

# Buckinghamshire Mind... the first 100 years

In 1913 people with a mental deficiency would have been known as idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded persons or moral imbeciles

Many of them with mental deficiency were put or let into the Aylesbury Workhouse as a place of safety

People were not dealt with by the Local Authority unless they were found neglected, abandoned or without visible means of support or cruelly treated

In 1914 the Association was formed to help those with mental health issues through home visits and education

1914

The Association was established in Aylesbury as the Buckinghamshire Voluntary Association for the Care of the Mentally Defective

1948

The Association changed its name to Bucks Association for Mental Welfare and provided services for patients suffering from mental illness

1953

The First Evening Social Club for the mentally handicapped opened at the Bierton Hill Centre

1972

Name changed to The Buckinghamshire Association for Mental Health (BAMH)

1974

Clubs for the Elderly Mentally Frail - Park and Pippin Clubs opened in Prestwood and Chesham

1988

Wycombe and District BAMH Group was established, later to become an independent body, Wycombe Mind in 1990

1989

Publication of Quarterly Newsletter with contributions from service users  
South Bucks Development Officer appointed to establish a counselling service in High Wycombe

1983

Windmills Club opened at St Mary's Church in Aylesbury

1989

BAMH Day Workshops - subjects included assertiveness, stress, personal effectiveness, depression, anger and forgiveness

BAMH Chesham and Amersham Group was formed and provided a service in that area until it closed in 1995

1990

Wycombe Counselling Service opened in July with a team of twelve trained volunteer counsellors

2005

Befriending Service achieved mainstream funding from Bucks County Council

2005

Mind Quality Management Certificate awarded following a successful review of quality standards

2007

Service User Involvement Development Worker appointed to promote user involvement across Buckinghamshire

2006

Name changed to Buckinghamshire Mind to align the charity more clearly with National Mind whose aims and objectives the charity endorse

2009

Supported Employment awarded three year funding agreement from Bucks County Council

2008

Befriending Service 50+ set up with funding from Bucks County Council 'Prevention' funding to provide short term focussed support

2012

Adult Counselling Services start up again at Granville Street

2010

Dove Centre closed as Buckinghamshire PCT withdrew funding across the region

Head Office opened in Granville Street, Aylesbury

2015

Education and Training Services launched

2014

The charity is thriving. Champion organisation for the Five Ways to Wellbeing. Offering some free adult counselling sessions to Aylesbury residents. Running 16 groups a week, with 35 staff and 100 volunteers. Park and Pippin Clubs celebrate 40 years.

By the end of 1928 two hundred and twenty six persons with mental deficiency were being cared for in institutions

In 1972 the work changed from training and education of mentally handicapped to providing social contact and support for the mentally ill in the community

The newsletter was circulated to members, voluntary organisations and members of the general public keeping them informed on mental health matters

Steps aimed to fill the gap between child psychiatric services and social services

In order to raise mental health awareness across the county of Bucks Mind's Education and Training team now deliver sessions in schools, businesses and local organisations.

By December 1928 forty males & twenty nine females were employed to visit persons with mental deficiency in their own homes

By 1980 BAMH had established six group homes offering places for twenty four residents

In 1989 our Aylesbury Counselling Services continued to provide an extensive programme of courses

Along with the name change in 2006 the charity rebranded with a new logo

In 2013 we won the Bucks County Council contract for the Prevention Matters programme and now employ six Community Practice Workers

here's to the next 100 years!