

# Cosgrove News

[www.cosgrove.co.uk](http://www.cosgrove.co.uk)

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Cosgrove Care Charity Number SC013208

## Chief Executive Update

Every quarter the Senior Management Team from Cosgrove meets with East Renfrewshire Council to resolve problems and discuss wider issues.



At our last meeting at the end of February we had a more in depth discussion on funding concerns in the sector and it was made clearly aware to us that all Local Authorities are being required to not only make savings, as was widely known, but also to now scrutinise services currently being provided with a view to ensure consistency of support and also to assess whether savings are possible in each support package.

This was clearly explained to us as an exercise that may take some months to allow the gathering and assessment of information, followed by the implementation of the findings and then may last for the next few years.

Cosgrove I would reiterate is a financially solid organisation which is down to a policy of being prudent and reacting quickly to issues. However this feedback from Local Authorities makes the need for our family's assistance in fundraising all the more desirable and we would urge all families to think of ways they could work with us in helping them.

If you feel that you do want to help but have little or no time, I would suggest that you contact either myself or Sarah Dawson our fundraising officer and we'd be happy to meet with you and discuss ways that we could work together to fundraise where your input would be minimal after that initial meeting and we would take on the responsibility of making it happen.

## Cosgrove News Roundup

### Third Sector Grant Awarded

Our recent application to the Third Sector Enterprise Fund was successful, we are delighted to report that Cosgrove has been awarded a grant of almost £60k towards the cost of the implementation of an IT strategy. The grant will cover essential maintenance and development of our IT structures over the next two years. The implementation of an IT Strategy will furnish our organisation with the skills and expertise we require to become more competitive, more efficient, and more able to utilise current available technologies to increase our capacity and capability as both fundraisers and care providers.

### Book Fair

Cosgrove held a Children's Book Fair on Sunday 21st March as part of our Community Fundraising Campaign. The event was a huge success, raising almost £500 for the services we provide. A big thank you to all those who attended and made donations.

Congratulations to our lucky raffle winners who took home some fantastic prizes including an electric guitar and helicopter ride!

Cosgrove will be hosting more fundraising events throughout the year and we hope that you will be able to support us. Please see the fundraising section of this newsletter for details of upcoming events.

### Care Commission Report

Cosgrove had an announced visit from the Care Commission on the 8th and 9th March 2010. During the visit a number of staff across the organisation were interviewed, policy and procedures were checked and random sampling was undertaken. The verbal feedback received was very positive. The completed written report is now available at HQ and is accessible on the Care Commission website.

### Investors in People

We recently completed another successful Investors in People reassessment resulting in us gaining that status for the 9th year and beyond. As ever we are very proud of maintaining our Investors in People accreditation and the standards and practices that we are assessed against have now become embedded in the culture of the organisation.

## Supported Employment

Cosgrove's Supported Employment Project was established in 2003 to enable young people with learning disabilities to access realistic work experience and gain national qualifications which lead into paid employment. The project has been a huge success and this year we are expecting 6 young people to achieve their SVQ in Customer Care, which is a fantastic achievement.



Cosgrove held an awards ceremony in April last year to celebrate the achievement of the young people who completed their training. We will be holding another awards ceremony later in the year to celebrate the success of our current students.

To put an individual through an SVQ qualification costs £800 excluding staff costs. In these difficult financial times we are continuing to look to funders to support the project. To sustain this service for the future we will also be looking at sponsorship of our students from individuals and local businesses. If you feel you could sponsor an individual please let us know, any support would be greatly appreciated.

## Cosgrove is 50!

September 2010 will mark the beginning of Cosgrove's 50th Anniversary. There will be a host of celebrations and events taking place throughout the 50th year. We will keep you informed of the plans and hope you will be able to join in with the celebrations. Watch this space!

We are currently looking for a celebrity patron to launch our 50th anniversary and raise the profile of the organisation. We would like to hear from you if you have any connections or suggestions!

