

Cardiac Rehabilitation Campaign

Well after this fabulous summer, I can honestly say our story is not like the Summer of Discontent, but like the Dick 3 play, our Winter should be made glorious Summer by the SUN of York. (Play on words you see, apologies to Willy Shakespeare.) I am of course referring to the highly acclaimed and successful CREW campaign for Cardiac Rehabilitation, which was instigated at the British Heart Foundation Conference last May, in YORK. Partly the brainchild of one of the most respected Cardiac Rehabilitation exponents and now one of our (CREW's) mentors, Professor Bob Lewin of York University. From that conference our partnership with all the Cardiac Rehabilitation services in Calderdale has grown and there are so many positive vibes from all these quarters; that coupled with the BHF's continued support of all efforts from the 280 plus Heart Support groups in the UK, the quality of life of for 1000's of Heart Disease sufferers in the UK can only continue to improve.

For our part at CREW, we are extremely flattered that the British Heart Foundation has chosen us, as one of the Heart Support Groups to feature in their Magazines and even on their re-designed web site, which is available shortly. One of the really positive initiatives will be featured as a supplement to Heart Health Magazine in October. You will be able to read about the most important aspect of the Carers in all Cardiac Matters, and one of our members is the featured writer of how carers care.

The letter sums up the important support of all carers/partners/friends and/or family, on the road to recovery!

The summing up is best left to the case study of CREW by the BHF. As you know we are too modest to mention it?

CREW Case Study (By the British Heart Foundation)

Based in Calderdale, West Yorkshire, the CREW (Cardiac Rehabilitation through Exercise and Walking) Heart Support group lead walking and exercise programmes in their local area for patients in all phases of cardiac rehabilitation after release from hospital.

In May 2007 CREW took up the challenge of the National Campaign for Cardiac Rehabilitation. They set about raising the awareness of this life saving treatment in their local area.

CREW members wrote to their MP, their local NHS chief and to local newspapers. Additionally they organised fundraising events, including sponsored walks and sent delegates to the December 2007 BHF Westminster Parliamentary rally for cardiac rehab. They've even got members of their group on local NHS heart steering groups.

Through all this local activity CREW have certainly got their voice heard and managed to get many articles about them and their campaign into local newspapers.

Having high profile patrons endorsing their campaign has helped CREW get further local media coverage. CREW have two patrons-their local Calder Valley MP, Chris McCafferty and Consultant Cardiologist, Tim Bloomer.

CREW's hard work has certainly paid off...

In June 2007 when CREW started their local campaign only 42% of heart patients in Calderdale received cardiac rehabilitation. 18 months later this figure has risen to almost 60%.

For more information on CREW and their work, you can visit their website at:

Visit: www.crewheartsupport.co.uk website