



16.12.2024

Dear Burnside Community Centre Team,

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for welcoming me into the Burnside family during my three-month placement. My time here has been rewarding, and I am grateful for the chance to learn from all of you about the power of community spirit and togetherness.

From my very first day, I was struck by the dedication of every staff member and volunteer to provide exceptional support to the local community. It was inspiring to witness the passion and commitment that each of you brings to your work. I felt truly welcomed, and I could see that this warmth is extended to every person who walks through your doors. Your genuine kindness and care create a place where everyone—staff, volunteers, and service users alike—can feel a sense of belonging.

I was also deeply impressed by the variety of programs and services you offer to people of all ages and backgrounds. Your commitment to continuously adapting and expanding these services reflects a strong dedication to meeting the changing needs of the Langley community. Being part of this experience has highlighted for me just how essential community-based services are, and the pivotal role Burnside plays in fostering a connected and supportive community.

During my placement, I have learned first-hand how the generosity of others can spark positive change and strengthen community bonds. I am leaving with a deeper understanding of the critical role third-sector charity organisations play in supporting individuals, particularly as they provide a crucial safety net for mental health support. Additionally, I have come to appreciate the value of collaborating with local services to enrich the lives of individuals outside of a clinical setting.

Key moments that have demonstrated the dedication of Burnside community centre included the Breakfast with Santa event. I was genuinely moved by the extraordinary care and attention everyone put into making this event special—from ensuring it was free and accessible for diverse members of the community, to the thoughtful selection of gifts tailored to each child’s individual characteristics. Another defining moment was hearing the stories from staff about their personal journeys at Burnside. It’s clear that for all of you, this is much more than a job—it’s a true community. Burnside is a place that promotes equal access and growth, valuing each team member’s unique needs, goals, and interests, while keeping the well-being of the Langley community at the heart of everything you do.

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity. I will carry forward the lessons I’ve learned here and the inspiring example you’ve set throughout the remainder of my training, and into my work post qualification.

Warmest regards,

*Amy Chapman-Brook*