

Folkestone & District Mind is an independent autonomous charity which has been registered with the Charity Commission since May 1988. The Trustees, who are accountable to the membership of the Charity, are appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting which is open to members of the public. The annual membership subscription of the Charity is just £1.00p. The Charity is affiliated to National Mind under which agreement an annual affiliation fee is paid to National Mind calculated according to the total income of the Charity during the previous financial year (from Fundraising, Social Service or Health authority grants, donations etc.)

National Mind in return provide access to their policies and procedures, access to the Block Insurance Policy, information and advice services (including legal advice) and support a number of other services i.e. Mental Health representation, Mind publications, information leaflets, conferences, magazines, etc. Local affiliated groups must comply with National Mind Quality Assurance. They receive no direct funds from National Mind but can apply for small grants for special items from time to time and receive a small reduction on the cost of Mind information leaflets on mental health matters.

During the lifetime of Folkestone & District Mind the charity has been involved in supporting those suffering from mental health problems in the Shepway area in a wide variety of ways.

In 1992 the Charity were approached by KCC department of Social Services to take over the management of the Shepway Mental Health Day Service.

The Trustees agreed, enrolling the support of a team of volunteers and staff and taking over the lease of the building at 24/26 Dover Road which became the Folkestone Mind Resource Centre and opened for the first time in January 1993. Any Shepway resident who has experience of mental health problems is eligible to join and take part in the daily activities of the Centre.

A Mental Illness Specific Grant enabled Folkestone Mind to purchase the freehold of this building in 1996 and to develop the derelict basement area into the art, woodwork and social rooms in use today.

This Community Day Service is managed by the Trustees of Folkestone Mind under a Service Agency Agreement with KCC. The Department of Social Services sets out the terms of the Service Agency Agreement by which it agrees to meet the annual costs incurred in the basic day-to-day running of the Centre. Weekly 2-hour Community Groups are held in Hythe and New Romney. The service is reviewed regularly. Folkestone Mind meet the cost of extra services provided at the Centre and in the local community i.e. Counselling, Hairdressing, Outings, etc.

Folkestone & District Mind has gradually expanded its resources over the years. In addition to the Resource Centre building, the Charity now owns the freehold of the adjoining property at 22 Dover Road where the Dove Charity Shop is situated. Folkestone Mind has also taken over the management of the Mind Charity Shop in Cheriton High Street (previously run by National Mind.) The flats above the Dover Road premises are separately owned by lessees.

Expansion of service is enabled by very careful financial management, regular fundraising and above all the support of the Trustees, Volunteers, Staff team and members. Accounts for presentation at the Annual General Meeting are produced by Henry Reeves & Son of Hythe and reports and accounts are submitted annually for approval to the Charity Commissioners, Companies House and National Mind.

In 2002 the Charity adopted the status of Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee as advised by the Council for Voluntary Services. Company status provides additional security for the Charity and future Trustees. The name of the Charity remained unchanged as Folkestone & District Mind with the new Charity Commission Registration Number of 1089472. The Registered Charitable Company number is 4276323.

The Community Day Service provides a variety of activities and services including social area, crafts, textiles, woodwork, pool, hairdressing, a fitness group, individual and group music tuition, person-centred planning and a Counselling service. New services are developed in response to the needs of the members and the Service Agency Agreement with K.C.C. Members engage in a wide variety of activities in the local community as detailed in the Wellbeing Programme. Full details of services provided may be found on our website : www.folkestonemind.org.uk Enquiries from new Trustees are welcomed.

For further details contact the Centre by post at:
Folkestone Mind Resource Centre, 3 Mill Bay, Folkestone CT20 1JS
Tel: 01303 250090 email: contact@folkestonemind.org.uk

A brief history of

FOLKESTONE & DISTRICT



For better
mental health