

# Cornwall befriending event success

On 4th March the national Mentoring and Befriending Foundation held a showcase event in Truro, supported by Cornwall Rural Community Council.

25 delegates attended, connected with existing or planned befriending schemes in Cornwall.

Mel Merrill, South West Co-ordinator for the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation, discussed

- national and regional perspectives
- managing and operating an effective programme
- safe working practices and lone working
- measuring the impact of your programme

She praised partnership initiatives, such as the Cornwall Befriending Forum, unique in the south west.

Other speakers included Dave Hocking (Cornwall Rural Community Council) on the support available for voluntary / community agencies. Jane Armstrong and Sandra Doddington (Face 2 Face) spoke about their befriending support for parents of disabled children. Kate Milanes (Link Up Befriending Scheme) introduced this Bristol based mental health charity. The Department of Adult Social Care's Learning, Training and Development Unit part-funded the event.

Delegates enjoyed the presentations and networking opportunities, and valued the opportunity to attend a regional event in Cornwall.

Dave Hocking, who argued for the local hosting of the event was pleased, saying "Very often regional events require people from Cornwall to travel out of the county, at great expense both in terms of time and money. The number of delegates that attended, along with the quality of the speakers and the excellent networking that took place, fully justify the decision".

## Human resources

The structure of the new unified Council has led to a number of Departments reorganising themselves to provide services that better reflect and meet the needs of Cornwall and the new Authority.

One of the services which is undergoing change is Human Resources (HR) and as part of that process HR will, in future, have responsibility for recruitment and payroll services across Cornwall Council. The impact that has on our Adult Social Care Directorate is that our colleagues in the Recruitment and Payroll teams (based in Old County Hall), in structural terms, transferred to HR on 1st April. For the time being the teams will still be situated in their existing location and you will still be able to access and work with them in the way you always have, but you may hear a different greeting when speaking to them by 'phone!

I am sure you will want to join me in thanking the team members for all their help and support over the years they have been within this Directorate and to wish them all very best as part of the new HR Service.

Kim Carey



Cornwall befriending event: (from left to right) Lynda Phillips (CRCC), Alison Richardson (Penwith Pals) and Sandra Doddington (Face 2 Face).