

Newsletter - January 2019

Facilitators' News

Seven new volunteer facilitators took part in training for PeerTalk Tyneside. The training took place over three Tuesday evenings in November. Kate Chartres led the first evening with clinical input. The final evening included the role play scenarios which, as usual, had some humorous moments! These new facilitators have joined the rotas at Whickham and Whitley Bay.

There are currently 24 applicants waiting for the next training sessions. The Northern training will take place in Leeds on 16th February and the Southern training (Guildford) will be in April.

PeerTalk Babies! Congratulations to facilitators Erin and Sophie (Whitley Bay) and Sam (Warrington) who have given birth to three girls, Nina, Eva and Lily.

Congratulations also to Lucy Smith (Batley) and Mahnoor Shah (Skipton) who have graduated recently.

Thanks to all PeerTalk facilitators who make all our groups happen.

Huge thanks to those who financially support our work. For further information about volunteering, groups and donating go to www.peertalk.org.uk



PeerTalk welcomes Meg Munn as new Chair of Trustees

Meg Munn is a qualified social worker with 20 years' experience and led children's social services in York before being elected as a Member of

Parliament in 2001. She spent 14 years in Parliament and was a government minister. Stepping down from parliament in 2015, Meg became an independent governance consultant and non-executive director. She has been a member of the Methodist Church since her teenage years and lives in Yorkshire.

PeerTalk also thanks **Margaret Smith** for the past two years in her role as Chair of Trustees. Margaret has given highly valued organisational stability to the charity from its infancy to its emerging maturity. Well done Margaret.

New PeerTalk Group starts in Skipton



PeerTalk's tenth group commenced meeting in Skipton's Town Hall in November. The group has started well and is pleased to be Skipton Building Society's charity of the month for January.



It is an aim of PeerTalk that our groups will be recognised for the contribution they make to reducing relapse into NHS services. In December CEO Stephen and DoO Rosa attended an NHS Lancashire Care Foundation Trust's planning meeting to develop a Recovery College. They gave a presentation to the entire mental health staff of NHS Surrey and this January they will be taking part in an NHS Wessex consultation on developing a Peer Support Network in Hampshire and Dorset.