



Annual Report 2017

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

Our Way Self Advocacy 2016/2017



A message from Our Way's Manager

It's been another incredibly busy year at Our Way, with new projects and existing ones being popular and well attended.

We have two new football teams – an under 16's team and a women's only team, bringing the total to five, with lots of new and enthusiastic players enjoying getting fit, gaining confidence and making friends.

Our new weekly Zumba sessions on a Thursday morning are a great way to start the day before having a well-earned cuppa and sandwich at our Coffee Shop.

It's amazing that Our Way provides 15 different projects when you consider we have such a small part time staff team. However, we also have fantastic support from our trustees, volunteers and partner organisations – KDYT, Worcester Warriors, Kidderminster Harriers, Worcestershire Disability Sports, Worcestershire FA, SENDIAS, Friends of Springfield Park, Dementia Friends, Worcestershire Sexual Health, North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership, West Mercia Police, West Midlands Forum and BILD.

Thanks to you all!!

Catherine Quekett

Who's who at Our Way Self Advocacy

Staff



Catherine Quekett
Manager



Caroline Jones
Development
Worker



Margaret Groome
Administrator



Sarah Turner
Housing
Development Worker



John Entwistle
Sessional Worker



Chris Millington
Facilitator
(Shoot for the Stars)
(Garden Enterprise)
(Football Club)



Sian Hughes
Sessional Worker
(DY10)



Lisa Stokes
Sessional Worker
(DY10)

Board of Trustees 2016 - 2017



**John Lawley
(Chairman)**



**Linda Bullock
(Secretary)**



**Jerry Conway
(Treasurer)**



Ray Gallier



Carol Kimberley



Sue Houghton



Cath Giblin

Message from the Chair

I have enjoyed another year as Chair of Our Way Self Advocacy.

I have been involved in the launches of the Safe Place schemes in Evesham and Pershore. I have gone out in a small team to find suitable safe places in those towns.

I have been pleased to be involved in starting up our new Men's Group. We talk about men's issues such as staying healthy and have been swimming and played golf.

Young people who enjoy playing video games should try out our new Geek Zone on alternate Monday evenings.

I would like to thank all our loyal members for coming to our events and making them such a success. I would also like to thank the other trustees, the staff, volunteers and coaches for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

John Lawley
Chair

Volunteers



Lin Bullock



Sam Williams



Beth Williams



Paul Evans



Chris Millington



Carol Kimberley



Graham Kimberley



Julia Hall



Sophie Walker



Addison Walker



Jerry Conway



Sue Houghton



Shirley Hughes



Jan Calvert



Sarah Carey



Nick Clarke



Ben Jones



Richard Kilburn



Tanya Sinden



Sean Griffiths



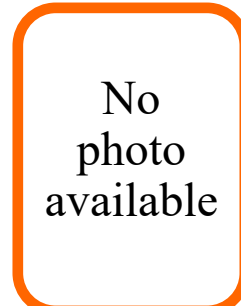
Vicky Griffiths



Courtney Griffiths



Bayley Preece



Charlie Billings

Self Advocacy Groups

Our Way has five self advocacy groups, four of which meet regularly at Kidderminster Youth House and one which meets in Tenbury. The meetings provide an inclusive and supportive environment, enabling members to talk about issues that are of importance and of interest to them. This year they have raised awareness and shared their views on many different topics such as benefits, health, relationships and employment.



Members of Kidderminster based groups getting together and socialising

Young People's Groups

(Funded by BBC Children in Need)

This group meets on a Monday. The group has undergone a transformation as many of the old members, who became too old for the group and moved on to other groups, were replaced by lots of new members.



Trip to West Midlands Safari Park

The new members got stuck in and planned a fantastic series of trips and activities over the summer, including a trip to the seaside. It has been wonderful to see how these young people have gained confidence and begun taking ownership of tasks such as running the tuck shop.

In October 2017 we started a new group called the Geek Zone for people aged 16 to 25, aimed at those who enjoy playing on games consoles. This group helps people transition from the young people's group into other self advocacy groups and other Our Way activities.

Worcestershire Young Consulters

(Funded by BBC Children in Need)

The Young Consulters have been working on a transitions project this year. They have talked to other young people (and their parents) who have transitioned from Children's Services to Adults Services. They are collating the results and feeding them back to Worcestershire County Council through the Learning Disability Partnership.



Shoot for the Stars

(Funded by BBC Children in Need)

Shoot for the Stars is an Advocacy group based in Tenbury Wells. From discussing the latest in local and international news, to sharing their own weekly stories, Shoot for the Stars gives every member the chance to have their say. Members have made new friends and learnt new skills by going on trips and taking part in workshops and a gardening project.



Meetings are held fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at Cafe 27 on Tenbury High Street.

Self Advocacy Group Projects

Gardening Project

Work has continued at the polytunnels at Clee. New work is starting in Springfield and Broadway parks in Kidderminster where we will be planting bulbs and showcasing our gardening skills.



West Midlands Regional Forum

Funding for the National and Regional Forum groups stopped in March. We are currently working with other self advocacy groups to identify ways of getting funding again. This year we have talked about health and welfare.



