



For better
mental health

Cam-mind

Barrere House, 100 Chesterton Road,
Cambridge CB4 1ER
Tel: 01223 311320 Fax: 01223 356947
Email: admin@cam-mind.org.uk
Web: www.cam-mind.org.uk

September 2011

A meeting of Minds? Exciting news from Cam-mind and Hunts Mind

We are writing to share some exciting news about possible future plans for Cam-mind and Hunts Mind.

As the two Local Mind Associations, both of our organisations do invaluable work in the Cambridge and Huntingdon areas to support local people in their recovery from mental health challenges. Although there are inevitable differences in the services we offer, there are also tremendous similarities in the core values that underpin everything we do and there is a strong mutual respect for what both organisations have achieved to date.

You may already be aware that our organisations have been successfully working in partnership for many years, delivering exciting projects together such as the Home and Community Support Service (HCSS), the Service User Engagement Project and the local Mindful Employer Network. You may also be aware that the way in which mental health services are being funded and delivered both, locally and nationally, has changed dramatically in recent years, making it harder for very small charities to survive in what is an increasingly competitive environment.

It is with these factors very much in mind that Cam-mind and Hunts Mind have decided to explore how we might work even closer together in a way that secures the future of both our organisations - and the vital work we do. One of the most obvious routes to achieving this would be through a merger.

At this stage both Boards of Trustees have agreed to pursue this idea, and have started looking at what needs to be done in order to make this transition happen smoothly and with minimal disruption. It goes without saying that one of the first things that both charities must do is to seek support and input from our service users, together with approval from our Members which we hope to do in the autumn.

Please support Cam-mind,
working locally since 1908.
Reg. Charity No 265087

Cambridgeshire Mental Welfare
Association Limited by Guarantee
Registered in
England No 1082980

President: Charles Hewitson LLB



This proposal is not an exercise in cost-cutting. It is about ensuring that both organisations are robust enough to keep delivering exceptional services while weathering the storm of a very difficult financial climate and establishing equity of services across the County. By coming together in this more formal way, we believe that we can improve the services we provide across our region and share best practice of both organisations. Although it is very likely that there will be some changes at both locations, we strongly believe that a merger is the key to providing the wider range of high quality, sustainable, person- centred services that our service users are seeking.

We appreciate that this proposal may come as a huge surprise for some. We want to hear your thoughts, ideas and any concerns at the earliest opportunity. Consequently, Cam-mind and Hunts Mind will be hosting a joint event in the very near future for you to be able to tell us what you think and share with us your ideas about how a joint organisation and the services it delivers might look.

We hope that you share our excitement as we start this process and very much look forward to talking to you about it in more detail as the proposals develop. We are going to host two events for you to discuss these plans:

18th October – Cambridge – Venue TBC
19th October – Huntingdonshire – Venue TBC

With very best wishes



On behalf of:
Cam-mind Board of Trustees



On behalf of:
Hunts Mind Board of Trustees