

Notes from the DHN Wakefield Meeting
28 Apr 2009

Our initial meeting attracted ten people, five of whom attended to find out more about the DHN. It was hosted by Anthony Barlow, Chief Executive of Wakefield and District Hospitals Contributory Scheme Ltd.

John Phelps welcomed everyone and led the quiet meditation. He spoke about the changes in the DHN with the election of the DHN Committee and the introduction of the constitution in 2008, along with the new website which is in the process of being expanded.

John talked about Angie Buxton-King's work at University College Hospital as well as the courses for those interested in working as professional healers in a hospital environment. Angie has also recently been appointed as Clinical Lead for Complementary Healthcare at the Federation of Integrated Health.

Anthony Barlow showed us around their three buildings one of which is used as a Complementary Health Care Centre with five rooms available for qualified therapists to use.

The second building has a child-care centre with a very nice large room above with full facilities that can take 80 for workshops, courses or events. The third is the offices and conference rooms.

Some of the points raised and discussed at the meeting were:

1. NHS view of Complementary Therapies: nurses who have done basic courses in complementary therapies can practice their therapy in hospitals. However, these nurses do not meet the basic standard required to work in complementary health centres. However, the therapists who do meet the higher standards required and are insured, are not being allowed to work in Hospitals.

The Wakefield Health Trust has stopped funding complementary therapies and this is the same in the York area. This makes it very difficult to build the bridges that were expanding, but now have blocked.

It is important to ensure that all therapists are properly trained and insured.

2. Ideas for the way forward.

As it appears that plans to expand the availability of complementary therapies is being blocked by the NHS and the Health Trusts, the only way forward is to encourage public demand so that we can provide for those in need who would benefit from complementary therapies. In support of that, we plan to hold events, groups and workshops to promote the therapies available, for example:

- i. Focus on wellbeing
- ii. Meditation Groups
- iii. Speakers on different and relevant topics
- iv. Encouraging nurses to come and understand the benefits of complementary therapies

Our Grateful thanks to Anthony Barlow for hosting the day.

John Phelps