

MAXLIFE

MAGAZINE OF
CITY CARE
PARTNERSHIP

ISSUE 10

OUR ALICE
PREVIEW

SOCIAL CARE
INSIGHT DAY

SAM'S 30TH -
THE PARTY!

WAYNE'S
WEMBLEY JOY

CONOR MEETS
GARETH GATES

WELSH WONDERS

OUR ANNUAL
FESTIVAL IS A
MARVEL-OUS SUCCESS

SUPER COMICON

Overall
Outstanding

Read overall
summary

Safe

Effective

Caring

Responsive

Well-led

Good ●

Outstanding ☆

Outstanding ☆

Outstanding ☆

Outstanding ☆

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

As 2019 comes to an end it's been another fabulous year for all those involved with City Care. Many of us are focussing on achieving aspirations and it was great to see both Wayne and Dale share a new experience and meet one of their aspirations by travelling down to see Manchester City in the FA Cup Semi-Final at Wembley Stadium.

Who can believe Sam Hennell is 30 years old? And what a party and keen dress sense Sam has? It seems only a moment ago that he moved into Polefield Road and now he has his own beautifully looked after flat and is living a really productive and meaningful life.

Yet again the sun shone brightly for our summer Comic-con festival. Making it another brilliant day with amazing stalls, music and games. It is always incredible to see the effort and endeavour that goes into each and every stall which is rewarded when you see the delight on the faces on all the friends and families who attended. The sheer variety and effort put into producing costumes was also outstanding.

And whilst we are talking of outstanding, Mike Case and all the teams in the Manchester Service rightfully got what they deserved, being rated outstanding by CQC. It's also been both positive and encouraging to see people across the organisation gain qualifications in ASDAN, PBS and QCF.

Finally the Insight Day in October was an absolute pleasure to be part of. To see the people we support and their staff a little out their comfort zone but working and supporting each other, to show what we do so well was truly inspirational.

Phillip Jones
Director Health & Social Care

THE SHOW THAT'S A WONDER



Bernie (as Alice) in one of the amazing video scenes

FOLLOWING on from the success of our two previous live performances, City Care is creating a fantastic new production. Our Alice is an adaptation of Lewis Carroll's book *Alice in Wonderland*.

"It is a mix of live theatre and video projection," explains Sheila O'Neill, Managing Director of City Care and the show's writer and producer. "It offers a satirical and (hopefully) humorous look at the diversity of people within City Care, whilst the broader theme highlights the difference between the atypical and the Neurotypical persons within wider society."

"None of our cast had acted before so we created a number of solutions to help the group including; a speech only script to enable performers to follow the dialogue, audio recordings of each scene so performers can practice audibly, one-to-one rehearsals, small group work and person-centred role-play."

"The response from the cast has been amazing and they've really come together and worked extremely hard to make this happen. Each person is dependent upon the other to work to a single



goal and places their trust in the other in pursuit of the final outcome, the performance on the night."

The performance takes place at Gorse Hill Studios in Streford on Saturday 18th January. For tickets call 0161 428 1086 or see www.citycarepartnership.co.uk for info.



▲ Nick, Katie, Bernie and Sheila rehearse a scene
▼ Mickey enjoying rehearsal



◀ Sam H, Nick, Chris and Rob hard at work

RECRUITMENT IS ON-LINE



AS part of our ongoing website development there is now the option to apply on-line for positions at City Care. Those with a CV can upload directly to the site, whilst those without can now apply to City Care by filling in the on-line application form. The form works on all devices including mobiles so if you would like to apply, or you know someone who does, please visit www.citycarepartnership.co.uk and apply today!



Wayne and Dale saw City triumph in the FA Cup semi-final and fulfilled a long held dream of seeing them play at Wembley

CITY JOY FOR CITY CARE TEAM



WAYNE'S love of football, and City in particular, is well known to those of us at City Care who are United fans! Wayne

had told staff on multiple occasions "it's my dream to go to Wembley," and here at City Care Partnership, we're big believers in encouraging bold choices and celebrating aspirations.

