

History of Real World Trust

Last Updated Sunday, 15 February 2015

The idea of The Real World Trust came about in 1988 when Paddy Noctor, Eve White and Tim Day discussed the possibilities of a half way house for people leaving Whitecroft - the former psychiatric hospital for the Isle of Wight.

A meeting was finally arranged between Health, Probation and Social Services. A successful application for funding was made to TVS Charitable Trust for the sum of £2,000; this enabled the Trust to be formed. The Trust was incorporated on the 1st November 1990 and granted charitable status later in the same year.

The Trust then went on to open a four bedded care home in Newport in 1992 - later to be replaced effectively by Butler Gardens (see below).

In 1996 the Trust opened a "Drop-In" in Ryde, but was still following it's main aim; this was to provide a Hostel. This became a reality in 1994 when South Wight Housing were successful in acquiring funding for the Housing Corporation for a nine (later ten) bedded Hostel - to be named Butler Gardens - after a mainland doctor and old friend of the Trust. Building began in 1998 and it was opened in November 1999 by the late remembered Anthony Minghella.

Further growth of the Trust came in January 2001 with the development of the Positive Engagement Team (PET) a community based project offering general counselling and support. This was initially a project to support residents who were leaving the Hostel, but advantage was taken of changes in Government funding that enabled us to accept other referrals to the point when at the first April 2003 PET supported some 50 vulnerable clients in their own homes. In 2009 this figure is closer to 100.

In 2003 RWT took on six flats in Sandown provided by Atlantic (now First Wessex) Housing Association - their only scheme on the Isle of Wight - as move-on accommodation for people working towards independence; and in 2004 purchased three flats in Newport with the assistance of a loan from Charity Bank. Over the years around 20 people have benefitted from these projects. Now in 2015, the Real World Trust is hoping to secure the Sandown property for the future partly by realising the Newport asset.

A practical scheme - formed when a former client was given a flat at short notice but with no means to furnish it - was the formation of the Storeroom project - <http://www.realworldtrust.org/links/external/the-storeroom.php>. This scheme achieved great popularity on the Island providing a combination of a recycling service for donated goods for the benefit of people needing them, together with a practical activity for clients of The Real World Trust and others. In 2010, The Storeroom became independent of The Real World Trust and goes from strength to strength as a separate Island service used by RWT clients and others who benefit from its reasonable prices and friendly service.

Since 2003 The Real World Trust has worked within the Quality Assurance Frameworks of the Supporting People regime and has successfully been accredited under both the original and new assessment tools. Over time this has led to an increasing emphasis on resident choices and involvement in decision-making.

There is also an increasing awareness of the need for purposeful activity. The Workshop adapts constantly to meet such a need <http://www.realworldtrust.org/services/workshop.php> . At times we have run programmes of personal development groups including Relapse Prevention, Anger Management and Assertiveness Training which can be open to external clients subject to assessment and availability of spaces. For details contact donna.lynch@realworldtrust.org

In the second decade of the 21st Century, The Real World Trust intends to continue from strength to strength; adapting as necessary to provide maximum benefit to those who seek its services using whatever funding might be available.