

Paul Walsh - New Development Officer

Since Beeston Carnival in July, when we were honoured as the chosen charity, we have enjoyed a hectic but rewarding summer, with the recruitment of a salaried management team to lead and co-ordinate our growing band of active volunteers.

Robert Ashford commenced as manager in mid-August, and the advantage of his continuous availability to lead a community which he has served in various roles since 2001, has given us all a tremendous boost. And we can now announce the appointment of Paul Walsh, formerly a BCR trustee, as Development Officer who will start work alongside Robert on 12th October.

The role of Development Officer is vital to secure our future existence and growth, and our ability to make this appointment is owed entirely to the generosity of Beeston Consolidated Charity in offering grant support for three years.

It is now six months since BCR took over the management of the Resource, and taking stock at this stage we feel that we are laying down firm foundations for the future. There are three essential and interlocking elements. First, we will now enjoy management and direction from experienced staff. Secondly, the Resource is "home" to a community of people who together make it work, each contributing according to their ability and gifts, many of whom have experienced or are experiencing mental illness or distress themselves or in their family. Thirdly, we are succeeding in attracting new users of the Centre, who tend rapidly to become friends and contribute to the mix of people and activities which make this a true Community Centre.

And of course, when you have foundations, you should build on them. Watch this space!