



The Slice

AUGUST 2015 | ISSUE 5



A time for change

Inspired by new CEO Stephen Sharpe and heartily supported by the Trustees, big changes are on the way for us all. First there's going to be a radical re-structuring of the charity. That's already taken place at whirlwind speed here at head office; and from here it will spread outwards.

Then we're going to get really big into campaigning, that is campaigning in the modern sense via social media – above all to reach younger people – and campaigning in the public political arena to confront abortionism head-on.

Thirdly, we have to be bold in finding new ways to expand our care service, thus remaining faithful to our founding principle that our absolute anti-abortionism is matched by absolute commitment to pro-life caring. There have already been important new ventures; we have to be both imaginative and bold in developing these and yet more ways of helping women turn a crisis pregnancy into something wonderful, namely, bringing a new human being safely into the world.

We have to pay for all this – not to mention expansion of our all-important Education and Housing – so there's got to be a lot of imaginative new fundraising as well. Exciting, isn't it?

Jack Scarisbrick, National Chairman

In this issue...

- Life's re-birth – latest update – p2
- What drives the abortion industry? – p3
- Head office moving day – p5
- Housing roadshows are coming – p4
- Farewell to Telford Life house – p4
- The Wolf Run – get involved – p3
- Get in touch – p5

Budding Bloggers and Vloggers



Do you have a secret yearning to be a blogger or to produce your own vlogs? Perhaps you're blogging already. Can you write about prolife issues in an interesting, informative and entertaining way? Have you got a different take on the pro-life cause and could you present your views in vlogs? If so we want to hear from you – just get in touch with me at marylubrano@lifecharity.org.uk to find out more.

Mary Lubrano, Editor

Hello & welcome to:

Maria Beasley – Shop Manager, Bristol
Nicki Paterson – Support Worker, Crawley
Patricia Arlott – Shop Manager, Blackpool

VACANCY

Health & Safety

We would like to say a massive thank you to Thomas Gower for all his hard work and input into the Health and Safety Committee over the past two years. We now have a vacancy for a committee member. Preferably, we would like someone who works within the retail department so that each LIFE department is represented when it comes to matters of Health and Safety. If you are interested in joining the Committee and would like more information, please drop us an email at hands@lifecharity.org.uk

Emma Turner, Housing Management Officer

The rebirth of LIFE... continued

The new executive team continues to review the work of the charity under the guidance of myself and Jack. The primary focus is to continue to provide quality services to the thousands of women and families we encounter each year. We also have to represent good value for money with cost effective operations as statutory funding continues to reduce. We have started to focus on a new Vision, Mission and Values for LIFE that builds on our heritage and looks to the future. We will share these with you shortly.

Just last week I was in Ireland to meet the regional executive group and to visit our inspiring housing, shop and care service. They have recently restructured their service to be more cost-effective and moved into new shop and care facilities. It was an inspiration to see such a committed team working in Ireland where abortion is still illegal. The energy and urgency to prevent the legalisation of abortion is palpable.



Left to right: Stephen Sharpe, Joanne Doak – Regional Manager of the NI office, volunteers Milu and Kate, Communications Manager Stuart Cowie, Shop Manager Jayne King and volunteer Ellie.

This trip, and all my other recent visits throughout the country, will be fed into our next Trustees' meeting in September where we are focusing on issues of governance, succession planning, compliance and financial risk, as well as new innovations and projects for the coming year. Let me know if you want me to take anything to the Trustees. I will let you know the outcome of the meeting and the key decisions made!

Stephen Sharpe, CEO

Callout for help

Interested in joining the Helpline team? If you could fill a Helpline session from either your own home or from a care centre then please get in touch. You should have at least a Level 2 in Skilled Listening. If you want an informal chat about what the role entails then please give me a call.

Liz Lloyd, Care

Money matters...

A number of local group treasurers (over what may have been a long period ... sorry!) have been asking if they are able to use the profits from the shops for local group-based initiatives. Well ... the honest answer is I don't know! I am working hard with the team to find a new, sustainable financial model to support the vital services offered by LIFE through our houses, care centres and shops. This new model will be reliant on a percentage of the net profits from the shops to replace the funding being cut by the Government. It is a challenging time for the charity sector. In this new financial year Margaret and Eireann will be working hard to improve the profitability of the shops whilst ensuring they work well as a first point of contact for volunteers, donors and, most importantly, for women and families faced with a crisis pregnancy.

