



# **Annual Review 2011**

**Speaking up for ourselves and  
breaking down barriers**

# Introduction

## Our Way Self Advocacy 2010/2011



### A message from Our Way's Manager

2011 has been a year of change and hard work, as well as being very exciting. We have moved to new offices in Church Street, Kidderminster, making us much easier for people to access.

We have a great training room that we use for our self advocacy group meetings and training. This room is available to hire by other organisations - please contact our office for details.



Our Way Self Advocacy has successfully become a registered Social Enterprise.

Our very enthusiastic Management Committee takes an active role in the running of Our Way with lots of great ideas.

Our Way runs several successful projects, including Both Ways, Stars in the Sky and our self advocacy groups. We are very pleased to say we have a new project called Safer Communities.



The success of Our Way is totally because we have a very hard working and loyal team of staff and committed trustees, members and volunteers.

**Volunteers are very important to Our Way and we really value their input. If you would like to join us we will give you support and training.**

Sylvia Lacy

# Who's who at Our Way Self Advocacy

## Office Staff



**Sylvia Lacy**  
Management



**Rachel Fernihough**  
Development  
Worker  
(Both Ways and  
Stars in the Sky)



**Caroline Jones**  
Development  
Worker  
(Stars in the Sky  
and Groups)



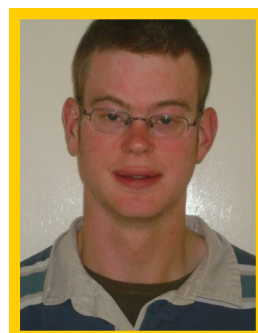
**Margaret Groome**  
Administrator



**Catherine Quekett**  
Development  
Worker  
(Both Ways)



**Tim Wakeman**  
Housing Link  
Worker  
(Both Ways)



**Martin Jones**  
Co-Worker  
(Both Ways)



**Lisa Stokes**  
Co-ordinator  
(DY10)

Julie worked with us for several months this year with our Both Ways team. We all want to thank her for the fantastic work she did - we will miss her.



## Board of Trustees 2010 - 2011



**Fred Mumford**  
Chair



**Annette Summers**  
Treasurer



**Tom Morden**  
Company  
Secretary



**Sue Garbett**



**Andrew Neville**



**Sarah Baker**



**Linda Bullock**



**Ray Gallier**

### Message from the Chair

Our Way Self Advocacy is led by people with learning disabilities and their views and ideas play a valuable part in the running of our organisation. We always listen to what our members say they want and need and work hard to find the funding to develop appropriate projects.

Our projects include Both Ways (Housing), Stars in the Sky, DY10 Nightclub, Self Advocacy Groups, a Football Team and a Safer Communities project.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and commitment of our staff and volunteers who are always prepared to go 'the extra mile' to ensure that our activities are successful. I must also mention the Management Group and Board of Trustees who continue to be committed to making sure Our Way Self Advocacy moves onwards and upwards.

The present financial outlook for the charity sector is still not looking good - however, we are optimistic about a successful future as we continue our efforts to find the right funding opportunities and develop our excellent projects.

