

Background Information about Redcar & Cleveland Mind

Redcar & Cleveland Mind – Who We Are

Redcar & Cleveland Mind is a well respected and successful charity established in 1991 and has a solid track record in the delivery of mental health services and training across our Borough. Services include a community café, advocacy and advice services, IT courses, Talking Therapies, PREP (Prisoner Rehabilitation and Engagement Programme), apprenticeships and creative therapies alongside our core “Road to Recovery” programme. In the past year, we have assisted 204 new adult service users across Redcar & Cleveland through our “Road to Recovery” programme, 91 counselling clients, and have provided opportunities for 42 volunteers.

In 2012 we implemented a whole scale service restructure, and completely remodelled our service delivery. We also refreshed our governance arrangements to improve the capacity and skill base of Trustees, and redefined our **Purpose Statement** so that it was clearly understood by all stakeholders:

Our Vision: *Good Mental Health for All*

Our Mission: *Provide and promote a quality wellbeing, prevention and recovery service that puts people first.*

Our Values: *We believe in providing support for people at a time and place when they need it. We will accept them as individuals and respect their beliefs, needs and wishes. We will offer a welcoming and empowering environment, continuously working to ensure accountability, professionalism and integrity.*

Redcar & Cleveland Mind Financial Strategy

In the light of reduced grant funding, the Trustees and Senior Management Team of Redcar & Cleveland Mind have developed and begun to implement a refreshed Financial Strategy, based on the four key principles of:

- Sustainability
- Best Value
- Competitiveness
- Ethical Practice

We recognise that our ability to be sustainable and grow is based upon maximising income through:

- Charitable giving and fundraising
- Asset acquisition
- Maximising grant funding
- Securing contracts
- Business development

Something in Mind

Our aim is to differentiate ourselves from other charity retailers. At Something in Mind, we have run several successful creative groups in the café to date, including the Crafty Cafe facilitated by our Artist in Residence, a Knit and Natter group and a creative writing group.

We also have a volunteer using a sewing machine in the shop to re-work old donated items into new saleable products. For example, a pair of curtains cut down and made into cushion covers. There is an appetite for “upcycled” and vintage items which meets our aspirations to improve our green credentials as well as provide a unique customer offer, not available anywhere else in the Tees Valley.

We also continue to have an established relationship with HMP Kirklevington through our PREP (Prisoner Rehabilitation and Engagement Programme) project, working with offenders.

Why do it?

As a mental health organisation, Redcar & Cleveland Mind has a social conscience, and is committed to maximising opportunities for vulnerable people. We have been working with offenders for 2 years and have seen the reality of offering real work experience to these men and the progress they make during their time with us. We are keen to extend the opportunities that we can offer to this client group as a means of improving their employment chances upon release.

We utilise our volunteer workforce across most of our services, and currently have 42 volunteers working with us. We are experienced in the management, supervision and development of volunteers and recognise the valuable contribution they make to our organisation.

Objectives of Something in Mind:

- Provide a revenue stream to Redcar & Cleveland Mind to support core services;
- Raise the profile of the organisation and increase the uptake of our other services;
- Provide training and volunteering opportunities for offenders from HMP Kirklevington and for recovering service users with a mental health need;
- Provide a clear measure of Social Value.

Key Partnerships:

HMP Kirklevington: We have been working with Kirklevington, providing prisoner placements through our PREP project for 18 months, though we had some informal links with them for the preceding 6 month period. To date, we have supported 12 prisoners through the project. One of the men who had been with us for over 18 months, was released in April 2013 and has been employed as our Cafe Supervisor.

Probation Service: We have worked with the Probation Service for many years and have an established working relationship. They are a key partner in ensuring that offenders are effectively supported in volunteer placements and in the provision of training.