

## a look back at 2007....

2007 was a busy year for all **Threshold** staff and service users who worked hard to make the year a success. Many people moved on to their own accommodation and the pathway to independence. Some staff left, some moved around and some new faces joined the team. A big Threshold welcome all staff who joined in 2007.

The staff teams at

- Glamorgan Place
- Spring Street
- Shepley House/  
Cheetham St
- Stamford Villa
- Westbrook
- Resettlement
- Floating Support
- Head Office



have all impressed the management team with their commitment, creativity and hard work in delivering a fantastic service to Threshold service users.

**Glamorgan Place** had an exciting year. Service user involvement took on another dimension with the development of Tenancy Portfolios. A successful bid to Global Grants secured £5128.96 and the Glamorgan women now have 2 laptops and childcare for time to use them. In 2008 we hope Oldham College will be able to provide tutor time to support the women in the 'Springboard' basic IT skills.

Expansion plans are in place for 2008 with two new properties from First Choice Homes. We hope to continue to provide and improve our services to all our Mums and babies.



At **Stamford Villa** everyone spent many an afternoon exploring different ideas of making Stamford Villa a busier and more pleasant place to live. The service users created a 'wish list' of requests. Putting the plans into action different funding options were explored.

Acting on the idea of a car wash, the staff and service users met with Fire Officers at Ashton Fire Station to talk about joint working. This led to participation in drills at the station and plans for fire risk training in 2008. The Subaru garage across the road from Stamford Villa proved a fantastic venue and at the end of September everyone worked hard to raise over £350 (not bad for a days work).



The car washers then decided to buy a D.V.D player and free view box for the communal lounge and plan and fund a Christmas party. Plans are in place for a football match against another local supported housing project and helping to contribute towards weekly boxing classes.

Service Users have also applied for further funding from Tameside Youth Opportunity Fund. If this is successful 2008 promises to be an action packed year.

**Spring St** had a number of highlights in 2007. Pink day was a great success raising funds towards the breast cancer awareness campaign. There was lots of home made food and soft drinks provided.



As a build up to Christmas *Red pyjama day* was held to have fun with the residents but to also cheer a colleague up who was very poorly in hospital. The day was excellent with colleagues old and new turning up in pyjamas for the photo shoot. Simon one of the service users played

photographer and everyone got involved with food shopping and cooking.

2007 also saw a surprise birthday party for Sarah Louise who was leaving Spring St to start a new job abroad everyone turned up to wish her well. Mabel conducted the first Spring St male voice choir in a rendition of Happy Birthday and every man sang his heart out. Mohammed a service user thought it was the best birthday party ever.

2007 was a year of change for **Floating Support** in Oldham and Tameside a highlight being the successful tender for our new BME floating support scheme in Tameside.

In Tameside the Service Users and staff members took part in a DVD produced by Supporting People to promote the services they fund.

A number of Floating Support Service Users got involved with consultation for the development of Thresholds website and the change to the Logo. There was a lot of work went in to this, with ideas and designs by Service Users influencing the final results.

The Tameside team were also part of the SP teams mystery shopper exercise Nicola the unsuspecting member of staff who took the phone call was complimented on her responses and achieved a 5 out of 5.

In Oldham, Sarah Cooke who is based with Probation, achieved a 'probation star' in recognition for all the good work she has put into the service.

**Westbrook** saw its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2006 during the 10 years it has been open Westbrook has supported over

400 women to address the issues that led to their homelessness.

Westbrook supports women from all walks of life, with various problems and support needs and also accommodates mothers and babies, so as you can guess we have a real mix of people using our service which means no two days are ever the same and life is never boring. Some of our successes have included accommodating 12 beautiful babies during the year.



We have accommodated a number of young women who have taken part in training and employment activities we are proud of all of our service users who have coupled further education with the stresses and strains of being homeless and living in supported accommodation.

We try to promote informal learning opportunities as much as possible and we have had many service users partake in the weekly Springboard to Learning sessions. We have received great feedback from women whose confidence has increased greatly by making these achievements, who would not have accessed further education if not provided in house.

We have also been lucky enough to secure some funding so that our in house counselling placement can continue. Again this is a service a lot of our women say they would not have

accessed if not provided in house.

The **Resettlement and Napier St** team had a good 2007. Napier St is greatly respected as a specialist provision for young homeless people and is in great demand. Manchester Methodist featured the scheme in a promotional DVD. Resettlement are making great strides building inter agency links and developing ideas for the future. Further plans are in place for 2008 looking at partnership work with Oldham DAAT and Community Safety Teams.



The **Shepley House** service users have been getting involved with Springboard to learning and the Princes Trust. The Staff team are also developing links with the local area Children's centre and plans for community land.

Hopefully in 2008 an allotment project will be up and running for our service users to get involved with.



## Service User feedback.....

### College Course

*Woohoo! I am so happy I've got into college and it's all thanks to staff at G/P. They found a course that was perfect for me, they phoned nearly the whole world organising funding and childcare and I wouldn't be on the path to a career without them. It goes to show that if you have a baby when you're young it doesn't have to be all your life is about. Thank you so much for your help and support but most of all for believing I can do it.*  
Jade

In October Threshold secured Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Community Fund (NLDCF) money for the **Threshold Learning Project** a dedicated worker to support Oldham service users with training and employment opportunities. Alongside this "Springboard to learning" is continuing on a Wednesday at Spring St.



November 6th 2007 was the **Threshold "Clean Up" day**. It was a great success with the Management Team, staff and service users working together to smarten up areas of Threshold Schemes in both Oldham and Tameside.



**Thank you** to all the agencies and community organisations who worked hard to help us on the clean up.

*To women who may feel a bit fed up in Westbrook and are thinking of getting out, moving on, please take 5 minutes to read this before making any rash decisions.*

*My name is Kay and I had just turned 17 and was 6 months pregnant when I came to Westbrook. Although I found the staff very pleasant and helpful it wasn't home and as the birth drew nearer I just wanted to be in my own home with my baby.*

*Sometimes I found it difficult, not having my own space and privacy and after the birth of my lovely son Adam, I felt frustrated that we didn't have our own place.*

*I decided to take matters into my own hands and started to make enquiries about private renting. The staff at Westbrook advised me against this and suggested I should wait until a move on property was available and*

*that I might regret my decision in the future.*

*To cut a long story short, when my son was 3 months old I left Westbrook, against their advice and now regret my decision as my landlord isn't very good.*

*The house is in need of repair such as new windows, doors, carpets etc. My landlord doesn't seem very interested in my complaints and I feel as though he fobs me off and doesn't care. Because I am privately renting, I have to find £50 per month towards the rent. That's £600 a year!!*

*The staff at Westbrook give advice for a reason. I know you may feel frustrated at times but bear my story in mind when thinking of moving on.*

*Kay and Adam  
Ex Westbrook Residents*

**If you get the chance please add your feedback to the feedback wall.**



Threshold wishes **happy and relaxing retirements** to

Elma Plant  
Director  
who retired in April 2007.

Pat Shaw  
Senior Management team  
who retired in May 2007

Maria Hodgkinson local Area Beat Manager in Staylbridge, who retires from service early in 2008. Marie has worked tirelessly to support both Westbrook Service Users and Staff over many years.



## Acknowledgements

On sadder note our thoughts are with the family and friends of those no longer with us, happy memories.

Audrey Carter  
Peter Garner  
Lindsay Lord

a look forward to 2008...

new website : [www.thp.org.uk](http://www.thp.org.uk)

new opportunities :



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