Fred Mumford

## Management Group



**Damian Sier**



**Lisa Stokes**



**Martin Jones**



**John Ekama**

## Volunteers



**Lin Bullock**



**Sue Cantello**



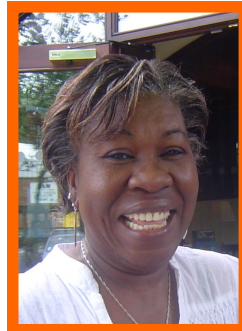
**Ray Gallier**



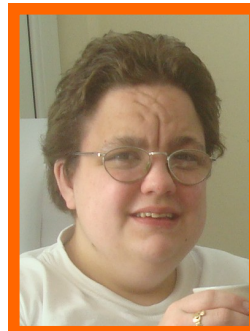
**Craig Powell**



**Lisa Stokes**



**Nora Mumford**



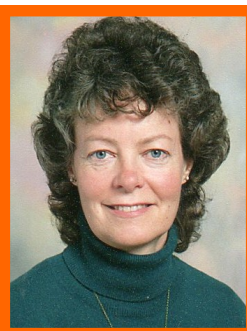
**Sarah Baker**



**Julie Slade**



**Holly Quekett**



**Helen Smith**



**Emma Darby**



**Jill Stevenage**



**Sarah Carey**



**Sam Morris**

# Self Advocacy Groups

There are 8 self advocacy groups: Independence 1st, Steps, Freedom Fighters, Focus (Kidderminster College), Our Group, Friends United, Shoot for the Stars and Sideways.

Our Way's speaking up groups have had a busy year. They have worked on lots of projects, sharing views and ideas.

Self Advocacy groups meet every 3 weeks. Members support each other and are able to exchange information. They support each other to take part in community events and activities.

## Worcester University

Members of Our Way met with Student Disability Nurses and spoke about their experiences when using the health service.



### Build for the Future

Our Way members go to Build for the Future Meetings and have taken part in consultations such as Changes in Social Care, Human Rights, Employment, Hate and Crime.



### Transition Pathway Training

Young people took part and spoke at the Transition Pathway training days.

### Barclays Bank Project

We worked with BILD and Barclays Bank on a 'Money Skills Project'. We helped to make a DVD and information pack about how to open a bank account and look after your money.



### Keeping Safe

We held a 'Keeping Safe' evening to launch the Our Way Keeping Safe Cards.



**Members of Steps**



**Members of Independent 1st**



**Members of Friends United**

### **West Midlands Regional Forum**

We meet with other self advocacy groups from the West Midlands and share information about the work of self advocacy projects in the region.



### **Stars United**

Our Way has its own football team called Stars United. They won all three of their matches in the first tournament.



**Members of Shoot for the Stars having a picnic**



**Members of Freedom Fighters**

## Both Ways Housing Project

Both Ways is a Housing Service which supports vulnerable people to find somewhere and someone to live with in Worcestershire.

### What have we done this year?

It has been a very busy year with **83** new people joining the project.

Since the project began we have supported **144** people.

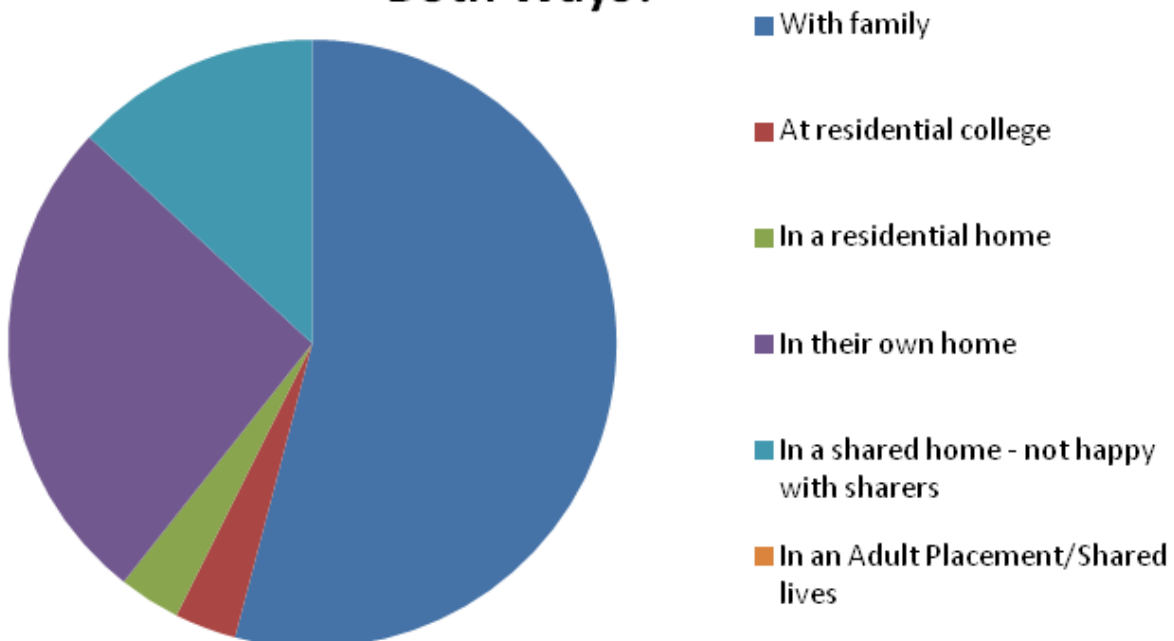
We have matched 30 people.

