

**Rotherham MBC
Neighbourhoods and Adult Services
Learning & Development Team**

The Creative Writing Group... *is re-launching in September 2011*

The Creative Writing Group is aimed at anyone using and/or working in adult social care services across Rotherham. It could be the opportunity you've been waiting for if you:

- ✓ Are a service user, carer or staff member;
- ✓ Like writing stories, letters, emails, poems, rants;
- ✓ Have ever wondered what goes on in a creative writing group!

What's it all about?

The possibilities of a Creative Writing Group are endless and to a large extent will be shaped by those who get involved. Here is what a Rotherham poet, who happens to be a service user and carer, said about the Creative Writing Group he has been attending when asked to provide a quote about his experience:

Create some space and find your voice...this is where we all have choice...imagine, discover, learn and have fun...

Does that sound like a *creating* group that you would like to attend?

By telling and listening to stories about people's experiences we create the opportunity to gain new insights, learn from each other, and consider a topic from a range of perspectives. For a good example of this, have a look at Terry's poem - on the back on this flyer - about caring for someone with dementia.

How will it run?

The Group will meet for 2-hours every month on a Thursday morning from 10:00am to 12:00noon at Rotherham Arts Centre in the town centre. The meeting dates are 15th September 2011, 13th October 2011, 17th November 2011, 15th December 2011, 12th January 2012, 16th February 2012, and 15th March 2012.

The Group will be led and supported by Nell Farrell, a Sheffield-based poet, performer and creative writing tutor who is also a qualified social worker, working in practice learning. Over the last 10 years Nell has run creative writing sessions with mental health and housing service users, carers at Sheffield Carers Centre and RODA, social workers and housing support workers.

Want to attend?

Please contact the Learning & Development Team on 01709 255903 or millside-administration@rotherham.gov.uk to book your place.

Intrigued? If you would like to know more about the Creative Writing Group please telephone Nigel Mitchell, Learning and Development Manager, on 01709 334066.

Sandra

*It's not so easy watching
As your loved ones mind it goes
Slowly, but then quickly
Like frost ravaging a rose
Though she changes daily
Still you care with every breath
But deep inside you cry
And curse this living death*

*So you try to make her happy
Try to make her life complete
You become her memory
And make sure that she eats
You even buy her food
Though you do not drip with wealth
And deep inside you're screaming
About her mental health*

*You see her every weekday
But you always keep back one
Just to give yourself some time
And maybe have some fun
But you think about her constantly
And worry that she's fine
And deep inside you rage
That you're a selfish swine*

*The comes the day you see her
And she's erudite and well
A little bit of heaven
Pokes through this living hell
You see the real person
And remember why you care
But deep inside you know
That soon she won't be there.*

By Terry Boyle