

Press Release

For immediate release:
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MORE CHOICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Improving the choice of support for people with disabilities or mental health problems in Cambridgeshire was put centre stage today (Monday, 10th November) at the launch of a ground-breaking new organisation.

The Opportunities Trust is the first organisation in the UK to be developed to look specifically at the range and quality of support being provided to adults with disabilities. The unique county-wide partnership comprises social care representatives from all sectors, including Cambridgeshire County Council, and charities like the Papworth Trust and Red2Green, as well as private and independent care providers.

By being members of the Trust, local social care providers will receive expert advice and support from the partnership to develop leisure and care activities for people with mental health problems or disabilities. Opportunities Trust members will also be able to network with other social care organisations and work together to fund new services.

Councillor Roy Pegram, County Council Cabinet Member for adults, health and well-being, explained why the County Council is supporting the development of the Opportunities Trust, "The Trust is being created at a time when the County Council is working to give adults with disabilities or mental health problems choice and control over their care. Within the county

there are local service providers who want to offer more choice, but are unsure where to start, and this is where the Opportunities Trust will be on hand to give guidance and support.

We are delighted to be part of this new partnership and hope that Cambridgeshire will lead the way in providing good quality and diverse services to adults across the county."

Helena Harris, co-chair of the Trust, outlined the benefits for adults with disabilities: "Clients want to know how to find activities to suit them, and whether any organisation they choose is reputable, offering quality, value for money and a safe environment. Organisations which join the Opportunities Trust must demonstrate that, so people with disabilities can select from the Trust's 'menu of providers' with confidence".

For further information on the Opportunities Trust, please contact Christine Fraser, Development Officer on 01480 423056.

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Notes for editors

For further information or to arrange an interview, contact: Cambridgeshire County Council Community Development Manager Mark Briggs on 01353 652240 or Samantha Sherratt, Red2Green's Acting Chief Executive, on 01223 811662.