

## **Press Release Exclusive to The Jewish Chronicle (8 April 2008)**

Jack Lynes, Chairman of Raphael Jewish Counselling Service for the past five years, handed over to Roberta Coffey at the AGM held on Raphael Day. Roberta has been associated with Raphael for many years, having served as a Counsellor and Counsellor Representative on the Management Committee.

During Raphael Day, psychotherapist Claire Bartram led a Workshop on Stepfamilies. It was quite a surprise to find that of the 50 people attending, about 80% actually had a direct interest in the subject.

In his closing remarks as Chairman, Jack emphasised the progress made during his term of office, and particularly welcomed the patronage of Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks, Rabbi Dr Tony Bayfield and Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy OBE.

### Notes for Editor

Raphael is a well established counselling service available to the whole Jewish community. Founded in 1979, it is a member of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy and is bound by its codes of ethics and practice. It is not restricted to any particular sector of the Jewish community, or to any particular area of counselling.

Raphael offers support to people who, for example, are dealing with illness or bereavement; difficulties with family, couple or marital relationships; are suffering from depression or anxiety; have problems resulting from a particular experience or trauma; or to those who are struggling with the stresses of daily life, including work or unemployment.

Not everyone who could benefit from counselling can afford to pay fees charged in the private counselling sector. At Raphael, clients are asked to consider for themselves what they feel they can contribute towards the cost of their counselling sessions. No-one is turned away through lack of funds.

Raphael has been offering support to Jewish people for nearly 25 years. Like many charities it has modest running expenses and many supporters who give their time and skills free of charge. Any donations we receive enable us to continue our vital work and are greatly appreciated.