



MCSC News

The Home of Community Work

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The return of your Newsletter

After a short respite, we are happy to announce the return of the MCSC newsletter (now 6 monthly). If you would like to contribute with any news stories, articles or events please feel free to drop an e.mail to me matt@mcsc.org.uk ; the article must be typed up and ready to go, including any artwork.

As with our previous newsletters, we will be reporting on stories about people that make this building work on its day to day basis, people and charities that use this building (those upstairs!) and our meeting/conference rooms on the ground floor. This newsletter can't survive without the input and stories from our members as well as our own. Please feel free to send your event details, particulars about meetings open to all or perhaps someone in your office is doing a sponsored event and it needs advertising.

New Members of MCSC Staff

3 New members of staff have started since the last newsletter. You have probably already seen them and been introduced and know what they do, but here they are anyway....



Matt Wright. Office support worker. Is usually found in the reception back room office, but may venture forth to reception front desk, caretaking duties and room set ups. Also but not including getting on hands and knees regarding computers and

phones. He comes from a background in van rental, office admin and computer maintenance, so he's able to turn his hand to most problems



Sophie Davies. Afternoon Receptionist. Started with us back in August last year (was it really that long ago). Knowledgeable about dancing and singing. She is a dance teacher during her spare time, and can sing a tune or 2 with the Rock Choir.



Andy Hanscomb. Chief Exec. Came into the role as a stand in last year (and is still going) before which he was on the board of trustees for MCSC. Steering us as we go through a transitional period of change

Meeting Room Upgrades

As you may have noticed, our meeting rooms have been receiving a thorough make over the last couple of months. From new flooring, a lick of paint and new blinds; we hope you can see the difference. All our meeting rooms are also hardwired to the internet. We can also supply a multi-media projector in the room

For the 'full on' presentation experience why not hire the Meeting Room with its in-built projector & Screen and 3.1 sound system

Phone Bills ☎

Are you aware that if you dial directory enquiries (ie 118118, 118500 etc) on a MCSC phone; after they have given you the number you requested, they will offer to put you through.

THIS WILL THEN COST YOU £6/MIN.

End the call once they have given you the phone number and then dial it yourself.

Do you have a story, or an upcoming event that you would like to see in your Newsletter, then sent it to matt@mcsc.org.uk





AWARENESS IN BEREAVEMENT TRAINING

MAIDSTONE & MEDWAY CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE

Maidstone Community Support Centre

Tel: 01622 671011 e-mail: office@maidstonecruse.fsnet.co.uk

Maidstone Cruse Bereavement Care is running Awareness in Bereavement Course starting 7th September 2013.

This will be run on alternative Saturdays for 12 sessions.

The course is open to anyone who wishes to further their knowledge of Bereavement and for anyone who would like to volunteer to counsel for Maidstone & Medway Cruse.

Come along to our open evening on the 18th June 2013 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at the above address to find out all about the course. Please phone the above number to book your place.

The cost is £350. Sign up on the 18th June and you will get an early bird discount of £50

For further details, please contact the Cruse office 01622 671011

The U Maidstone has arrived and we were delighted to run our first community skills sessions in Marsham Street earlier this month.



The U believes that you can learn a lot in 90 minutes, and that there's nothing wrong with having some fun while you do it. Our sessions are all about bringing people together to learn from one another, rebuilding familiarity within today's busy world and helping individuals to feel more confident and connected whilst learning something new.

Joining The U network as a Guest means that you'll have access to bite-sized learning sessions in useful subjects like basic first aid, defusing everyday conflict, networking and practicing positivity. Sessions are run by local people we call Hosts, who will guide you through a series of social and interactive activities to get you laughing and thinking. Attending a session is free, and always will be!

The sessions are being held all over Maidstone town centre, including the MCSC, on different days and times so there will always be a session to suit your schedule. Check out our website <http://the-u.org.uk/maidstone/attend-a-session/> for details of sessions scheduled for April.

Many organisations within MCSC work with existing client groups and if you'd like us to come and run a session specifically for your clients we'd be very happy to do so. Just drop us a line on rachel@the-u.org.uk or call on 07535976931 for more information!

MCSC IN-HOUSE

OFFICE SERVICES

These are some of the services offered by MCSC:

Photocopying:

- A4 black & white –4p per copy (A3 8p)
- A4 colour–10p (A3 20p) per side
- Brochure collation, stapling

Fax service

- 5p per sheet (Send & receive)

Laminating

- A4 30p / A3 60p

Meeting room equipment:

- OHPs, Flip charts, white boards, P/A system, TV, CD/DVD player.
- Laptop and multi media projector.
- Portable Hearing Loop
- All items can be requested when making a booking by ticking the relevant box on the bookings form.

For more information about these and other services our team can offer please contact us via reception.

Car Parking Spaces

May we remind those who have allocated parking spaces that if your space is taken, our receptionist will try and locate the driver of the offending vehicle. However this isn't always possible and the only course of action after that is to leave a message on their screen. We can't clamp, tow away or let their tyres down.

MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE

39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 1HH

Telephone: 01622 690369 Email: admin@mcsc.org.uk www.mcsc.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 295143 Company Limited by Guarantee Number 2045986

Registered Office: 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 1HH

Strategy Guide 2013

Below is the our Strategy Update as decided by the Board of Trustees of MCSC. It shows the direction and intent that they are exploring for this building and the people and charities that occupy it. Please read it as there may be items included which could have an effect on yourselves.



Maidstone Community Support Centre – Strategy Update March 2013

At the Board meeting of the 19th February 2013, Maidstone Community Support Centre (MCSC) has agreed a revised exploratory/strategic direction. This strategy, articulated below, will be revisited on an annual basis but significant deviation is not anticipated in the foreseeable future.

The strategy of MCSC is predicated on the back of three key issues; namely a strong vision for the development of the Centre, the strength and expertise contained within the members of the Board and staff, and the ability to run a substantial building with all the inherent challenges therein.

Our priority must be that we focus on the development of the Centre itself. These developments will be explored in the following areas;

- Building development – refurbishing, reconfiguring and extending the building itself whilst still maintaining the unique Victorian charm of the building. The priorities agreed here are the common areas on the ground floor through to the refurbishment of the café area and downstairs toilets
- Café development – it has been agreed that we would seek to take “in-house” the running of the café (and kitchen) and take over the training opportunities for a number of students with learning disabilities.
- Infrastructure development – ensuring hi quality phone, broadband and IT communication channels. A project is currently underway to review the efficiency and scalability of our existing phone system.
- Development of MCSC as “The home of Community work in Maidstone” – a one stop shop for community issues in and around Maidstone, including the development of a high quality café facility, an information hub for community matters and a recognised Centre for both formal and informal gatherings.
- Facilitating the coming together of community groups both within the centre and in the broader environment for the benefit of the local community as a whole.
- Investigate a provision for information, advice and guidance (IAG) service to community groups who may benefit from the experience and expertise contained within the organisation. This has been agreed and an initial scoping meeting is planned.
- Responding to community issues /developments as they arise, where the Centre plays a role i.e., healthy eating courses, training opportunities for those with learning disabilities etc

Dates for your diary

- **Managers Meeting** (All managers from our member groups are welcome to attend the open forum to discuss their own itinerary as well as to hear from MCSC) 12:30 20th May 2013 .Training Room. Contact Matt Ext 111 for more information
- **MCSC AGM** The Annual General Meeting for MCSC. 23rd July 2013. Halls 1 & 2



**MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY
SUPPORT CENTRE**

WELCOME TO THE HOME OF COMMUNITY WORK