



Press Release

“Tŷ Elis Reaching for the Heights”

Tŷ Elis Counselling has been awarded a capital development grant from the Big Lottery Fund to pay for the professional fees required to achieve planning consent for a major refurbishment of its existing premises in Porthcawl.

The project, called Reaching for the Heights, will deliver a purpose built counselling and training centre from which a new couple's and family therapy service will be delivered, plus an increase in students undertaking Tŷ Elis's Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling. There are also plans to provide an outreach counselling service to four other locations across Bridgend County Borough.

Once planning consent has been achieved Tŷ Elis will need to reapply to the Big Lottery Fund for the release of the full grant, which it is hoped will be match funded by the Welsh Government's Modernising Mental Health fund.

Figures suggest that 1 in 4 of us will experience a mental health problem or illness at some point in our lifetime and that for every person with a mental health issue another 8 will be affected. The annual total cost of mental ill-health to the Welsh economy is estimated to be £7.2bn.

Edwina White MBE, Clinical Director of Tŷ Elis said *“I am delighted that Big Lottery has decided to make this grant to Tŷ Elis. This is a significant moment in our development, but a lot of hard work remains to be done before we get the, hoped for, final go head in December 2015.”*

Contact Name:- Val Davies
Contact's Title:- Administrator
Telephone No: 01656 786486
E-mail: val.davies@tyelis.org.uk
Website: www.tyelis.org.uk



Press Release

Edwina added *“It is really important that other funders and local people continue to support Tŷ Elis to make this innovative, much needed and community led project a reality.”*

Carwyn Jones (Bridgend AM) stated: *“This is great news for our community. Tŷ Elis provides an excellent service to local people across Bridgend and I believe this funding will help launch a much needed project for vulnerable people in our community.”*

Tŷ Elis currently delivers a free community counselling service to individual adults. Each client is asked to make a voluntary confidential donation. Reaching for the Heights aims to expand this model to more locations in Bridgend County Borough and to a couples and family therapy service.

Fundraising for a small charity like Tŷ Elis Counselling is a constant battle. Please support your local charity: www.tyelis.org.uk/donations, text give 70070 and ELIS14£ or send a cheque.

ENDS

Notes to Editor:-

1. **Tŷ Elis** was founded in 1996 by a retired social worker, Mrs Edwina White MBE and a local GP Dr Richard Jenkins. Tŷ Elis Counselling is a registered charity and social enterprise, based in Porthcawl that works primarily across Bridgend County Borough providing counselling and psychotherapy. All of Tŷ Elis’s counsellors are professionally qualified or are completing their training with Tŷ Elis and are volunteers.
2. **More information** can be found on the website: www.tyelis.org.uk
3. The **Big Lottery Fund** is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery. The Fund is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK. Since its inception in 2004 we have awarded close to £6bn. The Fund was formally established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.

Contact Name:- Val Davies
Contact’s Title:- Administrator
Telephone No: 01656 786486
E-mail: val.davies@tyelis.org.uk
Website: www.tyelis.org.uk



Press Release



Contact Name:- Val Davies
Contact's Title:- Administrator
Telephone No: 01656 786486
E-mail: val.davies@tyelis.org.uk
Website: www.tyelis.org.uk