

# Team Work



News and information for people with learning & work in mind

## Improving the Odds

Job retention and social firms are the two main themes of the next **SWEMPnet Conference in Exeter on Thursday 22 May**. The aim of the conference is enable participants to feel more supported and informed in their work with people whose mental health affects their ability to find or sustain employment.

Keynote speakers will be Steve Mason of A4e and Sally Reynolds of Social Firms UK. A wide range of workshops offer chances to explore job retention, supporting employees and employers, employee assistance programmes, how to set up a social enterprise and externalising social firms from the NHS.

Details of the conference are on page 3 and a booking form accompanies this edition of *TeamWork* – but hurry, the closing date for booking a place is 22 April.

Started in 1999, SWEMPnet is a registered charity covering the South West. It is a network of people interested in or involved with mental health vocational rehabilitation. The main aim of SWEMPnet is to encourage good practice in promoting the employment of people with mental health issues through the sharing of information. For more information contact Christine Wardle on 01392 208833 or e-mail [Christine.wardle@devonptrs.nhs.uk](mailto:Christine.wardle@devonptrs.nhs.uk)

### Useful numbers

Connexions	203603
Citizens Advice Bureau	201210
Council Tax & Housing Benefits	265440
Exeter College	205222
Exeter Volunteer Centre	202055
Exeter Mental Health Service Users Group	201218
First Step Project	202055
Jobcentre Plus	474700
Meadow House	208900
MIND Exeter & East Devon	204499
Nextstep	0845 8 50 50 70
New Leaf	823720
PLUSS	0800 91 777 92
Rethink	01395 224166
St Loye's Foundation	255428
Skills for Life & Learning at Broadclyst	466643
Springboard	204496
Victory Centre	383788
WorkWAYS	208833

All prefixed by 01392 unless shown

### Job Retention & Social Firms

The two themes of the 'Improving the Odds' conference are picked up in this edition of *TeamWork*.

With Hillcrest Branch now a social firm and our sister organisation, Clothing Works also exploring that avenue we take a look at how things are progressing.

You can't do job retention without talking with employers so we have an update on MINDFUL EMPLOYER as well and how we encourage working in partnership with supporting agencies.

Read *Team Work* online at  
[www.workways.org.uk](http://www.workways.org.uk)

# Developing Social Firms



## Hillcrest Branch

As reported in the last edition of *TeamWork* (Issue 28 – Autumn 2007), Hillcrest Branch has become only the third company in the UK to externalise from the NHS. Hillcrest Branch became a social firm at the beginning of April and this milestone is being celebrated at a launch event on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Hillcrest Branch has emerged in recent years from Exminster-based Hillcrest Growers which is part of Devon Partnership NHS Trust's New Leaf Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Service. This means it is now an independent 'not for profit' company limited by the guarantee of its board of directors. Providing grounds maintenance and horticultural services, the aim of Hillcrest Branch is to act as a stepping stone between current VR services and regular employment. Giving those who have suffered with mental health issues, a supported but realistic working environment, in which they can gain the skills they need to help them back into work.

Visit [www.hillcrestbranch.com](http://www.hillcrestbranch.com) or tel 01392 829064 for more information



## Clothing Works

Also based at New Leaf's site in Exminster, on the outskirts of Exeter, Clothing Works continues to move towards becoming the next Social Firm externalised from Devon Partnership NHS Trust.

Clothing Works is now looking to expand and diversify still further. At the moment the team markets professional health care clothing with either embroidered or printed logos, aimed at occupational therapists, physiotherapists & other healthcare professionals both inside the NHS and in the private sector. Recently Clothing Works has also supplied customers from overseas, namely, Japan, Sweden & Cyprus.

However, Clothing Works are now actively expanding into private logos & wording on garments & bags. The extensive knowledge base and flexibility of the team can enable this to consist of either one off items to multiple runs. The staff team continues to learn about the day to day running of a new business, along with individual specialist training that enables this well known business to continue to grow.

"We work closely with Social Firms UK to expand our business base and working knowledge," said Steve Wincott. "This has allowed the staff team to alter their working practices enabling Clothing Works to be more efficient & competitive within the market place."