## COSGROVE'LL FIX IT!!

Now that Jimmy Savile has retired (do we all remember him?) Cosgrove have decided to re-launch what Jimmy did so well and that was to try our best to make our service users dreams come true (within reason and no requests please for a night out with George Clooney or Angelina Jolie). Over the past year or so we arranged the following for service users:

- A training flight over Glasgow for a flying fanatic
- A visit to a Ferrari dealer and trip to a race track for a car enthusiast
- A work experience placement in a Nail Bar for a young lady who is keen to work in the beauty sector

That gave us the idea of pushing this a bit harder, so if you know of a service user who has an unfulfilled dream or passion (but remember the Clooney/Jolie message!!) then please let us know and we'll do our best to make it happen and with it will probably come the chance for a mention in the local press.

## Your views count

In future editions of this newsletter we would like to feature your views in our 'Have Your Say' column. We would like to hear your comments and suggestions about the services we provide. We would also like to hear your stories, with the chance for you to share experiences of Cosgrove. Please email your articles or comments to Sarah: [sdawson@cosgrove.co.uk](mailto:sdawson@cosgrove.co.uk)

## Email

In the future we would like to communicate with you via email as it is cost effective for the organisation. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically please get in touch and let us know.

## Fundraising Roundup

### Fundraising Committee

Cosgrove held its first Fundraising Committee meeting on the 24th February. The committee will be getting involved in organising exciting new fundraising events for the charity, whilst also raising the profile of the organisation. If you would like to join the committee or have any suggestions for fundraising, please contact Sarah on 0141 620 2500 or email: [sdawson@cosgrove.co.uk](mailto:sdawson@cosgrove.co.uk)

### Cosgrove's Care Phone Day

Sunday 21st February saw over 20 volunteers and several members of staff descend on Cosgrove's head office for the annual care phone day. In total over 800 people were contacted during the day, and a further 170 will receive follow up letters. Early projections indicate that the results should be similar to last year with about £8000 committed already, the target is £12,000. A huge thank you to all those who volunteered.

### 100+ Club Winner announced!

The recently started 100+ club has produced its first winner- Mrs Murdoch of Barrhead, who wins £25. It's not too late to buy a ticket and be entered into all the remaining draws, including the £250 draws which will take place at the Cosgrove AGM in June, at the Sponsored Walk in August, and at the staff Festive Lunch in December. For just £15 a ticket you can help support Cosgrove and perhaps win one of the remaining 13 cash prizes. So far the club has raised over £1700 towards Cosgrove's activities.

### Cosgrove Care Sponsored Walk - Coming Soon

Cosgrove's sponsored walk will take place on Sunday 8th August at Rouken Glen Park, more details to follow soon. To register your interest contact Sarah on 0141 620 2500 or e-mail: [sdawson@Cosgrove](mailto:sdawson@Cosgrove)

### How your money can make a difference

- £5 a Chanukah gift for a child
- £100 Parents Group with professional facilitators
- £200 refreshments for our Adult Groups over the year
- £450 SVQ training for a staff member
- £800 an individual to achieve an SVQ in Customer Care through our Supported Employment Project
- £2400 Art Therapist to deliver workshops which develop practical and motor skills and social skills
- £3500 Respite weekend for 6 children to a local place within Scotland

## Upcoming Fundraising Events

### 6th April - West Highland Way Walk

Carol Drury, parent of a Cosgrove service user is walking the West Highland Way

### 23rd May Cosgrove's Big Day Out

Cosgrove will be holding a fun day to celebrate and promote the services we provide.

### 23rd May - Edinburgh Half Marathon

Sarah Dawson, Fundraising Officer will be running the Edinburgh Half Marathon.

### 8th August - Cosgrove Sponsored Walk

Cosgrove will be holding its annual sponsored walk, more details coming soon!

## Fundraiser of the month

### Carol's West Highland Way Challenge!

Carol Drury, parent of a Cosgrove service user, is taking on the challenge of walking the West Highland Way on 6th April in aid of Cosgrove Care. The challenge will take just under a week to complete. If you would like to sponsor Carol please get in touch on 0161 620 2500.

Could you do something similar for Cosgrove? We would love to hear from you!

## Quick Fundraising Tip

Fundraise at work - Hold a guess the baby competition - colleagues bring in a photo of themselves as a baby, pay a donation to take part, organise a small prize for the winner.