



growing points

June 2019

Dear Growing Points Family,

It is with great personal satisfaction that I mention Growing Points has been going from strength to strength, thanks to the wonderful work of our dedicated volunteer guardians and partner organizations.

Hidden Talents Cohort 6

Over the last few months, we have been working on our Hidden Talents project



in Leeds; and I am pleased to state that 12 out of 14 candidates for the Clinical Support Worker Apprenticeship roles have been successful. Ten candidates will do their apprenticeships while the other two have been directly confirmed to Clinical Support Workers posts without going through the apprenticeship programme. This successful outcome is a result of the concerted effort of the candidates, guardians and the wonderful team from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Particular mention goes to Gill

Chapman and Michelle Stanley of the Trust and our guardian Robert Gosling for leading on our employability workshop.

Appointment of New Patron and Trustee

I am very pleased to announce that Growing Points has the honour of appointing a new Patron and a new Trustee. In March 2019, Roger Nyantou joined our Board of Trustees. Roger is the CEO of RETAS Leeds, and having worked in the third sector for many years, he brings with him extensive knowledge and invaluable experience to the board. In his own words, Roger says, 'I have worked in the public, private and voluntary sectors running projects related to aspects of refugee integration.' Our new Patron, Chris

Ruane also joined us in March of this year. Chris is a Welsh Labour Party politician who is the Member of Parliament for the Vale of Clwyd. Chris is very passionate supporter of mentoring and has had over 60 young people through his office on internships over the past 21 years.



Our Patron, Chris



Our new Trustee, Roger

Hidden Talents Film

On the 16th of May this year, we held a successful event in Leeds, premiering a short film about our Hidden Talents project. Titled, '[Hidden Talents](#)', the film shows the story of a sample of successful service users who are now working with Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. It also showcases the symbiotic nature of working relationship with Leeds NHS Trust. Participants watched the film with great interest and emotional attachment. As one participant said, 'it was a very touching film that perfectly captures the talent that is there yet that is not fully utilized.' And we are discussing with our Patron, Chris Ruane about showing it at the House of Commons.



Participants from different organizations

Revamping our Website

As part of The Emerald Foundations' 'Charity Spotlight' scheme for 2019, we have benefited greatly from the expertise and support of Freya Stockford in revamping our website. It is thanks to this support that we have a new website now. We at Growing Points would like to extend our appreciation to Freya and The Emerald Foundation for their support.

Establishing Growing Points Communities in Brighton and Leicester

Our Trustee, Jane Rane has been working to establish Growing Points community in Brighton. She has established initial rapport with local refugee organizations, and we have received our first referrals for the Pathways project. Please get in touch with Jane (janer810@hotmail.com) if interested in involving with Growing Points in Brighton. We also intend to establish another Growing Points community in Leicester and we are looking for a Key/Contact Person with local knowledge of the area. Please get in touch if you are interested or you know of someone who might help.

Support Us

Lack of reliable funding remains to be the main threat to sustain our work, and we appreciate any support in this regards. Our wonderful volunteer guardians are the backbone of sustaining our work. Without their support, Growing Points would cease to exist. So, please consider joining us as a volunteer guardian.

Thank you for your great works and dedication to support Growing Points.

Tesfalem H. Yemane

Director