

BILL COMMERFORD

I thoroughly enjoyed the Diploma course at the MW Centre and have applied much of what I learnt since and similarly I've learnt so much in my client work since.

I still have all three placements at Mind in Enfield (MiE), Age Concern Camden (ACC) and Ethnic Alcohol Counselling Hounslow (EACH). Because of my experience in substance and alcohol dependency and recovery support work, I have pursued this in particular.

I run a weekly community mental health support group and my post is funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund - I have also completed a nine day (one day a week) training this autumn at EACH sitting in on the Relapse Prevention and Process groups that run as part of the nine week structured day care programme that the agency provides. I have since run both the Relapse Prevention and Process groups.

KAREN LAWLEY

Since leaving Mary Ward, I received my diploma summer 2005 and secured a part-time (my choice) job in September 05.

I work in a primary treatment centre for clients with drug and alcohol addiction. I hold a caseload of around 4/5 clients, am responsible for their treatment plans, liaising with care managers, facilitating group therapy as well as workshops.

I have just finished a group facilitation course at City Lit and hoping to go onto the Institute of Group Analysis. I have attended three continued development courses on working with dual diagnosis, diversity training and child protection. I had one private client for a while, but decided I didn't feel ready to take on more.

I am working towards my BACP accreditation and it is my goal to achieve this next year.

BILL CUNNINGHAM

I have been working as a volunteer substance misuse counsellor with an ethnic alcohol agency EACH in Harrow, a continuation of my placement. Meanwhile my agency has offered me paid work on a series of short term contracts to oversee the transfer of some 150 clients from the local Community Drug and Alcohol Service. My job is to assess the clients, allocate them to appropriate services within the agency and run a caseload of about 15 clients myself.

I have a new job starting on the 22nd of January with Turning Point in Ealing. They have offered me the post as a project worker and I will be running groups and carrying a small caseload of 1:1 clients. I feel a bit like Robert the Bruce as this was about my 7th interview. So this is a real Turning Point for me.

In my spare time I have managed to have and recover from a heart attack. (I think it was the shock of leaving Mary Ward that caused it) and celebrate my 65th birthday.