just like to say thanks to you all and keep up the great work, we couldn’t do it without you”

**TACKLING  
DOMESTIC  
ABUSE  
IN**



For the last 21 years Arch has focussed its work in Staffordshire. Now, excitingly, we have won

a tender that enables us to also deliver Domestic Violence Services in East Cheshire. This is great for Domestic Violence Survivors as, along

with our county wide alliance with other providers of Domestic Violence organisations, we will now have more scope to offer a place of safety to women and children fleeing violence and abuse in the home.

The organisation had a tough challenge to get the service up and running in a very short timescale but at the time of writing this we are accepting referrals and establishing the service by promoting it to key agencies who will refer to us.

We know we will be able to offer a great service in Crewe and are happy to live our values and work in partnership across the Cheshire East area.



# VODAFONE MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



## A World of Difference – Leasha's placement with Arch

Vodafone has been supporting Arch since 2010 and I became involved as a volunteer and helped to organise a handful of charity events through Vodafone.

So, when I was given the opportunity to enter a competition, I knew straight away the charity I wanted to support would be Arch.

I put Arch forward because I feel very passionate and I believe in Arch and the effects that this charity has on the local community and the support it offers to women and children who have been victims of domestic violence; and also homelessness.

I entered the competition through Vodafone - World of Difference UK, which gives 500 people the chance to work for a UK-based charity of their choice for two months, and get paid for their time.



Leasha Allen

This was a long process and there were over 11,000 applicants from all sorts of organisations across the UK who applied. It was fantastic news to be told that I have been selected to join the programme!

My time at Arch will be playing a very supportive role for the Business Development Team and in particular coordinating to a specific project within the Corporate and Community Fundraising. I will be practically involved in Community and Corporate Fundraising events, which will also include visiting/talking to both corporate and community fundraising groups.

If you want to know more about the World of Difference Programme visit the website at:

[www.worldofdifference.vodafone.co.uk/aboutWOD.html](http://www.worldofdifference.vodafone.co.uk/aboutWOD.html)

Forthcoming  
Fundraising

## CHARITY GOLF DAY

This August 4th will see the third ASC Financial Management Ltd. Charity Golf Day, at the prestigious De Vere Wychwood Park Golf Course.

Over the last two years over 90 golfers have taken part to raise much needed funds for Arch.

The cost of participation in this year's event is £60 per person or £220 (team of 4) this includes a bacon bap & tea/coffee on arrival, round of golf on the first class course followed by a three course evening meal and presentation of awards. In addition to participating in the golf there are a host of sponsorship opportunities including prizes, trophies, sponsoring individual holes, tees, fairway etc.

For further information please contact Ray Elks on 07990 588 639 or email [fundraising@archnorthstaffs.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@archnorthstaffs.org.uk)

DE VERE  
venues



JustTextGiving™  
by Vodafone

Arch (North Staffs) will be amongst the first charities in the country to use its own, unique personalised text code, ARCH01, to raise funds using JustTextGiving by Vodafone.

This is a brand new, free service for charities, that has no set up or fundraising costs, no network charges for supporters making donations and every penny donated goes towards the work of Arch. Gift Aid can also be added to donations.

Vodafone are covering JustGiving's 5% fee on donations for two years. It's a massive commitment to the third sector and JustGiving is proud to have forged this exciting and unique partnership.

To donate anything from £1 to £10 towards the work of Arch just text ARCH01 and the amount you are willing to donate to 70070

For further information about JustTextGiving by Vodafone please visit [www.justtextgiving.co.uk](http://www.justtextgiving.co.uk)