



# Newsletter

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

[claireb@ategi.co.uk](mailto:claireb@ategi.co.uk)

## Update from Tim

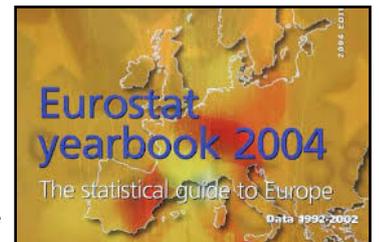
It's been a busy few months for all of ategi as our services grow. You'll read more about what's been happening in this newsletter but I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with ategi throughout the UK for all of your hard work. We are making a real difference to peoples' lives every day and without our Staff and Shared Lives carers it wouldn't happen, so thank you, I really appreciate all your hard work.

*Tim*

## When Wales didn't exist...

There was a time when Wales didn't exist. That's according to Eurostat, who managed to delete Wales from a UK map they used on the front cover of their prestigious EU reference book, The Eurostat Statistical Compendium, back in 2004.

Quite how they managed that is anyone's guess, but we bet 14 years later they've not forgotten where Wales is on a map! PS. The Transport Map did the same in 2013 – we've forgiven them too, but possibly not a 3<sup>rd</sup>!



## Hello from Haringey

Another notable event in 2004 was that it was also around this time that Andy Harvey, now Shared Lives Manager at ategi Haringey, first met the Wales Shared Lives team. 13 years later, the Haringey Shared Lives team have joined ategi bringing a long history of



Shared Lives provision. Andy, Natalie, Michelle and Christopher say they feel very welcomed and are looking forward to many more years of Shared Lives to come.

Andy and the team also wanted to let you all know that "it's nice not to be on our "Jack" and they'll soon pop around for a "butcher's" and a cup of "Rosie!". If you're a pro at these cockney rhyming slang terms, see our quiz at the end.

## Blossoming friendships

Being a carer is challenging yet rewarding work as we all know. Meet Emma and Claire who live in long term arrangements with ategi Shared Lives Carers Debbie and Steven in Swansea.

Debbie and Steven joined us when we started to manage the Swansea scheme in May 2015 and had previously provided short breaks in their family home. As their lives were changing and their two grown up children were off to university they decided to increase the level of support they could offer.

Emma, aged 43, had always lived with her parents and had short breaks with Debbie and Steven but happily moved in permanently in January 2016.

Emma spends lots of time with her parents and they go on holidays together.

A year later Claire, aged 22, joined the family following the sad death of her foster carer and the move was taken very slowly so Claire had sufficient time to adjust.



Despite their very different backgrounds and the age gap, the friendship between Emma and Claire has blossomed since they both moved in to their Shared Lives arrangement with Debbie and Steven. They enjoy a full and interesting lifestyle with Shared Lives Carers who have welcomed them fully into their family. It's lovely to see them working together in these pictures where they are making these fabulous biscuits.

*"I think Debbie & Steve are wonderful, a nice couple, they are kind & generous and I have a lot of respect for them." Claire*

Both Emma and Claire have also been matched with alternative carers so Steven and Debbie can have a break when needed.



*"I think that Debbie & Steve are the nicest people I have ever met and I love the cats also." "I get on very well with Claire, we are like sisters."*

added Debbie

## Visiting support news

Kelly Packman, who has been supported by ategi for many years, has recently moved into supported accommodation due to her mother passing away. We offer our condolences to all the family at this sad time and wish Kelly all the very best for the future.



## Buses, bulldogs and board meetings

It's been an exciting time at ategi in Thurrock with the full team now in place for just over a month. The first mission has been to leave no stone unturned in Thurrock as we get ourselves known across the borough and in recruiting our first Shared Lives Carers.

We've begun a great marketing campaign spreading the word through advertising on local buses, leaflets, posters and a radio advert on Radio Essex – so soon enough ategi will literally be a household name.

We've hit the ground running with one assessment well and truly underway and more to follow in the coming weeks. We've been out on the road meeting the people of Thurrock at a wide range of events,

from a community charity dog show (it's on the 17<sup>th</sup> June if anyone's interested) to strategic health and social care board meetings and our lovely new leaflets (see pic).

