

Blenheim Annual Report 2014/15



Blenheim is a charity that provides support to drug and alcohol users, their family and carers.

We believe in people's capacity to change.

I want to pay tribute to the thousands of people who have used Blenheim's services to help change their lives for the better, and also to the dedicated volunteers and staff at Blenheim who have supported and enabled people to begin the journey to transform their lives.

Recovery from drug and alcohol dependency is reliant on many things, it's not just about addiction it's often about addressing issues such as, mental health and wellbeing, early life trauma, domestic abuse and low self esteem. Blenheim staff and volunteers work with people to address these issues whilst also providing support and access to help within the wider network of services in local communities.

The people using Blenheim services are increasingly older rather than younger and are often in poor physical health with a wide range of health conditions related to their alcohol and drug use. Many of these conditions go untreated as people sadly struggle to gain access to the services and treatment they need. Often it is discrimination and stigma restricting their access to treatment and in a time of public sector austerity Blenheim works to raise this inequality at a national and local level.

As we move into 2015/16 Blenheim has exciting and innovative plans for development. The organisation will establish new services in Redbridge, Lewisham and Hillingdon and seek new partners to develop the organisations highly regarded services across a wider range of London Boroughs. Blenheim is responding to the increasing need for alcohol services as well as developing services and training in relation to Novel Psychoactive Substances and Chem-Sex. The organisation has strengthened its clinical governance arrangements by appointing a Medical Director.

Blenheim will continue to campaign for greater access to hepatitis C treatment and develop our provision to ensure those with the infection are identified and helped to access treatment. The organisation will support the wider availability of Naloxone nationally to reduce the shocking level of drug related deaths in the UK and working with other leading providers we will seek to protect drug treatment services from public sector cuts.

