

# The Lifetrain Trust

*Our mission is to empower young people and disabled people to make positive changes for themselves and the community through learning, equality of opportunity and inclusion, and to offer opportunities for those who wish to support them.*

## The Lifetrain Trust AGM 2011—Newsletter

The Lifetrain Trust held its AGM at Cherkley Court the former home of Lord Beaverbrook on the 28 September 2011. It marked another significant chapter in the life of the Charity. Lifetrain Trust has always been aware of the changing political, social and financial landscape within which it operates and has always been prepared to make the necessary changes to ensure that we continue to support young people effectively.

The move from Holmbury St Mary last year made perfect business sense particularly as the move away had no significant impact on the delivery of our work. Times change however, demand for residentials reduced, competition increased and the recognition that over the next few years a significant amount of money would have had to be spent to maintain the fabric of the buildings made the sale inevitable.

Our displays at the AGM demonstrated the range and scope of our activities, not only reflecting on our success but looking to the future. The future it has to be said is extremely uncertain for everyone including, the voluntary sector, but particularly for young people.



Lifetrain President Mrs Handa Bray delivers the closing address.

### The Way Forward

Lifetrain can no longer rely on grants from Surrey County Council (SCC) nor can we expect to receive funding on the basis of saying "we do good work that's badly needed please fund us". We must now demonstrate that we can achieve the outcomes demanded by funders and then provide soundly based evidence that we have achieved them. We also have to recognise that these outcomes will be defined by local and national strategies and thus accept that what we have delivered in the past may need to be adapted to meet changing expectations.

This does not mean that we have to change our objectives but rather that we must be more focussed and creative about how we make a positive difference to the lives of young people. In the next few paragraphs, we illustrate how we are achieving this:

### Training

Lifetrain's reputation for delivering first class training has been recognised. Following a time-consuming and rigorous qualification process, SCC has appointed Lifetrain as an approved supplier for the provision of accredited qualifications. We recognise however that there is a limited market for our Youth Worker and CPD Training in Surrey alone and as a result of our national reputation we are now also delivering our courses outside the County. **Since 2000, we have trained over 650 learners** helping them to achieve accreditation in a wide variety of qualifications. We continue to increase our portfolio of accredited courses relevant to young people and those people working with them. To help achieve this we have appointed Maureen Clark to support Sue Wilson the Director of Accreditation and Development.

## Youth Achievement Awards

We are committed to expanding the reach of the Youth Achievement Awards into every youth club and project in Surrey. Very challenging - but work is underway to identify new opportunities to deliver this important intervention. The proposal is to double the number of participating units by April 2013 and build on the **508 Young People who have already achieved full Youth Achievement Awards** through Lifetrain. It is planned to introduce UK Youth's Award in Peer Education, a BTEC qualification, this project will train Young people to be Peer Educators; they will address the needs and issues of their community by supporting their peers to make positive changes to their lifestyles.



Young people receiving their YAA Awards at the Annual Presentation

## Right Trax

We have always believed that Right Trax could be developed as the brand solution in schools to contribute to reducing the number of Young People not in education, training or employment in Surrey. Right Trax's success has clearly not gone unnoticed. Developed from a common interest in delivering interventions to support Young People at the point of need, Right Trax, in a close inter-agency partnership, will have a pivotal role in the development and delivery of a new and ground breaking initiative. As the first of its kind there is keen and growing interest and support for an exciting programme that will deliver needs based support to identified students at the point of need, but significantly wherever they are in their statutory education (Years 7-11). Providing support at an early stage we believe is the most effective way forward - this is an example where our views differ from the traditional approach of intervention only at Year 11.



## Surrey Youth Consortium

We are playing a full and active part in the work of the Surrey Youth Consortium as it responds to the SCC Transformation Project, which is outsourcing a number of young people's services including the Year11/12 Transition project.

## Teenage Parents

A service that has had its funding withdrawn is our work with Teenage Parents. This initiative has been very successful and, in order to continue, we intend to develop a solution using volunteers to support our worker who last year **supported 42 young parents**. The experience and skills in helping young parents particularly mums and 'mums to be' to continue their education or find training or employment whilst looking after their young ones will not be wasted.

## Disabled People

Finally we are committed to resurrect, develop and promote training services for disabled people. We have had great success in the past delivering a range of very effective courses and we would be negligent if we didn't make every effort to deliver them again. Funding for this work has always been an issue and these projects have suffered particularly over the last year from the lack of fundraising resource within the organisation.

Whilst it is essential that we keep our support costs to a minimum we recognise that we must improve our fundraising activity by developing a strategy and resourcing the work effectively.

## The Value of Support

The Lifetrain Trust team, continue to appreciate the efforts of all our supporters, in whatever context that it is given. We value the time and efforts of fundraisers, the generosity of our sponsors and the encouragement provided by those advocate on our behalf. We measure our success in the collaboration of all our supporters, alongside the work of our delivery team.

Many thanks to you all.