

5 | Involvement

Involvement is all about taking part in what we are involved in. This could be as part of a community coming together for a purpose. It can be described as a club, an association, a pastime, a vocation, an assembly or dare we say an Approved Premises whereby we have a diverse and mixed group of people who are present in the same building for a reason. We have Residents who live for a period of time within that building and staff who attend to deliver a service, so at any given time we have that community mix and as part of an Enabling Environment we have a 50/50 ownership of being involved and taking part in the life and times of the Approved Premises.

A quote I like and says it all really:-

“We may have all come on different ships, but we’re in the same boat now”

(by Dr Martin Luther King)

Examples

We need people to be involved in everything we all do, there are not many things we do that doesn't involve others, that doesn't affect others because we are a social animal who generally like to interact with others on varying levels, think about it?

- There is an AP who are part of a food share scheme whereby residents collect food from an outlet and make a meal for the other residents within the AP with staff help and supervision. They go a step further and once a week they take what they have prepared and serve it out to the homeless at a shelter benefitting those even less fortunate than themselves, now that is involvement.
- There is another AP that got together and cleared out a disused room that had become a dumping ground for broken and disused furniture and even a fire hazard. Residents and staff together cleared it all out, decorated and refurbished it creating a very nice multi faith room that everyone could enjoy, even if just for some quiet space time out and again created by people being involved.
- The final AP example was where a member of staff was a cycling enthusiast and himself and several residents created a working space and received recovered stolen bicycles from the police via a registered charity to restore and make road worthy again. The first bike is returned restored to the charity to benefit others or raise funds and a resident who worked on the first bike can keep the second one for themselves. Really good enterprise involving everyone and benefitting all concerned.