We have supported 21 people to move into their own house, flat or bungalow.

We have supported 19 people to find support to help them keep their tenancies.

We have found 7 private landlords and 2 estate agents who are willing to work with the project and let out properties to vulnerable people.

### Where are people living when they join Both Ways?

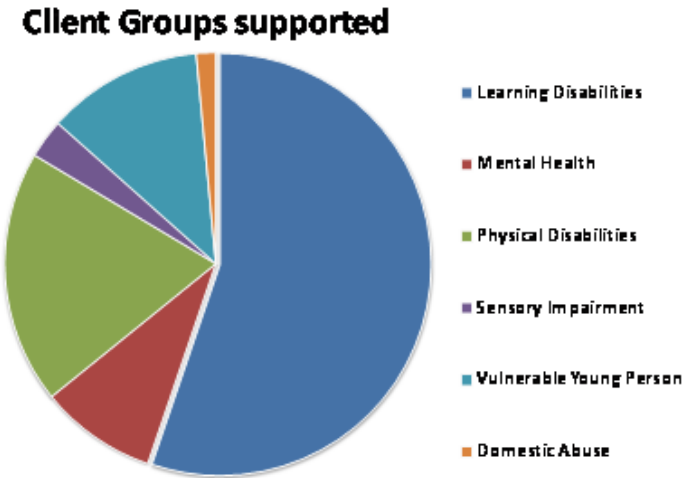
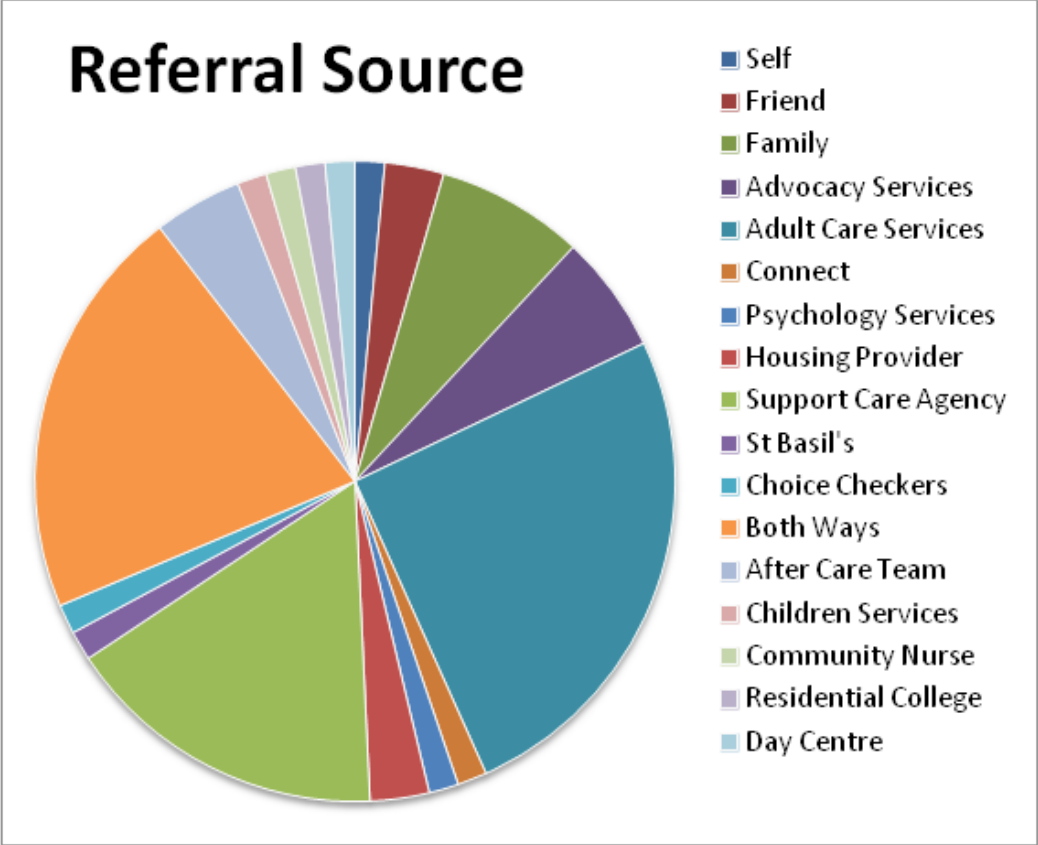




