

Press Release

31st March 2005

Impact Initiatives Appoints New Chief Executive

Sussex-based charity, Impact Initiatives, has appointed Judith Cousin as its new Chief Executive.

Judith has over 20 years experience in the voluntary sector and volunteering, and during her 13 years in local government worked closely with voluntary sector funding and regeneration programmes. Judith was Voluntary Sector Manager for Brighton & Hove City Council between 1999 and 2002. For the last three years she has worked as an independent consultant, providing help to a wide range of organisations in the public and voluntary sectors, and has a wealth of experience in the local voluntary sector.

Judith takes up her post in April.

Impact Initiatives provides a range of services for children, young people and adults to support their health, independence and learning.

Judith Cousin said: "I am really delighted to be joining such a successful organisation at this time. I know how much hard work has been done to strengthen the organisation over the last few years and I am looking forward to working with everyone to build on the progress that has been made."

Outgoing Chief Executive Chris Peters is relocating to the North of England to be nearer her family and is joining the Leonard Cheshire Foundation in April as North West Regional Development Manager.

Chris has been with Impact for seven years, working first as a project manager, and then taking up the Chief Executive role in 2002 when she introduced a major change programme to strengthen the organisation at every level.

“The high quality of service provision that Impact provides is well-recognised by our funders, partners and colleagues in the statutory and voluntary sectors, and I would like to thank all of them for their support during my time with the organisation. Our services are really benefiting from the programme of modernisation that we have undertaken over the last three years and I hope that the improvements that have been made will provide solid building blocks for the future. I wish Judith Cousin all the best in leading Impact into the next phase of its development,” said Chris Peters.

“I would like to thank Chris for everything she has achieved on behalf of Impact. She leaves behind a strong and vibrant organisation, well placed to continue to provide high quality, effective services to people across Sussex. We wish her well in the future,” said Andy Durr, Chair of the Impact Board.

Notes to Editors

Impact Initiatives aims to enable individuals and communities to achieve an improved quality of life and to promote social inclusion.

We achieve our aim by providing a range of services for children, young people and adults. In different ways, all these services support people's health, independence and learning.

Impact makes a difference to **over 4,000 people** across East & West Sussex, Brighton & Hove every year.

We provide:

- Services for people with **mental health needs** and **disabilities** to help them access education, training and employment.
- Advocacy services for **people with learning difficulties** to help them speak up for themselves and protect their rights
- Services for **vulnerable young people** to help them make informed choices and increase their life chances
- Services for **older people** to help them maintain their health and independence
- Services for **homeless and vulnerable young women** to help them gain skills for independent living
- Services for **children and young people in East Brighton** to help them develop social and life skills.

Impact Initiatives is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. Founded in 1978, Impact has a strong track record of innovation and excellence in the delivery of a wide range of user-focused initiatives. Since 1978, the organisation has grown and developed to become a large provider of services in Sussex, working in many different partnerships with statutory, public and voluntary organisations.

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