



The Slice

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Life's new Vision

A Vision, Mission and Values statement lies at the heart of everything an organisation does and, as you know, there are some exciting changes taking place at Life. So we've been writing, drafting, dissecting, debating (*lots of debating!*) and scrutinising - in order to come up with a vision which we hope will reflect our new direction and capture who we are.

A vision statement has to be short, clear, memorable and inspiring. It's there to guide us, unite us and promote consistency as well as to tell the outside world what our core values are and where we want to go. It will be displayed around our places of work, on our website and in our literature. It will form the basis for everything we do and inform our campaigns.

Our work can be tricky to explain so we hope that it will make it that much easier to communicate exactly what we do and what we stand for. So watch this space - as soon as it's ready to go you'll be the first to know!

Stephen Sharpe, CEO

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We won!

On 11 September hundreds of people, including Life supporters, protested outside the House of Commons against the Assisted Dying Bill. Had this bill been successful, the sick, disabled and elderly in society would have been placed at risk. In the end, MPs voted against the Bill by a huge margin - 330 votes to 118.

It was a significant victory for Life and the pro-life movement and it was also highly successful in terms of raising our social media profile, with a big spike in likes, shares and follows. Tweeting our real-time events and campaigns as they happen is the way to go. There'll be much more of this to come and if you have any ideas don't hesitate to get in touch.

Mary Lubrano, Editor



@Lifecharity



VOTE
NO

Star in our midst!

In case you missed it, Raphael, the son of our very own Eireann Jansenns, sang a beautiful live solo at the opening of the Rugby World Cup – his bit starts at 5 min 24 seconds. www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQVEUWkGsEs #proudmum



WELCOME

Hello & welcome to:

Education Officers – *Clara Watson, Clare Plasom-Scott, James Tranter, Peter Sullivan*
Basingstoke Shop Manager – *Dorota Ciaston*

PQASSO – driving up standards

The most commonly used quality system in the UK voluntary sector, PQASSO, helps charities to ensure that its internal management and governance meet certain standards. 12 standards, ranging from planning and managing people to resources and communications, are assessed against levels one (basic), two (more strategic) and three (quality leader).

In 2013 we adopted the PQASSO system with a working group set up to assess LIFE against Level One standards. We almost met all these standards and addressing the gaps has helped us improve as an organisation. We are now working towards Level Two, focussing on Managing Resources.

If you would like to know more about any of this work then please contact any member of the working group - myself, Julia Young, Thomas Gower, Vicky O'Brien or Emma Turner.

Margaret Coward, Operations



Health & Safety

Do you use Display Screen Equipment (DSE) as a significant part of your normal working day?

Under the Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992, LIFE are required to evaluate health and safety of workstations with particular reference to eyesight, physical difficulties and mental wellbeing.

If you have not completed a DSE self-assessment of your own working space, this includes any homeworkers, please speak to your Line Manager who will provide you with a self-assessment form. For more information, please refer to LIFE's DSE policy.

Education

This month the Education team says goodbye to Niall Gooch. We would like to thank him for all his hard work and wish him all the best in his a new career. In recent times, the Education team has said goodbye to Michaela Aston, Jane Ingram and Maria Convey and although still with Life, we have also lost Stuart Cowie and Elly Petrucci from the team. We are extremely grateful to all of these people for their contribution to the work of Education and were sorry to see them go.

Their departure has, however, given us the opportunity to recruit new and younger people and we are delighted to welcome Peter Sullivan, Clare Plasom-Scott, James Tranter and Clara Watson to the team.

Peter and Clara join me in London covering schools in the South. James is based at Life HQ and together with Mark Bhagwandin in Oxford will cover schools in the Midlands. Clare will shortly move to Manchester and together with Liz Parsons and Helen Currie in Liverpool they will cover what schools they can in the North. I look forward to working with this new and exciting team.

Anne Scanlan, Education & Media

Welcome to Life's New Trustees



We've recently been lucky enough to welcome two new young and dynamic trustees – Laura Higgins and Jonathan Wright. This month we met up with Jonathan to find out why he's volunteered to support Life in this way.

I work as a commercial property lawyer having been a Partner since 2009 at Hill Hofstetter based in Solihull. I'm really blessed to be working with a great group of people on some really interesting projects. Midlands born and bred, I've been married to Anna for 13 years and we live in Kenilworth with our three boys aged nine, eight and five. I'm an active member of Myton Church – my local evangelical church.

I first became a charity trustee of a pre-school in 2010 and was soon chairing the trustees. I've greatly enjoyed the experience, not least as I've brought in new systems and helped reverse their financial performance. I still run that small charity to this day.

Last year, I was approached by trustee Dr John Ling as it was felt that it would be useful to add a lawyer with some charity experience to the board of trustees at Life. I met with Jack and Nuala Scarisbrick, the other trustees and head office employees and I have just been appointed a Life trustee.

Like many, I've always been anti-abortion but I haven't been active in opposing it. However, since learning more about Life, my eyes have been opened to the point that I feel that inactivity is not an option.

Abortion is the hidden scandal of our age. Every day more and more children are needlessly destroyed by a system that doesn't recognise them as human beings. Having studied some of the law around abortion, it is one of the most hopelessly jumbled areas that I have ever come across. It is antiquated, based on a time when people thought that human beings didn't exist until they emerged from the womb. It is also contradictory: on the one hand, human rights are lauded as being the great triumph of the West post WW2; on the other hand, we are lawfully exterminating human beings on a scale that dwarfs the loss of life in WW2. If I had one dream, it would be to see babies in the womb awarded human rights.

