

NEWS

Local landscape inspires mental health mural

June 2021



Residents at a supported housing service in Hythe have created a colourful mural inspired by the local scenery.

Sanctuary Supported Living's Dolphin Lodge provides accommodation and support for adults with a range of mental health needs and is surrounded by beautiful scenery, from the beach at the front door, to canal-side and woodland walks at the rear.

The residents were given the opportunity to brighten up their entrance hallway and unanimously agreed that they wanted the artwork to reflect their local landscape. Staff collected resident suggestions and drawings, and these were combined into a final design by Project Worker, Jim Lockey, who is also a contemporary artist and has previously worked on murals for local schools and bars.

The idea came about due to the hallway previously being dark and cluttered, and so everyone was keen to create an entrance way that the residents and staff could be proud of and which would help to create a more homely atmosphere.

The bright new mural features block colours and simplified images, which enabled all residents to get involved regardless of their artistic skills. The project has not only refreshed the building, it also encouraged everyone to develop and improve other key life skills, including working with others and mindfulness.

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One of the residents, Glenn, said: “It’s fun actually – painting is relaxing.”

Project Worker, Jim, said: “This wall reflects our residents and our service. It doesn’t look or feel like anything I’ve done before, or what I would have expected, and it goes to show what can be achieved when we push outside our comfort zones.”

Local Service Manager, Kim Murphy, added: “Our residents are rightly very proud of their handiwork, which greets everyone as they come into the building. We think it reflects the positive, community-centred culture we’ve created here at Dolphin Lodge.”