So when an opportunity arose for Wayne to follow his beloved blues to Wembley it was always going to be a big occasion. Finance director and fellow City fan, Jonathan Crowther, contacted Dale to say he could get tickets for the FA Cup Semi Final against Brighton and the plan was on!

"Wayne had been working hard through a difficult time," explains Dale. "This was the perfect opportunity to surprise Wayne and for him to fulfil an item on his wish list.

"On the Saturday morning I prepared a bag for the day and explained what was going to happen. Wayne was elated at this news and selected his best clothes to wear to his first match at Wembley!"

Wayne then left with Dale for the drive down to London. Wayne enjoyed himself singing to the radio, telling Dale the rules of



football and league standings and more importantly, eating at the services!

Dale and Wayne arrived with time to make the best of the day and enjoy the big match atmosphere, buying a match programme and a scarf each and then exploring the ground. It was a first chance to visit Wembley for both Wayne and Dale, so a great opportunity for them to share the experience. They made the most of the opportunity and enjoyed seeing City triumph 1-0!



STUDENTS

Where's the best place to gain an insight into working in social care? Our Yew Tree Activity Hub, which welcomed 20 students for a fantastic introduction to City Care...



On 9th October 2019 City Care hosted a 'Career in Social Care' Insight Day, created in partnership with

the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Careers Hub (GM Careers Hub).

The day saw 20 students from across Greater Manchester arriving at our Yew Tree Activity Hub. They were greeted by Alan, who took the initiative to find the students on arrival and make them feel welcome. It was a fantastic gesture on Alan's part and really set the tone for an amazing day.

The students soon settled into the day, ably led in groups by Katie, Matt F, Karisha, Sam H and Lisa. They guided their students around all five workshops which were designed to demonstrate how City Care's activity-led service increases choice and aspirations, whilst providing skills and confidence. Each workshop was presented by an activity lead and



ENJOY LESSONS OF YEW TREE

supported by Alan, Selina, Mickey, Matt B and Lisa.

"The pinnacle of the day for me was seeing the shift in attitude of the students," explains Sue Wright, Social Care Lead for the Careers Hub.

"Starting with quite an awkward introduction where the students were not really sure how to react and engage, to seeing a steady shift in confidence and attitude when engaging in workshops and interacting and chatting with the staff and the people supported by City Care.

"The detailed planning, preparation of the day and commitment from the staff and the people supported by CCP, who kindly offered to volunteer on the day, made this event the best that it could be. The workshops were engaging, fun, informative and meaningful enabling a clear understanding of why this career path is so rewarding and fulfilling."

The day helped the students understand the roles in social care and gave them a real understanding about learning disabilities and Autism and they enjoyed interacting with everyone from City Care. Students were asked what they had learnt from the day and comments included:

"I loved my time at Yew tree activity hub. To start, all of the staff and the service users were very welcoming and helped us throughout the day with our understanding of autism"



Another student said it: "provided us with a lot of knowledge about how simple activities can make a huge difference to the lives of individuals. It also allowed us to understand how important it is to empower and encourage people to benefit their overall well-being".

Comments from teachers included: "I just wanted to say thank you and what a great day our students had; we really value these experiences" *North Chadderton 6th Form* and "Our students absolutely loved it" *Flixton Girls School*.

It was a fantastic day from start to finish and proved a real chance for everyone at City Care to meet these interesting and intelligent young people, to share knowledge, experiences and to have a great time together.



OUTSTANDING CITY CARE

When CQC regard you as 'Outstanding' it is truly a rare honour, with less than 3% of services receiving this accolade. Congratulations then to our Manchester services for being 'Outstanding' - City Care's fourth such rating in 2 years!



TAFF were passionate and really cared about making a difference to the people they supported so that

they could lead the best lives possible. People were supported to lead fulfilling, active lives and to be active citizens within the local and wider community. This has led to aspirations and dreams being realised."

In the year when City Care have set aims and values as an organisation it is a fantastic achievement to receive this rating from the CQC and to see those values recognised again and again throughout the report.

The inspection found that people using the service benefitted from safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led care.

City Care has been given an overall rating of Outstanding and is rated as Good for whether the service is safe. An Outstanding was given for four of the five categories which are whether its service is effective, caring, responsive and well-led.

