

# OUR COMMITMENT TO CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



**Winckworth**Sherwood

## OUR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

As a firm, we take CSR very seriously and are passionately committed to ensuring our business is integrated with its CSR aims and objectives.

### CSR AIMS



**To work in partnership with our local community**



**To develop relationships with employees and clients which support and build on our CSR policy**



**To work in a way that minimises the impact we have on the environment, encouraging sustainability in our day-to-day activities**



*We feel our commitment to CSR defines what we are like as a firm and how people perceive us. We want to be a firm that people like to work for and that people want to do business with.*

### CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2017/18



Winckworth Sherwood's current charity of the year is **Dementia UK**, providing dementia support for families through their Admiral Nurse service. Admiral Nurses are specialist dementia nurses who give much-needed practical and emotional support to family carers, as well as the person with dementia.



Every year our staff are asked to nominate charities with which they would like us to work. After refining the list within the committee, a shortlist is put to a firm wide vote. We encourage working with charities where we can have a hands on involvement, as opposed to merely providing a financial donation. We believe that this is key to our CSR objectives, allowing an immediate impact as opposed to one which just requires the signing of a cheque.



**Charlotte Cook**  
Partner & Head of CSR Committee



Activities to support Dementia UK include our annual Christmas Fair, the Summer Art Exhibition, cake sales and guided walks, as well as a range of other fundraising activities throughout the year.

## BUILDING LONG TERM RELATIONSHIPS

We pride ourselves on building long lasting relationships with the charities and organisations we support.



For two years running from 2011 to 2013, our charity of the year was **Bede House**. We continue to be a "Friend of Bede", supporting the work which we commenced with their service users. Every year we also hold a Winckworth Sherwood/Bede House football match, which is always a source of great interest and delight.



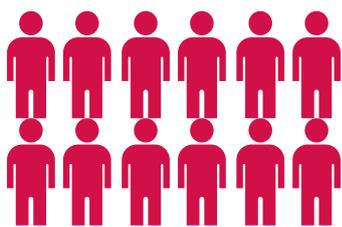
We have established a close relationship with **Hestia**, a charity working together with adults and children to change their lives at the times when they most need support - especially those who may have been effected by domestic abuse, people suffering from mental health issues, ex-offenders and victims of human trafficking.

As a firm, we have assisted refugee children who are fleeing domestic violence by providing them with pencil cases full of stationery for the new school term, with the aim to give some form of comfort in a daunting first week in an unfamiliar environment. We have also supported their 'Hestia Bake Off' event by baking and decorating cakes at one of their refuges. As well as this, we offer their service users with the opportunity to take part in mock interviews, giving valuable experience to those who may have been out of work for some time.



During the summer we host groups of 15-17 year olds taking part in **National Citizen Service**, run by **The Challenge**. During this time, the groups visit us to learn about what life is like at a law firm, hearing from a range of employees across the firm about their experiences and how they began their careers.

## HOW ARE WE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?



12

staff are on our mock interview rota, providing valuable interview practice to service users of housing association Peabody Trust and the charity Hestia



Partners within the firm match the total amount raised for our charity of the year - doubling the money we donate to them

£87,578

has been raised in total for our charities of the year since the WS CSR Committee was formed in 2009\*

\* as at April 2017



74

wash bags were donated to Providence Row, providing essential toiletries to homeless people



£58.56

raised by staff in exchange for WS branded umbrellas on a rainy day!

## SOME OF OUR CSR ACTIVITIES



### Primary School Reading Scheme

We work with two primary schools located in Southwark to assist children with developing their literacy skills. This support also encourages those who need extra time, which cannot be given in the classroom, to learn a love of books in a friendly environment.

Some children may come from larger families or from households where English is not their first language and need a bit more support and encouragement.



### Employment initiatives

We work closely with a number of charitable and not-for-profit organisations, providing mock interview training to assist individuals in making progress back into work after long term unemployment.

We also offer advice and assistance on drafting CVs, how to market yourself and your skills via LinkedIn as well as best practice for social media and applying for jobs online.



### Food bank

The Trussell Trust runs a nationwide network of food banks which distributes food to the homeless. Every Monday lunch time, volunteers from Winckworth Sherwood help out at the Lewisham branch.



### WinckyKnits and Craft Group

We are not just lawyers! We have a knitting circle which meets once a month not only to knit, but to get to know others in the firm and swap tips!

The group produces blankets and other woolly goods to a local homeless charity called Robes as well as producing a range of goods to be sold at CSR events.



### Citizens Advice Bureau

In conjunction with the London Borough of Southwark, we run a monthly rent arrears clinic, providing advice to London Borough of Southwark tenants who are experiencing difficulties in paying rent or have found themselves in rent arrears. We provide advice and guidance to enable tenants in the community to manage their money.

## OUR CSR COMMITTEE

