



ELPIS CENTRE Newsletter

SPRING 2022

It is now Spring 2022 - and welcome to Elpis' first newsletter of the year! We have a lot of exciting news from Elpis that we hope you enjoy; contact us via email at info@elpiscentre.org.uk with any comments or ideas for future Newsletters.

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New Chief Officer for Elpis: Welcome to Coral McIntosh

There is much to look forward to at Elpis as we await the arrival of our new Chief Officer, Coral McIntosh, who takes up post very soon.

After the retirement of Mary Carrick, Elpis' Service Manager, in December 2021, Elpis Board advertised a new, more strategic, post to head up Elpis and to develop the service in line with the *Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024* – and Coral was the successful candidate.

With extensive experience in working with, and supporting, young people with experience of the care system whose voices are often excluded, Coral is committed to ensuring that all those who stay in Elpis accommodation reach their full potential. She says:

'I am delighted to be joining Elpis in the new role of Chief Officer and look forward to leading the team through this exciting period as we launch



Coral McIntosh, new Chief Officer.

key initiatives, look towards our 50th anniversary celebrations, and most importantly continue to provide the excellent level of high quality support for all of the young women of Elpis'.

'I am both thrilled and humbled to take on this role in an organisation that not only provides such a vital service to society but also has an ethos underpinned by values that are so closely aligned with my own. I very much look forward to meeting the young women, wider team, and supporters of Elpis in the near future'.

And goodbye to Mary Carrick!

Everyone involved with Elpis was sad to see the retirement at Christmas 2021 of Mary Carrick - our well-regarded Service Manager who gave over 30 years service to the organisation including 5+ years in the lead role.

Mary made a fantastic contribution, especially embracing challenges of the last few years with enthusiasm and vigour. We all wish Mary many happy years of retirement with her family, and thank her for all she has done for the young women in Elpis.

As some of her colleagues said on Facebook:

Enjoy your retirement Mary you were a wonderful inspiration to work with ❤️ put your feet up now !!

Mary enjoy your retirement u certainly were a fab manager thank you for everything over the years ❤️❤️

You are certainly missed by the staff and the young people happy retirement Mary xx



Mary at her recent retirement lunch with Brian McAlinden and Greg Gallagher (Chair and Vice Chair, Elpis).



Elpis celebrates Christmas 2021 and the significant contribution of Mary Carrick over many years.

Socialisation returns to Elpis

Two years after the first COVID lockdown, most restrictions have now been lifted in Scotland and life is returning to something like it used to be at Elpis. Trips and activities are being planned for Elpis' young women as the world opens up again, and an Easter lunch is being organised which will be a lovely opportunity to socialise.

As spring becomes summer, some who live in Elpis are planning to take up cycling. A generous grant of £11, 000 from Cycling Scotland means that we can buy some bikes and build a bike shed so they can reap the benefits of taking up cycling. Thanks Cycling Scotland for your support - <https://www.cycling.scot/>



Elpis' new information management system

Elpis needs data to plan and manage services to improve the outcomes of those we support. Like many small charities, our information systems have evolved over time in a piecemeal way. We recently employed a software company – Blue Door - to develop a new system to meet our needs.

We now have an integrated database that stores extensive information accessible to staff - and to young women if they wish to access their records. A working group of members of Elpis Board, and managers and staff worked with Blue Door to create the right solution for the service. The new system is extremely secure, easy to use and a great improvement on previous arrangements.

<https://bluedoorsoftware.co.uk/>

Staff news from Elpis

Elpis' management team has undergone some temporary changes over the last few months. Sharon McPhillips took on the Acting Service Manager role, vacating her Assistant Manager role, which has been temporarily filled by Jane Fleming. Thanks to them, and to Jackie Palmer who continued in her Assistant Manager role, for doing such a great job.

A number of Housing Support Workers have left Elpis for other organisations including Sophie Monaghan and Lucy Liddell – and good luck to them in their new roles.

And three Housing Support Workers have recently enrolled to start their SVQs Level 3 with Elpis support to bring further improvement to our service.

New Elpis Board members

Elpis' Board of Trustees play a significant role in overseeing and supporting the service, and planning for the future. New

members – Kelda McLean and Alan Dunipace – who joined in Autumn 2021 have already started to make their mark.

Kelda has extensive experience in population health, and is taking a particular interest in the development of The Sunflower Project that will provide continuity of care for young women who become pregnant whilst living in Elpis accommodation, supporting them through their pregnancy and after.

Alan Dunipace is a retired solicitor who practiced in Glasgow, and is getting involved in operational and employment aspects of Elpis, inputting his legal knowledge and expertise.

It is great to have both new members on Board, and also thanks to Paul Hannan who left the Board in early 2022 after a year of service as a Trustee, during which he made a particular contribution to organizational governance.



Kelda McLean (above); Alan Dunipace (below)



The Sunflower Project – continuing care for young pregnant women

Elpis' developments in the next few years will include enhancing support for young



women who become pregnant. At the moment we cannot accommodate mothers and babies so young women need to move out before they give birth. The Sunflower Project will give expectant mums intensive support and a flat that suits them and their baby.

Continued funding from Agnes M Hunter Trust and Foundation Scotland (Volant Foundation) has helped us support young women with babies who left Elpis, and aided thinking. And thanks also to Dr John McBain who has donated £30k over the past 3 years to Elpis, with £10k of that this year going towards The Sunflower Project. We are now in discussions with Glasgow City Council and Maryhill Housing Association about starting the first phase of the service this summer.