**Deputy Mayor Opens New Sensory Garden at Learning Disability Service’s Summer Party**

***(27th June 2022)* The Deputy Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Christine Harris, officially opened the new sensory garden of a learning disability service at Widmore Road this week at a special summer party themed open day.**

In celebration of Learning Disability Week and new improvements at the care home, local people supported by the service, their friends and family came together for the afternoon, Saturday 25 June, to enjoy the new sensory garden, interactive activities, face painting and refreshments. Officers from the local police station also made a guest appearance in their patrol van.

The service at Widmore Road, provides short breaks and respite services for adults with a learning disability, including complex needs, in the Bromley area. Since winning the contract is April 2021, national charity, [Ambient Support](https://www.ambient.org.uk/) has made numerous and swift enhancements which include implementing new management and staff teams and developing and widening the types of short stays that people can access with the inclusion of new themed weekends and special events stays. It has also signed-up to ‘Driving Up Quality Code’ to ensure quality care and support for people with learning disabilities including Autism.

Its volunteer and horticultural project, Branching Out, has also been responsible for the complete transformation of the garden from an overgrown and unloved area to an immersive and useable space that includes a sensory zone, growing sections in raised-beds for wheelchair users and scented plants and herbs.

**Deputy Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Christine Harris, says:**

*“It has been an absolute joy and a privilege to officially open Widmore Road’s new sensory garden. Services, like these provided by Ambient, are extremely important to many people in our Bromley community. They offer those with Learning Difficulties the opportunity to enjoy new experiences whilst also providing much needed respite for their carers.”*

**Sara Barton, Manager at Ambient Support’s Widmore Road, says:**

*“The Charity has a strong heritage and positive reputation for delivering high quality support to people with a learning disability so it’s been a real pleasure to open our doors, share the fantastic improvements that we have made to the service and celebrate our new sensory garden.*

*“Many people with Learning Disabilities are still feeling the effects of Covid and are experiencing heightened anxiety due to isolation. So, to see everyone joining in with activities, looking relaxed*

*and making the most of the immersive garden space has been wonderful– it’s been a celebration of togetherness.”*

The Sensory Garden was completed by the Bromley-based volunteer gardening and horticulture project, [Branching Out](https://www.ambient.org.uk/services/horticultural-project/), run by Ambient, that is helping to change lives and improve mental wellbeing for local people with lived experience of mental ill-health- the project is now extending volunteering opportunities to people in Learning Disability services.

For more details on Ambient services at Widmore Road click [here](https://www.ambient.org.uk/services/bromley-short-breaks-respite)

***Image:* Deputy Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Christine Harris, *Opens Widmore Road Sensory Garden***

**~ENDS~**

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**Notes to Editors:**

**About Ambient Support:** [www.ambient.org.uk](http://www.ambient.org.uk) @ambientsupport

* One of the Top 20 generic Not-For-Profit Health & Social Care Providers in the UK, Ambient Support (formerly known as Heritage Care and Community Options) is a registered UK charity with over 25 years’ experience
* They deliver services that meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable adults in society. Operating in over 120+ locations, they provide over 30 thousand hours of care to people on a weekly basis to support a range of needs due to the ageing process, learning disability or mental illness
* Their wide range of quality specialist services are delivered by dedicated, professional, and passionate staff and their success is built on supporting people to live a full and meaningful life
* Latest results from Ambient Support’s 2021- Satisfaction Survey show: 97% of people supported in Learning Disability services said Ambient have helped to make their life better, 95% are happy with the support Ambient give them and 94% of relatives and friends said their loved one is safely supported by Ambient.
In Mental Health Services 93% said that staff believe in their wellbeing and recovery, 91% of people said they knew how to provide feedback or make a complaint and 89% report being given information and support to make choices
In services for Older People, 98% report being treated with kindness, dignity and respect and 97% of relatives agree, 91% of friends and relatives report that their loved one’s life has got better since Ambient started supporting them and 97% said that they are happy with the care and support they receive
* Ambient currently employs around 1,150+ people across the UK in a number of settings
* Ambient can also help young adults who are transitioning from Children’s to Adult Learning Disability Services
* The Charity has an above industry average with 88% Registered Services rated as Outstanding and GOOD by CQC.