Once we have established the new financial model, I will write to all groups that are supporting shops to outline a clear way forward which will include a percentage of the net profit from the shops being returned to the groups. This, in real terms, will not be until the new financial year.

I realise this may differ from previous information issued prior to my appointment. Sorry, but I first need to provide sustainable core services. If in the meantime you have any innovative projects for which you are unable to raise funds, please do contact me direct.

Stephen Sharpe, CEO

End of Year Returns - URGENT

Isaac and the finance team are working hard to complete the end of year accounts. This is not possible without the financial returns from the local groups. If you have not sent in your return for any reason, please contact Isaac and he will help.



Fundraising



This year's **Doncaster LIFE Walk** on 18 July raised a magnificent £960. Thanks to everyone who took part and all the sponsors.



What drives the abortion industry - women's welfare or profit?

As you're probably aware, the scandal of Planned Parenthood's trade in aborted babies' body parts in the US continues to escalate, with the latest video showing evidence that PP dissect babies born alive. Despite the outcry on social media, with hashtags such as **#TheHeartWasStillBeating** and **#PPSellsBabyParts** gathering support, the story has largely been ignored by mainstream media, both here and across the pond.

More than ever we need your help to support women, bring an end to abortion and show that the abortion industry is driven by profit and not women's welfare. Together we need to show that the pro-choice movement is duping women into abortions for the profit they derive from the sale of aborted babies' body parts. The big question LIFE is asking is whether this happens in the UK? **Please contact me at head office if you need more information about this story.**

Mary Lubrano, Editor

THANK YOU

Farewell & thank you to:

Lydia Crump – *Shop Assistant, Eastleigh*
Samantha Meek – *Shop Manager, Hereford*
Maria Hayward – *Support Worker, Telford*
Danielle Weekes – *Support Worker, Telford*

Sponsor your very own Wolf Runner!

The Wolf Run is Wild Running - a unique combination of three kinds of off-road running: mud runs, trail runs and obstacle runs. The only Wild Run in the UK, it's a hardcore 10k run across raw natural terrain, including open ground, woodland, lakes and thick mud.

LIFE is fielding a team so we'd love you to find a volunteer to participate – and sponsor them, please! It's a great fundraiser for your group, especially if you can persuade your Chair to take part. We'll be putting sponsorship forms up on the website but in the meantime please let us know who would like to run, climb, jump, wade, crawl and swim through a course designed to challenge them on every level. Tom Gower from Head Office is leading the pack this year – here he is in all his mud caked glory from last year!

It's all happening near Leamington Spa in April 2016, so we'll need to get names as soon as possible as spaces sell out fast.



Please contact Tom Gower at Head Office
ThomasGower@lifecharity.org.uk
or call **01926 312272**

David Bennett, Fundraising, Development & Communications



Housing



Come and join the LIFE Housing Roadshow

Let's look at what we've achieved and where we can improve.



9 Sept: LIFE Head Office, Leamington Spa. 10.30am
16 Sept: Chavely Community Centre, Slough. 10.30am
23 Sept: Church on the heath, Fleet. 10.45am



Come and hear a LIFE Education talk
Workshops include:
Moving On, Domestic Abuse, child safety and more.
Transport provided
Free Lunch
Children – Bring own snacks

Speak to your support worker for more details



Telford LIFE house closes its doors

Sadly, the Telford LIFE house at Woodside will close its doors at the end of September. After 20 years supporting pregnant young women in the town, we are no longer able to sustain the service financially when the contract funding ends in the Autumn.

Arrangements are being made to rehouse the remaining tenants and relocate the furnishings to the new house in Doncaster which is scheduled to open in January. We want to say a big thank you to the two support workers, Maria Hayward and Danielle Weekes, who have done a terrific job over the years. Maria is moving on to a new career in Education Support, shifting her focus to families with school aged children rather than babies. Danielle has the opportunity to transfer over to the local support provider who has won the new contract to provide support to young people in Telford. We wish them both every success in their new roles.

