

Media Release

7 June 2016

A Decent donation for mental health services in Swindon

A Swindon software company has donated money to Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (AWP) to support a therapeutic allotment project they are starting in the town.

Decent Group, based at Kembrey Park made the donation of £1,500 after an employee experienced psychosis and needed the help of Swindon Early Intervention in Psychosis (EI) team; one of the services provided by the Trust.

The EI Team supports individuals experiencing their first episode of psychosis. Psychosis causes people to perceive or interpret things differently from those around them and may involve hallucinations or delusions.

Within a week of receiving the money, the EI team who will manage the project had secured an allotment site, which Swindon Borough Council kindly cleared, mowed and rotovated.

Helen Mills, Community Mental Health Nurse at AWP said "This donation will provide a large workshop on the allotment which can be used all year round by our service users. We are extremely grateful for everyone's support."

James Ducker owner of Decent Group said "I have been fortunate to see at first hand the truly caring, compassionate approach with which the EI team has supported a much-loved friend and colleague with his challenging, and at times really frightening, illness. Thankfully he has now returned to work."

"I know that Helen and her colleagues will use this project to help the recovery process."

The allotment will provide service users with an area where they can be at peace and build their motivation and concentration. This will promote recovery, helping them to regain their confidence and return to their daily lives. The low ongoing cost of renting the allotment means that the project will remain affordable and sustainable well in to the future.

ENDS

Photo and service user interview opportunity at the allotment site

Wednesday 15th June 2016, 11am – 12 noon 'Official opening day' of the Allotment Project including erection of the workshop. Meet the EI team, James Ducker and Mark from Decent Group.

Notes to the editor

For security and confidentiality purposes, please contact Emma Bye for the address of the allotment site.

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