"This is an incredible achievement for our Manchester services. We have been on a journey to make sure that we had outstanding people delivering outstanding services," explains Paul Harrison, - and this inspection report from the CQC shows the amazing progress we have made.

"Of course, there is more that we need to do because that's

always the case. The challenge now is to make sure our services continue to grow and develop to ensure we are providing incredible person-centred care to everyone we support.

"I am delighted to see the efforts of the team have resulted in an 'outstanding' rating from the CQC. Achieving this highest rating is a real testament to the managers and the staff but it is also testament to the people we support."

The report makes it clear that as an organisation there is now the framework in place to offer a wide range of choices and a



▲ Alex donating DVDs as part of thanksgiving

dedication to leading fulfilling and active lives.

The report celebrates the fantastic additional support from the Central Support Team, saying: "People's assessment of need was highly individualised leading to exceptionally well-planned care and outcomes for people." It also highlights the success of our Yew Tree Hub in providing opportunities and choice in a wide range of activities.

Staff told the inspectors of 'great achievements' and improved quality of life for some people who previously needed two or three staff to go into the community who now only needed one staff member. One relative told the inspection team "My son is now enjoying life and having adventures. It's remarkable what the hard work of staff has achieved."

Other relatives described the staff team as "phenomenal" and "absolutely fantastic" in their understanding of supporting autistic people. One relative explained further: "They've tried things we would never have thought of. We are included in training and use the

"People's quality of life was significantly improved by the actions and involvement of the service and its staff teams. People and their families told us that the input of the service had been life-changing."

*City Care Partnership,
'Outstanding' report, CQC 2019*

Overall Outstanding Read overall summary	Safe	Good ●
	Effective	Outstanding ☆
	Caring	Outstanding ☆
	Responsive	Outstanding ☆
	Well-led	Outstanding ☆

"The service was exceptional at helping people to express their views, wishes and aspirations. One person told us, "This is my life and I get to live it the way I want."

*City Care Partnership,
'Outstanding' report, CQC 2019*



▲ Ali enjoying his choice of trip, The Trafford Centre!

same approach as well now. My relative's progress is off the chart. We are over the moon and he has a positive future now."

Categories in some areas had improved from Good to Outstanding, showing the dedication of the teams to working with the people they support to make a real and lasting difference. Outstanding is a fantastic achievement, but it is validation that rings so true. "People were truly respected and valued as individuals; and empowered as partners in their care in an exceptional service."

"Staff had excellent underpinning knowledge around equality, diversity and human rights and translated this into real practice each and every day."

*City Care Partnership,
'Outstanding' report, CQC 2019*

SPOOKY HAPPENINGS AT YEW TREE HUB

You know what's scary? For me it's spiders! But what's really scary is the creativity and ghoulish delight that's gone into this halloween party!



▲ Alan looking for a bite to eat



▲ Clowns are scary

► Lisa looking devilish



▲ Brad as vampire

▼ AJ joins the scary clown posse whilst Lauren casts a spell



▲ Cassie's not scared of that pose!
▼ Leah enjoyed the night



YOU SHALL GO TO THE BALL!



W

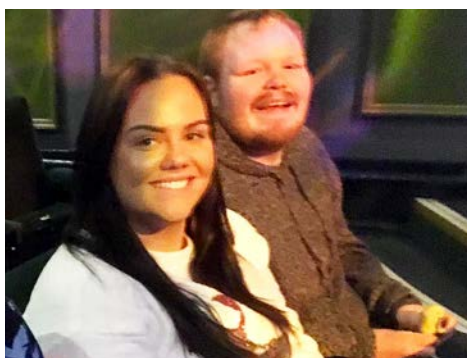
HEN Conor decided he wanted to see Cinderella at the Opera House, he and his staff team knew they'd have to prepare to make it a success. New environments can make some people understandably anxious, but after much thought they had a plan, 'Conor shall go to the ball' (ok, it was Cinderella!)

"We had five visits leading up to the performance," explains Beth. "Conor was able to view the auditorium and sit in his seat. Abigail and all of the staff were so helpful in facilitating the familiarisation visits for him."