Thanks also to LIFE supporters who have helped in many ways in the past and to local businesses like Asda whose staff have revamped the garden and paid for extras to give the tenants a safe, homely place to live in their time of need.

As Maria said on leaving, the best part of the job is the fact we can make a difference. We hope we did in Telford.

Margaret Coward, Operations

Here come the Housing Roadshows

Three events take place in September for all staff, volunteers and tenants to come together to celebrate what's been achieved in the housing service over the last year. There will also be the chance to hear about other LIFE services and to look at some issues like Domestic Abuse and Keeping Children Safe in more detail. It's a combination of the Performance Day and Housing Forums we have held in the past but made more local to enable more people to attend. If you can do, come along - these Roadshows are open to all LIFE's workforce as we value your opinions.

Northampton celebrates its first year

It's one year since the Northampton house opened and the event was marked with the official launch of the newly landscaped back garden which local company Bright Horizons Foundation for Children funded with monies raised by their own employees.



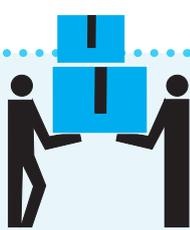
Representatives from Bright Horizons, local supporters and LIFE staff & tenants attended the ribbon cutting.

So-called 'LIFE' callers are frauds

There's been a lot of press about fundraisers hounding people for donations recently. LIFE does not, and never has, used telephone canvassing to raise funds, nor have we ever sold or passed on your information to a third party. That's the good news. The bad news is that some unscrupulous and as yet unidentified individuals are using the good name of our charity to fraudulently obtain donations from the general public using high pressure sales techniques. That not only brings our name into disrepute but it is illegal, and has been reported to the relevant authorities. If you are ever asked by a telephone canvasser to donate to LIFE, do NOT provide your credit/debit card details. Please try to obtain as much information as you can and report it to us so that we can help the authorities to build a case against them.

David Bennett, Fundraising, Development & Communications

All move at LIFE head office...



The two hottest days of the year saw us all move up to the spacious 1st floor in head office. Despite the heat we all worked extremely hard moving furniture, re-organising and getting rid of excess paperwork (50 bags were shredded!). Thank you all so much for your teamwork.

It's a much more efficient use of the space, with staff united on one floor and one of the mezzanines used as archive and equipment storage. Separate intercom door entry systems for LIFE, FertilityCare and Zoë's have been set up.

The question now is - what do we do with the space downstairs? It may be possible to generate income by renting it out (though we do still need to use the training rooms and toilets down there) so if you have any ideas please get in touch with me.

Vicky O'Brien, Human Resources



...and London LIFE celebrates its first year in new offices

The old London office, built in 1690, couldn't be more different from where we are now. Officially opened by Lord David Alton in 2003, it housed both a care centre and the London education team. When the decision was taken to close the care centre the rent could no longer be justified and I had to find cheaper offices within commuting distance of parliament.

There is no such thing as cheap accommodation in London! But our new studio (at KP.CH3.02 Kennington Park Business Centre, 1-3 Brixton Road, London SW9 6DE) provides exceptionally good value for money. The buildings have been refurbished to provide bright and modern offices around a central atrium whilst retaining the original industrial features. With an onsite café, shared kitchen, onsite parking and meeting rooms for hire, Chester House provides a pleasant and professional working environment.

Anne Scanlan, Education and Media

Key contacts

Head Office is here to help – so if you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch. Our main number is **01926 312272** or you can email the admin department at **admin@lifecharity.org.uk**

Email addresses follow this format: **firstnamesurname@lifecharity.org.uk**

Stephen Sharpe (CEO) **07545 264492**

Isaac Nyirenda (Finance) **07787 546508**

Thomas Gower (Retail Finance) **01926 312272**

Margaret Coward (Operations) **07515 068077**

David Bennett (Fundraising, Development & Communications) **07775 761590**

Anne Scanlan (Education and Media) **07986 864560**

Stuart Cowie (Communications) **07515 578588**

Vicky O'Brien (Human Resources) **07768 397980**

Liz Lloyd (Care) **07786 390861**

Eireann Janssens (Retail) **07515 578597**