Our official launch event takes place on 26<sup>th</sup> June at The Beehive in Grays, Thurrock and if you or anyone you know wants to come and join us you will be made very welcome.

The feedback from our partners in Social Finance and in Thurrock Council has been really positive and we're eager to make ategi Shared Lives as successful in Thurrock as it is throughout the rest of the country.

## It's never too late to help yourself

"It's never too late to help yourself" says Lance Kearney. It's hard to imagine living on the streets and being subjected to physical and financial abuse, but for around 20 years, this was unfortunately Lance's way of life. Tormented by an alcohol addiction, Lance was moving from homeless hostel to homeless hostel, never managing to get back on his feet and wondering if today could be his last. In February 2015, he moved into his new home. It was a place where he felt safe and protected, and where he could finally call home. The future looked bright and Lance decided to face his alcohol problem head on embarking on a detox program.

For a while he was successful, but after a short period of time came to depend on alcohol again. It wasn't until August 2016, Lance was to get the fright that would change his life when he became seriously ill and was admitted to hospital having had an alcohol related seizure. It was the wakeup call he needed. It's now been 9 months, and with the support of the ategi team, Lance hasn't touched a drop of alcohol.

Through voluntary work, he's now using his experiences to help others in the same position get their lives back on track and show it's never too late to turn a bad situation around. Well done Lance, we're proud of you and are here for you every step of the way.

*"Just as the ategi team have supported me to turn my life around, I want to also help people in the same position as I was to change their lives around too."* said Lance



**ategi** Shared Lives Scheme  
Thurrock  
"Supporting people to live their lives"

**Do you have time to care?**  
We are looking for people of all ages and backgrounds to provide care and support in **their own homes** to people who need support. If you feel you could share your life with a disabled or vulnerable person **within your own household** we would like to hear from you. We provide full training, ongoing support and good rates of pay when you are matched with someone who suits your circumstances and lifestyle. ategi works in partnership with Thurrock Council and is registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC)

**Do you have the time, energy, motivation and a spare room to be able to support a vulnerable adult in your own home?**

If you would like to find out more please join us at an informal open day on 16th March between 10.30 and 14.00 at our office in East Tilbury. Ring to let us know you are coming and to get full address details.  
T: (01375) 802030 @ategiThurrock E: slsthurrock@ategi.co.uk  
[www.ategi.org.uk](http://www.ategi.org.uk)

## Congratulations

Katrina Payne ategi's Visiting Support and registered manager wishes to announce that her third child is due early November 2017. Many congratulations to you and your family Katrina from us all at ategi.



## Summer holiday

Lee has lived with his Shared Lives Carers Helen and David in Hereford for three years. Jenny, another service user also lives with them. At the start of May we headed down to Devon for a beautiful break in a caravan at Ladram Bay holiday park.

On the Monday David and Lee stayed at the club house to watch the Liverpool match and took the opportunity to pose in the giant deckchair! (see pic)

It was wonderful; there were three bedrooms and lots of activities both in the park and offsite in the local area.

Lee had a fantastic week, visiting Sidmouth and Exmouth, as well as trying his hand at fishing. Although Lee went home empty handed they did catch... the sun on their faces whilst the others hit the local shops.

Lee, David, Helen and Jenny were blessed with fantastic sunshine and fabulous food. The fish and chips were the best we had eaten. Lee had a super time until it was time to get back to reality and unpack and do the washing.



## Double the fun

As some of you may know, last October Jade, our Shared Lives Coordinator in Buckinghamshire, welcomed her lovely twin boys Finley and Noah into the world. Both boys are growing fast and have already developed their own personalities. We were delighted that Jade and the boys managed to attend our scheme event on the 27<sup>th</sup> April and the boys met with ategi carers, service users and the ategi team.

The boys loved receiving all the attention and were the stars of the day as well as being exceptionally well behaved for such little people. We are all looking forward to welcoming Jade back to the team before the summer arrives.



## Competition time

Our last competition winner was Wayne Kinsey – who told us which old factory the new Thurrock offices were based—the old Bata factory. Congratulations Wayne.

For this months' quick quiz and your chance to win a £10 amazon voucher, can you tell us

What did the cockney rhyming slang Andy used mean?

Email your answer to [claireb@ategi.co.uk](mailto:claireb@ategi.co.uk)