

Eric Sainsbury, OBE, RIP

1925-2014

A Tribute

Eric Glowed.

His presence calmed others.

His insights, often profound, were asserted in humility. They frequently illuminated complex matters, but often somehow stimulated in and for others insights of their own. Insights they didn't even know they possessed.

I met Eric first in 1976 through Audrey. She and I shared many meetings, with others, trying to chart ways ahead for the Sheffield Youth Development Trust.

Two then important 'projects' were born – the Sheffield Starting Point and Roundabout. Roundabout has gone on to become a stalwart developer and provider of services for young persons who need roofs over their heads and friendship and guidance, and love. Loving the unlovable. Now, thanks to a magnificent staff of nearly sixty, it enjoys a national reputation for the work it does and the knowledge it has built up since the 70's. It has 'form'.

When Audrey and I, and the 'others' [Felicity Craven; Geoff Lowndes-Smith; Jonathan Brayshaw and many more], were perplexed we turned to Eric. He and I were two of the then five co-opted members of the South Yorkshire Probation and After-Care Committee, and often Probation and Roundabout had 'clients in common'. Clients in common with the CPS, the local GPs and Hospitals, Social Services, Housing, DHSS, the Police, Education, the Samaritans – oh (!) the list goes on.

And, it was Eric who would navigate a way through this labyrinthine care and provision and custody. It was he who would quietly and patiently help us to turn Timms' theory into our practice and our clients' realities. We didn't even know it was happening.

Eric's passing allows us to recall and mark his script.

AAA* from me and many tears, too.

Kieran M Hosty.