We have also started some great partnerships with the charity, St Basils, which supports young people who are homeless.



We are also working with the Bromsgrove District Housing Trust to match people who are wanting to share in Bromsgrove.



Emma and Lucy at the door of their new home

# Stars in the Sky Project

Stars in the Sky is a friendship and dating project for people with learning disabilities. We have 180 members. Membership costs £30 per year. We organise 2 events each month.

Below are photographs taken at some of the Stars in the Sky events which have taken place over the last year.



**Bowling - Worcester**



**Relationship Workshops  
Kidderminster**



**Pub Meal  
Evesham**



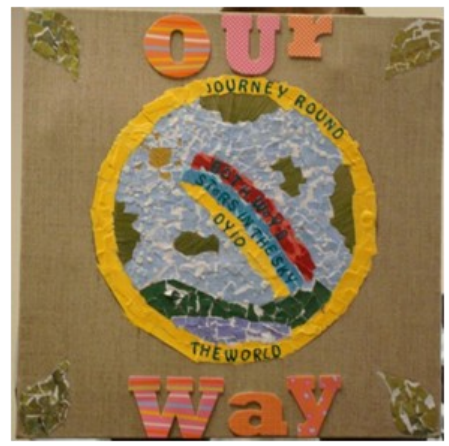
**Hijinx  
Workshop**



**Morgan Factory Tour - Malvern**



**Archery & Canoeing - Bromsgrove**



**Culture Day - Kidderminster - above right collage made by Lisa**



**Summer Ball - Kidderminster**



**Sports Day & Picnic  
Bromsgrove**

**Cadbury World - Birmingham**



**'Lets Make Music'  
Worcester**



**Walk & Picnic  
Redditch**

## DY10 Nightclub Project

Hello I'm Lisa, the organiser of the DY10 Project.

We have had lots of great theme nights such as Valentine's Night, Hour of Rock Music, Dr Who and Halloween. If you have any suggestions for theme nights you would like next year please let us know.



Thank you to Rachel and all the Volunteers that help the DY10 Project and a big thank you to James and everyone at Home Nightclub.

The project night is at Home Nightclub, Dixon Street, Kidderminster. Tickets are £3.