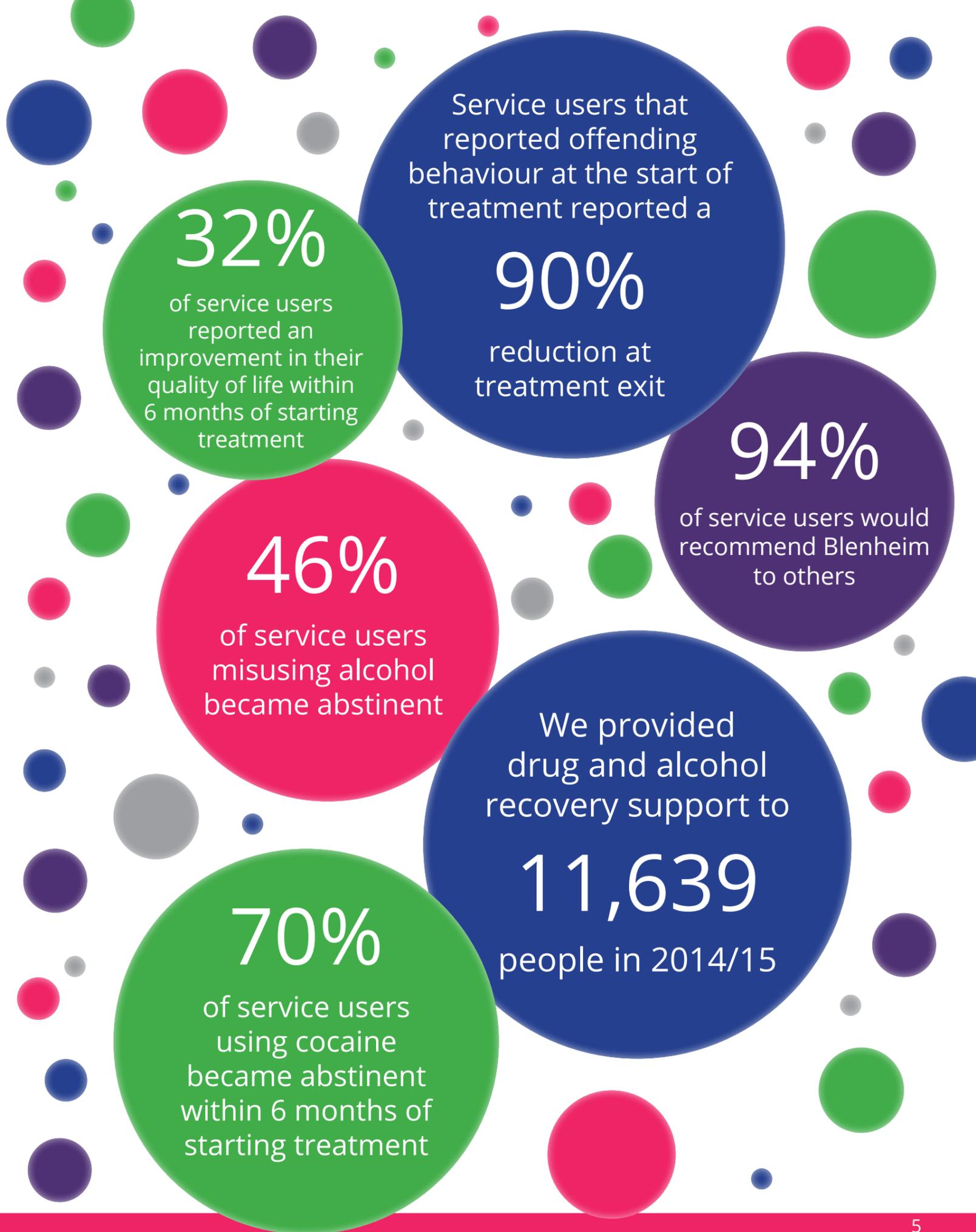
John Jolly
CEO, Blenheim

"I was born in Liverpool and never thought I would leave. My family, mates and football team meant the world to me. It was when I qualified as an electrician that I realised that the work and money was in London so I went for the streets paved in gold. I was 21 but I felt like a kid at Christmas and just wanted to experience it all and I did. Raves and drugs went hand in hand like, strawberries and cream and Liverpool and the Champions League.

For 14 years I juggled work with clubbing and my drugs. Cutting off from my family was so gradual that the reality and shame didn't kick in for a long while. It was when I learned that my mum had died through Facebook that something big shifted inside me and I went to my G.P. That's how I came to Blenheim. It's in my blood to work hard and I have worked hard at my recovery. I am now a Service User rep and through Blenheim's Education, Training and Employment programme I have new confidence to go for my dream of being a black cab driver.

I have been clean for 18 months now and cherish it."

Kev



Prescribing



- The Three Boroughs Primary Care Support Service (PCSS) piloted a successful Alcohol Detoxification Pathway to improve access to community alcohol detox.
- Blenheim were awarded the contract to deliver our well respected GP Shared Care model across Lewisham.

Day Programmes



- In 2015 Latch House entered its 11th year and launched a new programme with a more holistic and activity based approach, focusing on community re-integration, healthy life skills and building positive recovery capital.
- Nexus supported the first Bexley Recovery Walk with 174 participants celebrating recovery in their community.

Open Access



- KC North Hub built a new mezzanine level with two keyworking rooms and an office, enabling the service to see more clients, reduce waiting times and offer more space to partner agencies such as the service user group and Release.
- A new Sunday Café was launched at Evolve in collaboration with the Service Users Forum. The Café is run exclusively by service users which supports them to learn valuable skills and embed recovery into their community.

Young People and Families



- 4 young people from Insight K&C completed their Level 1 Ski Instructors Certificate through the Snow Camp Programme.
- Feedback from our Service User Survey showed that 100% of families at Casa Family Service said they would recommend the service to friends.
- Insight Platform was awarded a contract in partnership with the Princes Trust to deliver targeted early intervention and community empowerment work in Northumberland Park as part of the wider Tottenham Regeneration Programme.

Criminal Justice



- 92% of service users from Directions, a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement Day Programme, stopped offending during the first six months of engaging with the service.
- One of our services developed, wrote and piloted an innovative and challenging training program targeted specifically at offenders with a history of committing sexual and violent offenses.

ETE and Aftercare



- K&C ETE saw a 28% increase of service users gaining paid employment and a 50% increase in referrals from the job centre from the previous year.
- In 2014 Oasis launched a newly refurbished recovery focused centre. Encouraging service users to access counselling, education training and employment and as a result inspire them to reach their full potential.

Peer Support and Mutual Aid

We support a number of service users groups to provide a wide range of peer led services. These groups offer valuable social interaction and an opportunity to establish lasting support networks. Often these groups use our buildings at weekends and evenings, enabling services users to engage in positive activities out of office hours.

Blenheim continued its partnership with SMART Recovery UK, for them to train staff in our services and set up SMART Recovery groups. The aim of all hosted meetings is that the service users will be trained, equipped and supported to run their own meetings and support one another using the evidence based tools that SMART trains facilitators to use.

Our services provide meeting spaces for AA, NA, CA, MA, and other groups. We believe that mutual aid plays a vital part in supporting recovery and that the more practice to change that people have, the more likely they are to realise their goals. Blenheim has a long standing relationship with Build on Belief that provides recreational and social support to service users at weekends.