Hate Crime Workshops

Throughout the year we have held keeping safe workshops and discussion groups. In October we ran a hate crime interactive awareness workshop. Participants were able to take part in discussions about different hate crimes and ways of reporting a hate crime.

Our Way is a registered third-party hate crime reporting centre.



During hate crime awareness week representatives from Our Way did a presentation at the relaunch of North Worcestershire Hate Crime Partnership.

Communities Wyred Together

We joined our partners Axis, KDYT, Nightstop and the Basement Project to put on two celebration days. We were joined by representatives from local community groups who provided foods from around the world.

Our Way had a craft and information stall.



Dementia Friends

During the year we have worked with Wyre Forest Dementia Friends helping to raise awareness of dementia.

Safe Place Scheme



Worcestershire Safe Places aims to provide a short-term place of safety for anyone who finds themselves in a vulnerable situation whilst out and about in their community.

In February Evesham and Pershore launched the Safe Place scheme. Next year we hope to launch the final two towns - Tenbury and Upton.

People can find their nearest Safe Place by looking on the Safe Place directory on our website www.ourway.org.uk or by using the 'My Town' app which can be downloaded to smart phones or tablets.



Pershore Safe Place Launch

Housing

In January 2017 Sarah Turner joined the Our Way team to deliver the Our Way Housing Project. Sarah is helping people with all kinds of housing issues from dealing with landlords to finding people new homes to live in. Funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation, this project is truly helping people change their lives.



Coffee Shop

The coffee mornings continue to be a great success with lots of people coming along every Thursday morning to spend a couple of relaxing hours chatting to friends and playing games.



Stars in the Sky

There have been lots of fun events and activities for Stars members to take part in which have created opportunities for members to meet old friends and make new ones. Below are photos taken at some of our events.



Camping Trip



Trip to Dudley Zoo



Sports and Picnic in Stourport



Trip to Ironbridge Museum



Craft Night



Musical Theme Night

Sex and Relationship Workshops

We have worked in partnership with the Worcestershire Sexual Health Team to deliver sex and relationship workshops.

Having positive and fulfilling relationships is very important to our members. During the year we have been able to support many couples and to chaperone them when they go on dates.



Liberal Stars

Liberal Stars is our LGB support and social group which meets monthly. It gives people a chance to talk about their sexuality in a safe and supportive environment. New members are always welcome.



Men's Group

The men's group meets monthly. It provides an opportunity for Our Way male members to get together and talk about issues and topics that are important to them. They have spoken about men's health, emotional wellbeing and recreational activities.



DY10 Nightclub

We have had nine sessions throughout the year, six of which were themed. The Valentines, Hawaii and Halloween themed nights proved to be very popular.

Thank you to Mark Carter and his staff at Nu Bar for their continued support.



Hawaii Theme

Our Way Sports

Football

By being involved with the football club our members have been able to keep fit and gain confidence and develop their social skills. We now have 5 football teams - All Stars, Stars United, Galaxy Stars and our two new teams the Under 16's Shooting Stars and a ladies team called Sparkling Stars.



Sponsored Walk

All teams are registered with Worcestershire FA and train weekly at the Wyre Forest Leisure Centre. The senior teams play in the 3 Counties All Ability Counts Leagues.

Memorable moments for our football teams have been:

- The Under 16's playing in the People's Cup in Worcester.
- Sparkling Stars playing their first competitive match in St George's Park.
- Stars United winning their division in the 3 Counties All Ability Counts League.
- Players, coaches, parents and volunteers all taking part in a sponsored walk around the Wyre Forest and having the Mayor of Kidderminster there to start them off. Thank you to all those who took part and raised money for Our Way.

Rugby

Our partnership with Worcester Warriors grows from strength to strength. As well as our Monday morning training sessions, we are travelling to other clubs around the country to play their Mixed Ability sides too.



We are immensely grateful to Simon, Chris, Ian and Jamie for all their dedication and support.

Sports Sessions

Monday afternoon sports provides an opportunity for members to try out a variety of different sports. Basketball, hockey and badminton are some of the favourites.



Zumba

Our Zumba classes which are held every Thursday morning are becoming popular. They are a great opportunity for members to get fit whilst having lots of fun.

'No Barriers' Award

Chris Millington was presented with a Mike Oborski 'No Barriers' award in recognition of his work support of Our Way projects.



Our Way Money

Funders

Children in Need
Lloyds Bank Foundation
Esmée Fairbairn
Police & Crime Commissioner
(West Mercia)
The Big Lottery Awards for All
Greggs Foundation
Football Foundation



Donations

Co-op
Isaac Grainger
Monday Night Group
Lodge of St Michael, Tenbury
TM Bache
Worcestershire County Council
(Cllr John Desmond)
Wyre Forest DC (Cllr Juliet Smith)
Wyre Forest DC (Cllr Jeff Baker)
Sue Houghton
Friends of Arley Kings Village Hall
John Maynard
Mr & Mrs Hunter
Oliver Farmer



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Charity No. 1091939