Halloween



Dr Who Night



Charlotte's 21st

## Funders

Worcestershire County Council

- Supporting People
- Learning Disability Development Fund

Children in Need

Esmeé Fairbairn

Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales

Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership

Inclusion North

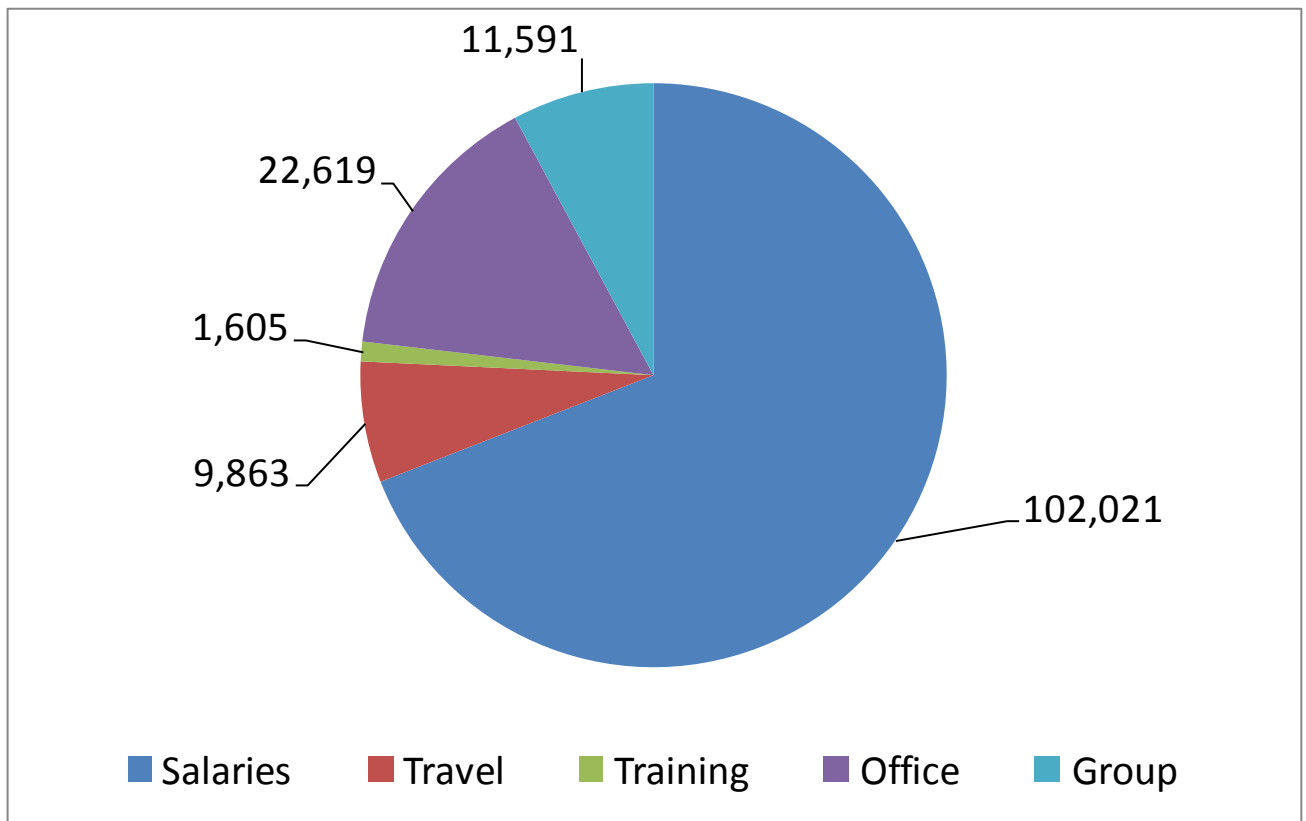


## Donations

Monday Night Group  
Tenbury Dispensary  
West Mercia Police Authority  
Tenbury Welfare Trust  
Tammy Brewster  
Carol and Graham Kimberley  
Tamsin Shaw



## How we spent our money



**Money that came in**

**£155,719**

**Money we spent**

**£147,699**

**What we had left**

**£ 8,020**



## **Our Way Self Advocacy**

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**Kidderminster**

**Worcestershire**

**DY10 2AR**

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