We believe peer mentoring can be an important part of people's recovery and supports us with recruitment

of volunteers and staff who are experts by experience. Drawing on personal experience and providing support and guidance, our peer mentors have supported service users to reduce or stop their drug/ alcohol use or offending behaviour and supported re-integration into the community. Peer mentors complete an 8 week training plan including boundaries, confidentiality, interpersonal skills and signposting.

Volunteers

Volunteers make a significant contribution to the organisation and bring a wide range of skills and experience. In 2014/15 we:

- Redesigned our volunteer training programme
- Delivered skills training to 107 volunteers
- Provided induction training to 50 volunteers
- Hosted an employability skills workshop as part of the "Give and Gain" day
- Continued our partnership with Global Experiences to provide internships for 9 students from America, Canada and New Zealand.
- Continued our involvement with Charity Next which places Civil Servants with the voluntary sector in order to develop their skills. We provided 3 placements in 2014/15.

"I applied to join Blenheim because it has a good reputation and offered training. I have a background in television and event production which was a highly stressful corporate life and wanted to give something back and do something meaningful with my life.

I appreciate the training, flexibility, working with a supportive team, as well as the generous travel and meal allowance. As a volunteer I get treated with respect and not just given menial tasks.

The team really care about their clients, it is not just a job for them and it is a good environment to work in. I feel I am appreciated and I feel good after my day there."

Elena Adams, Volunteer Counsellor



Volunteers gave
Blenheim
3,640
days across the
charity

Blenheim staff
received over
5,600
hours of training

Tackling alcohol in Islington

“CASA Alcohol Service is the gateway service for Islington residents who are seeking support and advice about all issues relating to their alcohol use.

We have created links with local businesses; raising some funds as a nominated charity in Waitrose and linking with Pret A Manger who donate sandwiches to our evening SMART group. We also work with the Richard Cloudesley Charity and Cripplegate Foundation, distributing £10,000 to our service users as personal grants (up to £500) to enhance their wellbeing.

In 2014/15 we implemented a community detox in partnership with the local NHS Trust. This enables our clients to be supported by their key worker during this difficult process and minimises the number of different appointments the client needs to attend. We also increased our staff team to include a team of volunteer counsellors. This is a very welcome and needed aspect of treatment that is becoming more and more difficult for service users to source elsewhere.

CASA is proud to have the best record in the Borough for re-presentations and successful completions.”

Barney Magee, Service Manager



Training and Development

Blenheim advocates for workforce development in the drug and alcohol sector. The organisation sits on the executive of the sectors “Skills Consortium” and has been a leading facilitator in the revision of the Drugs and Alcohol National Occupational Standards (DANOS). Blenheim’s CEO (John Jolly) chaired the Skills for Health Working Group undertaking a detailed revision across the four UK Nations.

In 2014/15 Blenheim ran 88 days of training generating over 800 bookings. 233 individuals (85% of all Blenheim paid staff and volunteers) accessed the organisation’s core training programme. The core programme was refreshed and in response to popular demand the Club Drug and Legal Highs training was expanded to a two day course and favourably reviewed by neuroscience professors at Roehampton University.

The Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Treatment Tool (DARTT) which provides staff, volunteers and people using our services with a visual and interactive representation of drug and alcohol treatment has been successfully delivered to all teams within the organisation. DARTT training is now fully embedded into the corporate induction ensuring that all new members joining the workforce are supported to practice

at the leading edge of current guidance. The DARTT has continued to receive enthusiastic support from across the sector with a package of training developed in response to a request from another organisation.

The Blenheim Training Team have continued to strengthen their reputation for quality training having again been awarded repeat contracts with organisations such as Refuge and the Single Homeless Project (SHP).



Campaigning and Influencing

Blenheim remains committed to campaigning on the key issues that affect our sector and ensures our service users voice is heard. Throughout the year we have raised the issues affecting our beneficiaries with Politicians, Senior Civil Servants and people working in the drug and alcohol sector. Two of the areas we have campaigned on specifically have been hepatitis C treatment and Naloxone provision.

In order to address the low levels of hepatitis treatment amongst our service users we introduced a range of initiatives in partnership with PHE, Hepatitis C Trust and the London Working Party on hepatitis C. We trained over 100 hepatitis champions throughout the organisation to identify the levels of hepatitis amongst our service users and to support those people affected with accessing treatment.

Blenheim chairs the Naloxone Action Group England which campaigns for the wider availability of Naloxone across the country. The rising number of deaths from opiate overdose are preventable if Naloxone is supplied to the communities that need it.

During the year Blenheim proactively maintained and developed strategic and operational partnerships with a wide range of organisations in the

public, voluntary and private sector ensuring that we are able to inform and influence policy and practice developments.

