

## CrossReach and Social Care Sunday – are you ready?

Is your church planning a CrossReach themed service on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November? That's CrossReach and Social Care Sunday and there are 'Starters for Sunday' on the Church of Scotland and CrossReach websites. These will include video clips of the Moderator which can be shown during worship services. In addition a DVD resource of CrossReach Week 2014 will be posted to ministers in charges.

- CrossReach Week runs from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November and you can keep up to date with the latest news at: [www.crossreach.org.uk/crossreach-week-0](http://www.crossreach.org.uk/crossreach-week-0) or on twitter at: **#CRWK15**.



## Increase in drugs death numbers is 'deeply distressing'

Commenting on new figures from the Scottish Government, CrossReach's Director of Adult Care Services Calum Murray says it is 'deeply distressing' that the number of drugs related deaths in Scotland is now at



a record high. Figures showed that there were 613 drugs related deaths in 2014 – 452 men and 161 women. The highest number of deaths were among people age 35 to 44 – 213 people, up from 184 the year before. The figures also showed there were 527 drugs related deaths in 2013. Mr. Murray said: "Much like alcohol-related deaths statistics published recently, the increase in drug related deaths in Scotland is a great cause for concern. These figures are deeply distressing and Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships are struggling due to increasing demand for their services while central government funding diminishes. It would appear to be related that less funding for treatment leads to more deaths. I am greatly saddened by these figures because behind every one of these statistics is a tragic back story for families who merit great sympathy and understanding." He added that CrossReach had a lot of sympathy for

the Scottish Government and recognised that decisions to reduce funding to alcohol and drugs support services would not be made out of choice but rather due to austerity measures: "Government agencies alone cannot tackle this problem and society and individuals themselves have a role to play in this. For our part, CrossReach will continue to work alongside ADP's and other partners with the aim that people will always find hope even in the darkest of circumstances." CrossReach operates alcohol and drug support services across Scotland.

## COSCA Certificate in Counselling Skills

The Tom Allan Centre in Glasgow has been running the COSCA Certificate in Counselling Skills course for almost twenty years. In that time many Ministers, Elders and others with leadership and pastoral roles in the Church have completed it. Manager of the Tom Allan Centre Anne Goldie and Jackie Walker, manager of the Glasgow Bluebell Perinatal Depression Service are both Accredited Trainers and running



this course is one of the highlights of their jobs. Anne said: "We are very enthusiastic about it and enjoy the mixed groups of people we work with. We know that in the Church so much is expected of everyone who takes any kind of responsibility and we also know that doing this course provides an opportunity to address some of that. To find out how to be with other people in their distress but also how to take care of ourselves, be aware of what makes us do what we do and react as we do. This helps prevent exhaustion, burn-out and that feeling we all get at times of 'this situation is just too much for me, I am don't know what to do or suggest'."

- If you would like more information please go to: [www.crossreach.org.uk/cosca-training](http://www.crossreach.org.uk/cosca-training) where you can also download an application form. Or if you have any questions about the course, please call either Anne or Jackie on: **0141 221 1535**.



## CrossReach Volunteer Summit Open Day

CrossReach recognises the valuable support each volunteer provides and the difference it makes to both our staff and our clients. As the number of volunteers working for CrossReach services continues



to grow, the value of developing an official CrossReach Volunteer Plan became apparent. Volunteer roles vary, both in the amount of working time they can offer and also the tasks they undertake. Examples include gardener, administrator, crèche worker, researcher, counsellor, fundraiser and befriender. The CrossReach Volunteer Summit Open Day on 9<sup>th</sup> September was attended by CrossReach staff and volunteers from across Children & Family Services, Adult Care Services, and Older People Services, as well as Dr. Sally Bonnar, Convener of the Social Care Council of the Church of Scotland; Peter Bailey, CEO of CrossReach; Viv Dickenson, Director of Children & Family Services; and Mari Rennie, Director of Human Resources

and Organisational Development. Discussions and breakout sessions throughout the day gave everyone the opportunity to hear from teams who consistently work with volunteers, to meet the volunteers themselves, and to work out a plan to help us develop this valuable human resource going forward. A consistent message appeared, which was the need to focus on developing a generic volunteer strategy, to include central support via a volunteer co-ordinator and to create a volunteer forum and database to share amongst CrossReach services and the wider Church of Scotland.

## Threshold Support Services – officially open!

More than 130 service users across South Lanarkshire are supported by Threshold Support Services – making it one of CrossReach's largest projects. Recently, the staff team moved to new offices above New Cross shopping centre in the centre of Hamilton but because of the busy schedule the official opening wasn't held until 25<sup>th</sup> August. In the morning, service users were invited to the first viewing of a new DVD about Threshold and what it has to offer, including a new service 'Leading Lives' providing group based support for adults with learning disabilities. In the afternoon, the Moderator Rt. Rev. Dr. Angus Morrison cut



the ribbon to declare the offices open. In his speech he said he was very proud of the work that CrossReach does on behalf of the church which he said is held in high regard across Scotland: "I've come to value the way in which CrossReach follows the example of Jesus in relating to people as individuals and putting emphasis on the distinctive personality of each person – something that is increasingly challenging in this age of squeezed budgets. And here at Threshold Support Services you have that person-centred approach and that is absolutely wonderful."

**Get alongside us with a 'Reach Out' Gift**  
Find out how in our Christmas catalogue.  
Request your copy by calling: **0131 454 4374**