"These visits were essential and led to a fantastic visit on the day. Conor absolutely loved the performance of Cinderella, laughing and joining in! The staff were so helpful and understanding and encouraged Conor, they even arranged for a little surprise visit backstage at the end of the performance."

"Conor got to meet Gareth Gates, who he absolutely adores. It was a fantastic experience for Conor and it wouldn't have gone as smoothly as it did without the help from Abigail, the staff and the familiarisation visits. Thank you so much, we will be back!"

▲ **Conor worked with his staff to achieve an amazing aspiration**



▲ **Tonia and Jonathan also loved the performance**

▼ **Gareth & Conor!**



CRAIG AT COMICON

C

RAIG had a great time at the *Comic-Con Unleashed* event in Stockport. He and Rafiq were particularly

impressed with the giant Stay Puft Marshmallow Man, from the film *Ghostbusters*. The event saw loads of characters from different sci-fi and comic book related films and was a great day all round.

Rafiq and Craig are now experts in the Comic-Con world, which is useful as City Care Partnership's annual festival is also Comic-Con themed. (To see more of this year's festival see pages 10-13)



YOUR VOTE, YOUR VOICE!



WE'RE all about respecting choices at City Care, and few choices are as important as having your say over who runs the country. Pictured are Conor, Harry and Jonathan who all voted in the local elections and are ready to make their vote count in the general election this year.

In order to promote the vote the electoral commission has released an easy read guide to voting called *Elections for Everyone*. You can find it at www.electoralcommission.org.uk. It's important to use your right to vote, use your voice, make your choices and have your say!

The Electoral Commission

Elections for Everyone

This is a short version of the Electoral Commission report called *Elections for Everyone*, which was published in November 2017.

The Electoral Commission is an independent organisation.

It was set up by the UK Parliament.

It checks that elections are run properly.

Elections are when people can vote.

LOUISE BRAVES THE SHAVE!



LOUISE shaved her head to raise £340 in aid of ward 84 at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital "My godson has been receiving treatment for the last 3 and a half years for Leukaemia," she explained. "He has had many battles but has hopefully overcome the worst. I just wanted to give something back to a phenomenal place where they have taken such great care of him and his family."



ANDRE ON TOUR!

FROM the medieval ruins to the cruise across the Ambleside Lake; from the Birds of Prey display to the train trip through the countryside it is fair to say Andre and Garry had a busy few days in the Lake District.

"We packed plenty in," laughs Garry. "As usual Andre chose certain adventures from the pictures and choices offered and always finished with a nice meal and a relax in the cottage. It was a great trip and many memories were made."





SUPERDAY!



▲ Conor is always a superhero!

▼ Lead Ghostbuster and winner of Best Made Costume, Rob



This year's ComicCon festival at Yew Tree was a day we'd been long anticipating, Spidey senses tingling and with glorious weather, no idea that 'winter is coming'. It was a costume blast of a day!



▲ Karisha in the parade



◀ Sheridan had a marvellous day

▼ ▶ Bernie and Selina gave excellent performances to entertain the crowds



Kids had a great time... Noah taking a sponge!



Magic in the air!





▲ Mickey puts the ghost in Ghostbusters!

▼ Awarded Best stall, the Wonder Woman stall was right on target



▲ Sam H decided not to destroy the Universe just for today

◀ Deisy, Seun and Genaly all looking super

▼ Lots of kids came down for a great time!



▼ Gill and Muna aren't fazed by Chewbacca!





The Game of Thrones crew are led by Tony & Matt



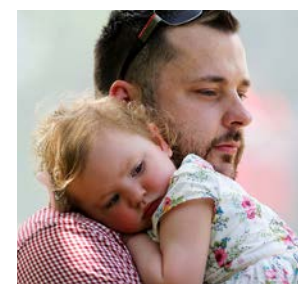
▲ Atif with a super smile

▼ even great days need time to chill

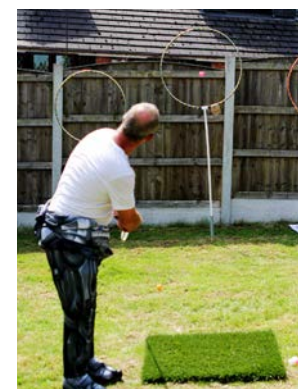


▲ Katie shows the family around.

