

London Councils Funding & the work of the Clinic continues

After bidding for funds in a two stage process involving much agonising over figures, the Mapesbury Clinic had some good funding news at the end of April when the London Councils Grants Committee confirmed it would continue support to the Clinic for four years beginning in December 2008.

However, this financial support comes with new strings. London Councils, following the trend of other local government funders, decided to adopt a commissioning approach instead of the traditional grant aid it had been providing to groups. This meant a very elaborate exercise of identifying a number of specifications against which groups like the Clinic had to competitively bid for funds. We had to specify exactly how many clients from different boroughs we would see for the money available in that borough as well as set out in detail what services we would provide. With the support of Lemma providing lots of statistical information we managed to get through a two stage funding process successfully, though, as with most other groups, being given a lot less money than we had originally bid for. We will have a grant of nearly £47,000 each year which is a little more than previously.

As part of our ideas to make the Clinic more accessible and to support our capacity to bid for funds, Mapesbury Clinic is setting up a satellite service based at Praxis in Bethnal Green, East London. This satellite service will help the Clinic to reach people in East London who might otherwise not have access to our services.

Also we have been developing a closer working relationship with the Multi-Ethnic Counselling Service in Waterloo, with the intention of doing more partnership working with them and reaching people in south London.

This is great news in terms of securing grant for four years though it presents also real challenges to manage the targets which are set for us.

Marion Fitzpatrick
Director of Clinical Services of the Minster Centre

News & Update

The new Clinical Services Manager

The Clinic is pleased to be able to announce the successful appointment of our new Clinical Services Manager. Her name is Avril Johnson and she comes with considerable experience as a psychotherapist working in a number of multi-cultural settings, including work for community groups and NHS projects. She is very positive about joining the team and keen to meet everyone. She will start with us formally on Tuesday 8th July but will come in to learn more about the service and introduce herself to whomever is around a couple of times before her formal start date.

Message from the new clinical services manager

My name is Avril Johnson and I have been appointed to the position of clinical manager of the Mapesbury Clinic. I am very happy to be joining the team at the Minster Centre. I am

looking forward to meeting the team discussing ideas and working towards the continued progress of the Minster. I am particularly keen to discuss ideas and work with the team around further group work and basic research.



Conference on asylum seekers

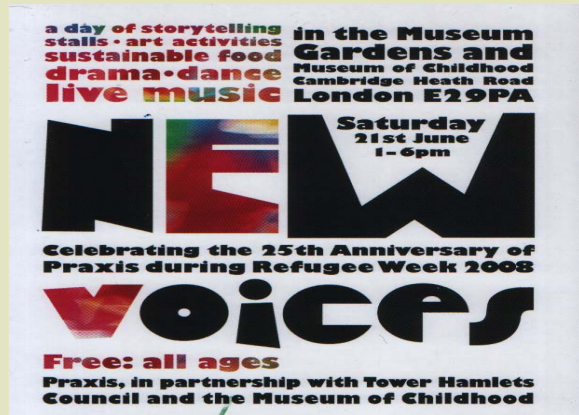
The Mapesbury Clinic participated on a conference organised by *psychotherapists & counsellors for social responsibility* –pcsr on 17th May 2008 entitled “Our Society's Shameful Denial - The effects of UK Government Policy on Asylum Seekers”. MPs Neil Gerrard and Jon Cruddas ; Drs Jonathan Fluxman, Frank Arnold and Prof. Conelius Katona from Medical Justice and last but not least Shirin Azari were few of the guest speakers who graced this conference.



Photos by Uta Saatz

Refugee Week 2008 Celebration

The Mapesbury Clinic will celebrate Refugee Week 2008 with Praxis that is celebrating its 25th anniversary on Saturday, 21st June 2008 from 1-6 p.m. in the Museum Gardens and Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA.



Revisiting Refugee Week 2007

Refugee week 2007 celebration at Mapesbury Clinic was marked by the visit of Dawn Butler, Labour MP for South Brent to the Minster Centre. What a privilege!!



Dawn Butler, MP

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Events

- Launch of Mapesbury Clinic East London Branch @ Praxis on Saturday, 21 June 2008 from 1-6 p.m. in the Museum Gardens and Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA.
- West London Network Conference on Thursday 10 July '08 at Watermans Arts Centre
- Drop-In will be on 20 June 2008; 4 & 18 July 2008 from 11-1 p.m. respectively
- Advisory group meeting – To Be Announced (TBA).

East London Branch opened

The Mapesbury Clinic opened a branch based at Praxis in Bethnal Green, East London to provide counselling in English, Somali and Spanish on Tuesdays & Thursdays.

The branch @ Praxis will be launched at a refugee week celebration organised by Praxis on Saturday, 21 June from 1-6 p.m. in the Museum Gardens and Museum of Childhood Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA. The event is free and you are all invited.

Our working partner-Praxis is a busy centre in East London that provides a range of advice and support services to migrants and refugees from all over the world, as well as a welcoming meeting place for displaced communities.

Honorary Counsellor

We welcomed an honorary counsellor who joined the team recently and who is able to work in French and English at the Clinic. In total, the clinic has 13 counsellors at present.

Drop-In

The Drop-In session is continuing running twice a month where group members felt empowered since they have stayed in touch with the Clinic and able to talk with people with similar experiences.

Thank You

We would like to thank the honorary counsellors, sessional therapists, supervisors and staff for maintaining and ensuring that our services ran effectively despite the departure of two of clinic's staff in April 2008. Also our thank goes to the acting clinical service manager-Shirin Azari for holding the clinic from April 2008 to June 2008.

Notice board

1. We are still looking for a qualified therapist or counsellor or senior trainee able to work in a language other than English preferably in Farsi, Arabic, Somali, Tigrinya, Amharic, Afghani who is willing to provide a minimum of two hours of client work a week.
2. If you need copies of our new and updated brochures, please call the clinic direct on 020-7644-6250.