



**** For immediate release ****

CHANGES OF MIND IN LANCASHIRE

Two Lancashire Branches of one of the country's leading mental health charities are responding to the challenges of increased demand for services and reduced expenditure by merging. Chorley, South Ribble and Blackburn MIND and Blackpool, Fylde and North Lancashire MIND will provide improved County-wide services by forming Lancashire MIND with immediate effect.

Lancashire MIND will be approaching agencies throughout the County to identify all local mental health needs and agree how they can best be met by the new organisation. Building on more than 25 years' experience of providing mental health support the new local MIND association aims to meet the many needs made more intense by the current crisis involving the economy, jobs and debt.

First moves include new premises in Blackpool and Blackburn together with new ways of delivering services in other parts of Lancashire. New networks are designed to help vulnerable groups including returned soldiers, the isolated elderly, students living away from home for the first time and stress in the workplace.

These major needs can be met by new funding bids to MIND nationally and the introduction of corporate membership for organisations concerned about their employees.

Lancashire MIND Mark Lunney explained "We are delighted with the potential of Lancashire MIND to do so much more to meet the needs of all those affected by mental illness. For 25 years we have provided services such as supported housing, day care and floating support. We hope that health and social care commissioners will recognise what can be achieved very cost-effectively by the third sector working collaboratively."



Vice-Chair Andrew Harris added “We appeal to all caring organisations to work in partnership to provide ever-better support to those in need. We can offer much-needed help for employees of all organisations which become corporate members of Lancashire MIND. Further information is available from Beverley Figaji on 01257 231660.”

People who need to contact Lancashire MIND are invited to text MIND to 60777 or email help@csrmind.org.uk

**** END ****

EFFECTIVE: 15th January 2011

For further information contact Mark Lunney on 01257 231660 or 07862 287356 or Andrew Harris on 07885 448495

See overleaf for editor notes:

Note to editors:

For further details of this notice please contact:

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Or email: marklunney@csrmind.org.uk

Lancashire Mind is affiliated to Mind, the leading mental health charity in England and Wales. Founded in 1986, it provides support, advice, housing care and information services for people experiencing mental distress across the Lancashire area.

Please visit our website at: www.csrmind.org.uk For information on the national strategy, please contact the Mind Media Office on 020 8522 1743 or email: media@mind.org.uk

Did you know.....

1 in 4 people suffer from a mental health problem at some point in their lives.

1 in 6 workers experience depression, anxiety and stress each year

70 Million Work days are lost every year due to mental illness

Over 2,000 people admitted to mental health hospitals each Week.



[http:// www.csrmind.org.uk](http://www.csrmind.org.uk)

Charity Number 1081427

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