

birmingham st. patrick's day festival 2005



On Sunday March 13th 2005 the streets of Birmingham were awash in a sea of emerald green as up to 130,000 people lined the streets to celebrate the two mile long St Patrick's Day Parade. A cultural city made of a million people where 3.22% of the population is Irish. With many first, second and third generation Irish people living here, it's not surprising that the third largest parade in the world takes place in this city every year.

The **Mental Health Promotion Department** of Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust in conjunction with **User Voice, PALS**, The **Positive Mental Health Group** and a selection of **dedicated volunteers** (including service users, carers and families, survivors, Mental Health Trust staff and NIMHE staff) had a float in the parade to raise awareness of mental health and promote Social Inclusion.



During the parade we handed out over 1500 items including approximately 600 carrier bags with assorted mental health and physical health leaflets (estimated 10 per bag), plus badges, pens and balloons, over 500 balloons bearing the message 'Positive about Mental Health', as well as stickers, sweets and other miscellaneous promotional items.

'People were seen throughout the day on buses, in pubs and shopping in and around Birmingham City Centre clutching our bright yellow bags carrying the message 'POSITIVE ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH'

A very big **thank you** to everyone that contributed to and took part in the event. If you would like to join us for future events then please contact Claire Swindale at The Mental Health Promotion Department of Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust on 0121 678 4150 or claire.swindale@bsmht.nhs.uk