► Sam C is always a showman, even as Spiderman!



▼ John's shot looks bang on!



Congratulations

*Celebrating the
achievements of all
within City Care*

Postive Behavioural Support - PBS3 advanced certificate

Congratulations to:

**Sharron Bennett, Natasha
Brooks, John Cope, Jerome
Gilbert, Paul Onalaja & Ian Todd**

Asdan awards Bloom

CITY Care have been running a gardening club over the summer. and it was Laura's great pleasure to award the following people with their Gardening ASDAN awards:

**Mickey Owen, Jonathan
Randle, Stephen Davis, Saul
Llewelyn, Leah Fitzgerald**

"Everyone worked really hard over the 10 weeks," explained Laura Walter. "Everyone completed 5 modules of their ASDAN! We planted sunflowers, onions, turnips, and spinach; maintained the allotments; planted hanging baskets and window boxes; and made concrete toadstools.

"I'm so proud of everyone's achievements everyone has worked really hard not only doing their gardening tasks but logging them in their ASDAN files."

10 years Service!

MANY thanks to those who have completed 10 years service with City Care Partnership. We thank you for dedication and your loyalty:

**John Sleigh, Gerard Blair,
Grace Chiaju, Sekai Seawell and
Sharon Fowler**

ALL SMILES FOR SAM'S 30TH PARTY

Dress to impress is often added to invites - In Sam's case he stole the show with his tuxedo! A super smart way to celebrate being 30



**Dan and
Sam with the
fabulous
Beatles
birthday cake**



**Jonathan &
Kate dancing**

**Sam and Arjun
looking cool**



Seun & Tom chilling

**John and Alex give the
party the thumbs up**



A RAFT OF WELSH TALES

Merv, Lee, Selina, Alan, Atif, Sheila and Papillon (the dog) all went on holiday to Wales and enjoyed amazing mountain adventures!

Written by Lee & Selina

IN MY OWN VOICE!

**A SERIES OF FEATURES
WRITTEN AND PRESENTED BY
THE PEOPLE WE SUPPORT IN
THEIR OWN UNIQUE STYLE**

W

E are very happy with our five days in Wales and we went for a meal out then we all put our PJs on and watched the movies. After

movies we all went to bed.

In the morning Alan, Merv and me went white water rafting. Alan, he was very happy with everything and I was very happy - it was very hard but very fun! Merv said he loved it!

All having fun in Wales and NO WORK so I get my own time before I go back to work. I hope to move things so can do this again. Wales, next year, 2020!

We all went on 2HS railway. Train's a very long time so Sheila and Selina waited in the car, then we all met up in the Marine Hotel and we had a meal out and a drink then bed. In the morning we have breakfast in Hotel and all went to Lloyds coaches. We have a very good sea front hotel. We have nice 5 days in Wales where Sheila's house is - we have okay weather with bad wind and rain!

Written by Lee

I went to the charity shops with Sheila, Papillon and Atif. I bought bracelets and two teddies. I'm having tea and then I put movie on!

Written by Selina



▲ Lee, Alan, Selina, Merv and Atif

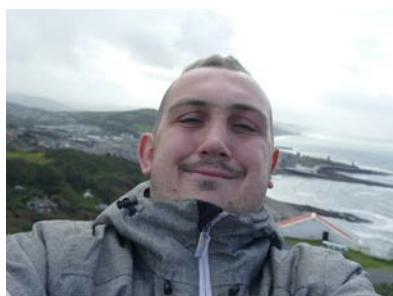


▼ Atif enjoying the log fire in the cottage



▲ White-water is no obstacle to these guys

◀ ▶ ▼ Taking the funicular to spectacular (but windy!) views





DOORS OPEN 7PM | XMAS BUFFET 7.30-8PM | MUSIC 8 -11.30PM

LIVE ACTS: DIVA DIVINE | THE COLLECTIVE

MANCHESTER RUGBY CLUB, GROVE PARK, GROVE LANE,
CHEADLE HULME, STOCKPORT SK8 7NB