We continued to support wider networks and umbrella organisations such as the Skills Consortium, NCVO, and Skills for Health, Drugscope, Alcohol Concern, Adfam, and FDAP. We part fund the secretariat of the Drugs, Alcohol and Criminal Justice Parliamentary Group which provides an interface for group members and parliamentarians across all parties to discuss policy and practice matters concerned with drug and alcohol misuse and the criminal justice system.



A matter of life and death

During the summer of 2014 our GP Shared Care service in Southwark, Kappa, identified that there were over 300 individuals attending their service that were likely to witness or experience an opiate overdose.

So they decided to do something about it!

The plan was to ensure that all their service users were offered the opportunity to take home a drug that is used to reverse the effects of an opiate overdose called Naloxone. The vision was that this would reduce the numbers of overdose deaths across the Borough.

They started by meeting with GP's and Commissioners to draft a protocol. This was then taken to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) medicines optimisation team who signed off the protocol and agreed to fund the whole project.

The Kappa team then met with the Police to ensure that they were aware of this new initiative and wouldn't mistakenly arrest anyone carrying Naloxone.

In January 2015 the Kappa staff team were trained to give out Naloxone and to teach clients and carers about when and how to administer this emergency medicine.

To date nearly all of Kappa's service users have been offered Naloxone and over 40% have taken this offer up. If one life is saved; the whole project will have been more than worthwhile.

Statement of financial activities

(Incorporating income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31st March 2015

	Unrestricted Funds 2015 £	Restricted Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	524,688	-	524,688	201,229
Investment income	4,812	-	4,812	6,281
Incoming resources from charitable activities	6,597,597	2,611,472	9,209,069	9,352,892
Other incoming resources: Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	856,242
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	7,127,097	2,611,472	9,738,569	10,416,644
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities	7,344,939	2,750,979	10,095,918	9,750,953
Governance costs	59,652	-	59,652	57,927
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	7,404,591	2,750,979	10,155,570	9,808,880
MOVEMENT IN TOTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR - NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR				
Total Funds at 1 April 2014	4,786,819	509,049	5,295,868	4,688,104
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2015	4,509,325	369,542	4,878,867	5,295,868

All activities relate to continuing operations.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2015

	2015 £	2014 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	2,797,349	3,090,012
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	694,376	1,424,422
Cash at bank and in hand	1,651,016	1,076,845
	2,345,392	2,501,267
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	(263,874)	(295,411)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	2,081,518	2,205,856
NET ASSETS	4,878,867	5,295,868
CHARITY FUNDS		
Restricted funds	369,542	509,049
Unrestricted funds	4,509,325	4,786,819
TOTAL FUNDS	4,878,867	5,295,868

Special Thanks

As always we would like to give special thanks to our staff, volunteers and service users. We would also like to thank the following funders, partners and supporters:

Partners

Adfam
Build on Belief
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust
Central and North West London NHS Trust
Cranstoun
CRI
East London NHS Foundation Trust
Foundation 66
Greenwich University
Nacro
Release
Smart Recovery
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust
Thames Reach
The Hepatitis C Trust
The Institute of Psychiatry
Turning Point
University of Roehampton
Westminster Drug Project

Funders

BBC Children in Need
Campden Charities
City Bridge Trust
Cripplegate Foundation
DAST
Family Action
London Boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark, Hammersmith & Fulham, Islington, Wandsworth, Hillingdon, Harrow, Haringey, Bexley, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster
KCA
SLAM
The Henry Smith Charity
Wornington Green
John Lyons
Cranstoun

Trustees

Eric Feltin - Chair
Ralph Graham Weller
Adam Shutkever
Tom Breen - Treasurer
David Rice
Dr Judith Abbott
Gillian Budd
Sally Marlow
Robert Graham Harrison – Resigned August 2015
Chris Ford – Appointed April 2014
Alex Boyt – Appointed February 2015

Patrons

Baroness Hayter
Lord Clarke of Hampstead C.B.E. K.S.G.
Lord Ramsbotham
Tracey Crouch MP

Chief Executive

John Jolly

Chief Operating Officer

Debbie Lindsey

Medical Director

Dr Matthew Johnson

Company reg. no. 01694712

Charity reg. no. 293959

Registered office

Cantilever Court, 210 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2JU

Picture by service user at
Latch House

Bloom

This image of a flower
represents the growth of
Recovery. I used an anemone
because it is a fragile flower
and symbolises how delicate
recovery is.



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Thank you to all the Blenheim service users, volunteers and staff whose photographs and comments appear in this annual report.

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