

Paying Tribute to Founder and Life Board Member - Colin Brown



"He was a 'spark' to be around, he will be greatly missed."

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Colin Brown, a long-standing board member of Wolverhampton charity St George's House and a Founder and ongoing life board member of The Haven Wolverhampton. Colin was also a founding member of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council, a Member of the Mrs Hay Memorial Trust, and spent 30 years working as a Senior Probation Officer covering all aspects of Probation work including community service, prison work and Magistrates and Crown Court duties.

"Everyone at The Haven feels the great loss of such an influential and kind man and our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time. Without Colin and his friend and colleague Honor Pringle, The Haven would not exist and would not have been the safe haven it has been to the many thousands of women and children in Wolverhampton who have sought support to escape domestic abuse and homelessness over the years.

Colin dedicated a significant amount of his life to implement change across the city and ensure that homelessness and domestic abuse was never overlooked. His depth of knowledge and expertise regarding Housing Benefit for exempt/supported accommodation and his links with local authority were second to none. He chaired The Haven's Board for several years and has one of the charities 5 refuges named in honour of himself and his twin sister Shirley.

His input and dedication were immeasurable and his presence and invaluable contributions at board meetings will be cherished and dearly missed." Says Steph Harris and Andrea Spence-Ferguson, co-Chairs of The Haven Board.

"As a long-term board member of St George's House Charity; an organisation committed to providing support for marginalised, often vulnerable men; Colin was able to provide relevant, clear and highly perceptive knowledge from his experience within the Probation Service and had great personal insight into the issues affecting those engaged with our service. Colin's contribution during meetings was vital in the decision-making process and was interspersed by his often wry but very pertinent comments. He was fully committed to our decision to focus on the problems of men who are marginalised from society and as a result require help and support in so many ways. His involvement in the development of this policy helped the board and its individual members develop a clear understanding of issues including those of an organisational, philosophical and political nature." Says Richard Ashwell, Chair of the Board of Trustees at St George's House.

Both charities are deeply saddened and will miss Colin's clear, incisive and caring nature. We know that his concern for changing the lives of individuals in Wolverhampton, and the need for change in society will live on and in turn through the people both organisations work with.