I think that LIFE is at an exciting cross-roads and the movement can really advance over the next few years. There is an openness to these issues in politics that I haven't seen for many years. But there is also a younger generation that is, to a large extent, ignorant about the scandal of abortion. These days, through social media, it is easier to win hearts and minds than it used to be and I'm very keen to be part of that. We've already discussed some great new initiatives as trustees to educate, inform and, crucially, to engage. We are now turning these great ideas into reality.

Support your LIFE Mud Heroes at the Wolf Run



You might recall a picture of Tom from Head Office in the August issue of The Slice, resplendent in his office uniform. Or mud, as we call it. Well, now a growing number of us are taking part on the very same **Wolf Run on 11th and 12th June** next year at Stanford Hall, Leicestershire. Even Stephen, our CEO, has promised to take part...we shall see!

Our intrepid LIFE runners would love you to sponsor them!

It's a great spectator event too. Bring a picnic, sit by the Serpentine lake and watch our team compete. The Wolf Pack bar, live music and local food adds to the buzz of the event village.

We'd love to see you there...

LIFE will be camping on site so we hope you will be keen to come and watch how your sponsorship is being well and truly earned – and afterwards we're going to party with you around our BBQ and drinks.

The LIFE group who collects the most donations will receive our Mud Hero Award on the day.

We'll be sending out sponsorship packs to groups shortly, so you can choose which of our team members to sponsor. You might even want to enter your own runner – please let us know as soon as you can as places go quickly.

For more information call David Bennett on 07775 761590 or at Head Office.

Coming soon to your radio....

Following a recent radio interview with Regional Housing Manager Sue Beades from the Northampton Life house, BBC Radio Northampton were so impressed they are now looking to do a live broadcast from the house over the Christmas period. We'll keep you posted on developments.

Well done Sue!



Housing



Roadshows were a big hit!

Held in three different locations - Leamington Spa, Slough and Fleet – throughout September, the Housing Roadshows have been a great success. 45 members of staff, 12 tenants (including two ex-tenants who are now supported in the community), four babies, one tenant's partner, two volunteers and one stakeholder attended over the three events so we gathered a lot of useful feedback which we will be taking forward to improve our services. Workshops on Keeping Your Child Safe, Moving On, Domestic Violence and talks from Education and Care were all popular events.

Beckie Reeves, Housing Contracts Manager

Shops



Hereford Life Shop closes

A LIFE charity shop has been operating in Hereford for the last few years. The main aim of the shop was to provide an access point for women needing support with their pregnancy as well as to raise funds for the charity. Despite the sterling efforts of the LIFE group, staff and volunteers, the shop has not been able to cover its costs and the number of Care clients coming through the shop has been very low.

It is with regret that we have decided to close the shop at the end of this month. This was a difficult decision because of the hard work that was put in and we would like to give a special mention to Carmyle Cross who has been exceptional in her commitment and enthusiasm for the project.

The Hereford LIFE group have decided to focus their efforts on reaching women who need our support in different ways through a "Baby Basics Bag" project. The plan is to do more outreach work through schemes like the Food Bank to raise LIFE's profile and encourage people to contact us. We wish the group every success with this project and thank them for all their efforts and ongoing commitment to the pro-life cause.

Margaret Coward, Operations

Fake Bank Notes

Recently some of our English shops have been tricked into accepting fake Scottish bank notes. May I remind all of you to be **extra vigilant** for these and certainly be seen to be vigilant, as it seems charity shops are considered by criminals to be an easy target. If we are seen to be checking the money we receive, counterfeiters and other fraudsters will probably try to pass fakes elsewhere.

Banknotes from England, Scotland, Ulster, Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey are all acceptable currency. All these notes should be checked for forgeries, especially high value ones such as £20 and £50.

This can be done by looking at these seven security features:

- 1. Feel of the paper** - A note in a reasonable condition should be crisp, not limp, waxy or shiny.
- 2. Quality of the paper** - Lines should be sharp and well defined with no blurred edges, colour should be clear.
- 3. Metallic thread** - All genuine notes have a metallic thread embedded in the paper. When held up to the light, the thread should appear as a bold continuous line.
- 4. Watermark** - The watermark should be hardly apparent until the note is held up to the light. Then a clearly defined portrait of the Queen should appear.
- 5. Hologram** - For £5 and £10 notes the hologram should change between a brightly coloured picture of Britannia and the relevant number. A £20 note has a number of foil patches along its length which contains alternating holographic images when tilted. One hologram shows

Adam Smith, the other changes between a multi-coloured £ symbol and the number 20 (correct as of July 2014).

- 6. UV visible feature** - Under good quality ultraviolet light you should see the value of the note appear in bright red and green numbers, while the background is rendered dull in contrast.
- 7. Micro-lettering** - Using a magnifying glass, look closely at the lettering beneath the Queen's portrait and you should see the value of the note written in small letters and numbers.

Please share this information with others in your shop- especially those who use the till. Your shops should all have UV note checkers, but if not please raise a PO request for one.

Thomas Gower, Finance Assistant



Training Opportunities

Are you interested in completing Distance Learning Training? This can be completed in your own time and easily fits around a busy work and home life.

On successful completion of the training, you will receive a certificate which can be used as evidence for Diplomas in Health and Social Care (QCF). All of the training packs are clearly written and user friendly.

- Health and Safety
- Getting a hand on Risk Assessment
- Nutrition
- Equal Opportunities and Diversity
- Basic First Aid Awareness
- Fire Safety
- Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults
- Mental Capacity Act

If you are interested in any of the above, then please speak to Wendy Gately at Head Office or email wendygately@lifecharity.org.uk



Farewell & thank you to:

Maria Hayward – Telford Support Worker

Niall Gooch – Education Officer

Paul Warren – Deputy Shop Manager, Derby

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**

