



MAKING LIFE WORK WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

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Dr. N. Beer MBBS MRCP & Mrs. S. Beer
Trustees – The Beer-Harris Memorial Trust

29 March 2019

Dear Naomi and Susanna,

We received a generous grant from the Trustees of the Beer-Harris Memorial Fund in the autumn, specifically towards the delivery of our Art Project. I write now to update you with developments here at Oakleaf and in that project in particular. You kindly indicated that you hoped to be able to send a further grant of £500 on receipt of a project report and my hope is that this report might trigger this.

I am pleased to relate that the Oakleaf Art Project continues to thrive.

Since early September we have welcomed a total of 61 individuals to attend our art classes and delivered 49 sessions (generally one in the morning and another in the afternoon) across this time. Our fantastic art tutor, Andrew, continues to provide excellent tuition, in a supportive environment.

Recent client feedback includes the following comments:

"It gives me a reason to get out of bed on a Monday and has made me more confident in art"

"I have greater confidence and feel confident going out, having met other people through the class"

"It helps me to focus"

"Really helps me to stop me focusing on tinnitus and anxious/ depressive thoughts"

"I've grown in confidence"

There are now many pieces of framed artwork from the groups on the walls in our art room and around the Oakleaf premises. This is very encouraging for new clients starting with Oakleaf and for visitors attending.

Our clients continue to produce some beautiful pieces. I enclose a few photographs for you to see. The pride and self-esteem which results from clients producing such good pictures, even though most have no artistic background, is a wonderfully positive result.

Looking at Oakleaf as a whole, we have been very encouraged by successes across 2018. We welcomed more than 700 individual clients, delivered 12,500 supported sessions and saw 69 clients return to the workplace, with full or part-time work or educational placements. In recent years, our annual figure of clients returning to work has been 49, so this has been a particularly positive year for this element of our outcome targets. Financially the year ending this month has been fairly challenging and we will be ending the financial year with a small deficit.

I enclose a copy of our most recent newsletter which I hope you find of interest.

We plan to maintain our delivery of the Art Project across 2019. It continues to be the most popular of our social inclusion activities and continues to have a waiting list for clients seeking to join the sessions. However, the small class size of eight is pivotal in providing a supportive setting so we resist increasing the group capacity at present.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if I can provide any further information. Now that we are heading into the lighter and warmer days I would very much like to invite Susanna to visit us again, if she would like to do so.

Thank you so much to you and your fellow Trustees at the Beer-Harris Memorial Trust, for your support of this project. We are very grateful indeed for the funding we have been able to use for the Art Project.

Yours sincerely,

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