

February 10, 2012

Dear Readers of the MAPS E-mail Newsletter,

We would like to share our experiences of setting up the KosmiCare UK crew.

KosmiCare UK was initiated as an independent organization out of MAPS' CosmiKiva psychedelic welfare services at Boom Festival and continues to follow [MAPS' model of psychedelic harm reduction](#) and use its materials as required reading for volunteers. After a very successful, challenging, and rewarding time at Boom 2008, the KosmiCare UK crew started the project of establishing psychedelic welfare services in Britain, beginning with Sunrise Celebration in 2009.

The event was a great success. We recruited many talented volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds, the crew bonded well, we managed to get a great space and the supplies we needed entirely from donations, and we worked very well with medical and standard welfare services who acknowledged the need for our specialist assistance. Most importantly, we helped a wide range of people, from those needing facilitation during a "bad trip," to those needing a safe place where they could come down from drugs and get a good sleep, to those in need of comfort, company, tea, and a warm fire when they were a little "lost." Since then, many other people have shown interest in becoming volunteers and we have made good connections with Festival Medical Services and Festival Welfare Services—long-established and respected organizations on the UK festival scene.

We are constantly looking for help—new volunteers, resources, training, funding, people with buses for transport or structures like yurts or domes for our space. Most of all, we are looking for festival and other event organizers in the UK who believe that services like KosmiCare need to be an integral part of event culture—to acknowledge that every event can have people having emotional or psychological problems, often but not always with illicit substances, and that the best action is to have a dedicated safe space staffed with people who understand and can help turn a negative experience into a helpful one. Please get in touch with us via e-mail at kosmicare@hotmail.com or see us on Facebook.

Karin Silenzi de Stagni, Kelly Morris, and the KosmiCare UK crew