



Issue 2 - March 2017

Newsletter

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If you would like to submit any news for our next newsletter, please email

claireb@ategi.co.uk

Spring News

ategi certainly has a spring in its step as we've had a busy start to the year! With two new Shared Lives offices in South Gloucestershire and Thurrock and a third one on the way, it's certainly an exciting time.

We're on a recruitment campaign too, and we know the best place to find a lovely new Shared Lives Carer is through our fabulous existing Carers.

So, if you are a Shared Lives Carer with ategi and you know anyone who you feel may be interested in a Shared Lives Carer role please put them in touch. If they do become approved you get a £50 referrer fee!

Welcome to Kingswood

The New Year kicked off with a very special day as we launched our new office in Kingswood, South Gloucestershire.



The two staff who transferred from the Local Authority and our new Administrator met with our Shared Lives Carers and locals who wanted to find out more about our Shared Lives scheme.

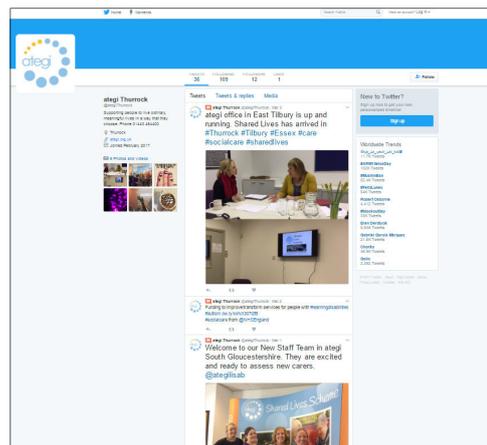
Our new facility is a perfect space for Carer training and the open day was a good opportunity for people to see our new space and for our Local Authority partners to meet the new team. It was a great success!

Let's get social

You may have noticed our twitter feeds are more active, helping us to engage with local communities and influencers.

We still want you to tweet too but if you see any news or pictures we should also share with the other ategi teams on the other ategi Twitter accounts just let us know. We'd love your feedback.

Tim



Focus on what you can do — not on what you cannot do

Chris and Liz Nickless are two of our Shared Lives Carers in Buckinghamshire. Their fostering journey started over 35 years ago when they started fostering Chi Fung (Chif) which was swiftly followed with them joining ategi.

Experienced carers Liz and Chris provide a much needed, safe, caring and comfortable home for Chif and since joining ategi they get the support and guidance they need to work with Chif as an adult.

Liz has an abundance of experience ranging from volunteering and supportive roles for people with severe learning disabilities to working with young men in Prison and has always devoted her life to helping other people.

The ategi Shared Lives team in Bucks feel that both Chris and Liz are a huge asset to Chif's life and they have contributed to him becoming the engaging, positive man he is today.

Chif is happy and enjoys his life with Liz and Chris which has contributed to him becoming a confident and independent man.

Chif has developed his own circle of friends and his attitude, as driven by Liz, is the philosophy of focusing on the things he can do, rather than the things he cannot do.

Chif has completed his Gold Duke of Edinburgh and Presidents which demonstrates the positive impact Shared Lives has.

Well done to Chif, Liz and Chris, a shining example of Shared Lives at its best.



ategi are, in Liz's words... "The best supportive team you could wish for. A wealth of knowledge and kindness. They make our role much easier."

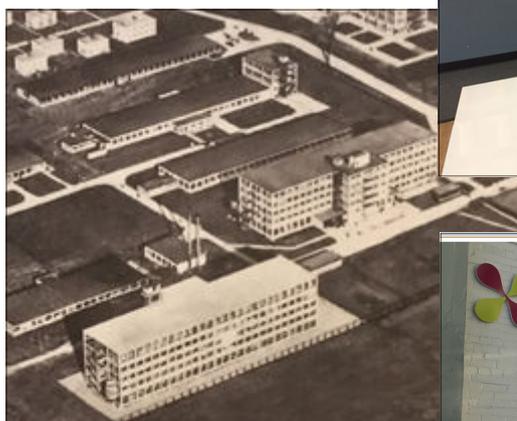
From shoes to shared lives—it's a new dawn in Thurrock

We are delighted to be working with Thurrock Council, our new partners for our Shared Lives scheme.

Work on the new partnership started last October and we now have a great office space in the old Bata factory in East Tilbury.

Bata was the first mass production shoe factory in the UK back in 1933 and closed in 2007. It's wonderful that such an iconic building has now been renovated to bright and airy new offices and the new home of our Thurrock team.

This is an excellent opportunity, as both ategi and Thurrock are well aligned in the same thinking processes and goals which are to make a real difference to the lives of those people in need of care in Essex.



Meet Karen



This month, we wanted you to meet someone who most of you probably have spoken with at some point. Karen Thomas is our Administrative Coordinator and Company Secretary with responsibility for supporting the management team and support teams.

Karen has been with ategi since 2008 when she left her position at Lloyds bank to join us as the ategi finance assistant.

As the organisation grew, so did Karen's role and two years later Karen moved to her current role as Administrative Coordinator.

Now, nine years later the organisation has grown considerably, adding a further five offices and 75 staff.

On a day to day basis she's based at head office but with the expanding network is often out and about supporting other offices when needed.

This year Karen has been busy helping to set up the new offices, making sure our teams have everything they need to work efficiently.

Karen's also been working with our IT provider on improvements to the IT systems so that we can work more effectively across sites as well as delivering training on new systems to staff.

Communications also falls under Karen's banner now as she's been working on the website and social media too.

That's obviously not enough for Karen as she's also added the title of Company Secretary to her CV. Karen helps to support the trustees and governance of ategi as well as keeping the charities commission and Companies house up to date.

Thanks for all of your hard work Karen.

What does Karen love about her job?

"I love the variety; no two days are the same. Being involved in a charity is rewarding .

I get to see the value we give to the people that we support.

Our local Visiting Support team come into the office for their craft group on a Thursday and it's great to chat through what they are working on."

What makes Karen sigh?

"I love being busy! But sometimes managing tasks for multiple people and locations can see my 'to-do' list run onto two pages, so I need to take a breather and prioritise."

We are recruiting

We have two vacancies at the moment. One in Thurrock and one in Cardiff.

Cardiff—Male Support worker (24-30 hours per week £14,602 - £16,804 pro rata per annum)

Thurrock—Shared Lives Manager (Full time, £28,849 - £34,303 per annum)

If you know anyone who is interested in these roles, please put them in touch. You can get more information from www.ategi.org.uk



Competition time

Congratulations to Alison Hall from the Shared Lives Team in Wales, our Christmas competition winner. With Easter fast approaching (not that we need an excuse) we thought we would give you a chance to win this luxury Easter egg. Just tell us which old factory our new Thurrock Office is located in? Email claireb@ategi.co.uk



Upcoming events

When you're thinking about activities you can do or take part in during the coming weeks, it can help with planning to have a few dates in mind. We'd also love it if you share any photos of the exciting things you do with us for the newsletter, website or social media.

March

17th St Patrick's Day

24th Red Nose Day, 26th – Mothering Sunday

April

7th Walk to work day, 23rd St George's Day

June

17-25th Shared Lives Week