To place an order or to obtain further information, please contact us at the following:

[Clothing.Works@DevonPtrns.nhs.uk](mailto:Clothing.Works@DevonPtrns.nhs.uk) Tel: 01392 829063 or Fax: 01392 829068 or visit [www.clothing-works.co.uk](http://www.clothing-works.co.uk)

# Improving the Odds – Sustaining Employment

**Thursday 22 May                      Exeter**

9.45am                      Coffee and registration for 10.15am start

**Welcome and Introduction – Lucy Findlay, CEO Rise:** the voice for South West social enterprise

**Keynote speaker – Steve Mason Project Director A4E:** Job retention

**Workshops** *Each delegate will be able to attend one of the three morning workshops and one of the three afternoon workshops. Choices will be made on the day.*

1. **Job retention – the role of the Vocational Advisor and Employer** – Richard Frost and Lynn Aggett, Vocational Advisors for WorkWAYS and MINDFUL EMPLOYER, Exeter

2. **Sustaining Employment for New and Existing Employees** – Claire Flower, Employment Co-ordinator, The Routeway Centre, Plymouth

3. **Employee Assistance Programmes** - Eric Marshall, Finance Director, PPC Worldwide

**Lunch and networking**

**Keynote speaker – Sally Reynolds, CEO Social Firms UK:** Employment and Job Creation Through Enterprise - The Role of Social Firms

**Workshops**

1. **Leaving the NHS – the reality of setting up a social firm** - Christine Wardle, Vocational Rehabilitation Services Manager, Devon Partnership NHS Trust and Don Crispin, Manager New Leaf, Devon Partnership NHS Trust

2. **Steps to Social Enterprise – Exploring how to set up a social enterprise business and learn about the support available from Social Enterprise Link, the South West Business Support Service.**

Sue Morrish Business Services Manager, Co-Active Ltd.

3. **Star Social Firms; Employment for everyone** – Geraldine Scott-Smith, Marketing Manager, PLUSS

4.00pm                      **Close**

To book your place, complete the booking form which accompanied this edition of TeamWork

**Closing date for bookings: 22 April**

## MINDFUL EMPLOYER

MINDFUL EMPLOYER continues to go from strength to strength and gains not only increased interest from businesses throughout the country – over 500 employer contacts in all now (which includes over 220 signatories to the Charter for Employers) – but also from supporting agencies who wish to work in partnership with us.

Local partnership is vital. No matter how big or how small the company, whether a large multinational or the corner shop, line managers and others with responsibility for staff like to have nearby contacts – someone they can speak to who's local to them.

We have developed a free partnership agreement to enable local organisations who provide mental health-related support for employers to work in partnership with MINDFUL EMPLOYER. This not only provides us with local organisations who we can signpost employers to but also links the work of those organisations with the national brand of MINDFUL EMPLOYER.

We have partnership agreements with the following:

Addaction South West	Pentreath, Cornwall
Bwell Birmingham	Plymouth Business Health Network
Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Trust	Retain (various locations in the UK)
Creating Bridges, Kent	Richmond Fellowship Wiltshire
Leeds Mental Health Consortium	South Essex Partnership NHS Trust
Mental Health North East Employers Consortium	Surrey MINDFUL EMPLOYER Group
Open Mind Consultancy, London	Wakefield Mental Health Consortium

... and a number of other agencies are actively considering this arrangement.

If you would like to know more then please visit [www.mindfulemployer.net](http://www.mindfulemployer.net), e-mail [info@mindfulemployer.net](mailto:info@mindfulemployer.net) or tel 01392 208833

## Advertise in *TeamWork*

Do you provide information, advice, training or support to people with mental health issues, employers or learning and work organisations?

You can advertise your service to our readership of over 1200 learning and work organisations, employers, social care and health professionals and also on the Internet.

An advert costs just £20 inc VAT per edition.

Contact us the address shown below.

## Something to say?

If you have any contributions or comments, please get in touch:

*TeamWork*, *WorkWAYS*, King Street Business Centre, 7-9 King Street, Exeter EX1 1BQ

Tel/fax: 01392 208833 E-mail: [workways@devonptnrs.nhs.uk](mailto:workways@devonptnrs.nhs.uk)

*TeamWork* is a photocopyable resource – please make copies for others.

Devon Partnership   
NHS Trust