



Annual Report 2016

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

Introduction

Our Way Self Advocacy 2015/2016



A message from Our Way's Manager

We have had another successful and busy year at Our Way. We are enjoying having our offices at Youth House, with the option to hire the different rooms and spaces.

Our Way is one of the partner organisations in the new Axis Youth Hub which provides support to young people in crisis. If a young person coming into the hub has a learning disability, Our Way will offer guidance.

Our newest project, the Thursday morning Coffee Shop, has been an enjoyable place for lots of our members to meet friends for a chat and have a bite to eat.

Again the success of Our Way has been down to our hard working and committed staff team, trustees and volunteers - so thank you to you all!

Catherine Quekett

Who's who at Our Way Self Advocacy

Staff



**Catherine Quekett
Manager**



**Caroline Jones
Development
Worker**



**Margaret Groome
Administrator**



**Julie Price-Pass
Facilitator
(DY10)**



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



**John Entwistle
Sessional Worker**



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



**Sian Hughes
Development Worker
(Young People)**

Board of Trustees 2015 - 2016



**John Lawley
(Chairman)**



**Linda Bullock
(Secretary)**



**Jerry Conway
(Treasurer)**



Ray Gallier



Carol Kimberley



Sue Houghton



Cath Giblin

Message from the Chair

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

I have been involved in the launches of the Safe Place schemes in Worcester, Malvern, Bromsgrove and Droitwich. I have gone out in a small team to find suitable Safe Places in those towns. I am also pleased to announce the new Safe Places App which people can have on their mobile phones to find their nearest Safe Place.

Our Football team project has grown with lots of new players. We now have a third team registered with the FA. We play in tournaments around the three counties – Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire. It's a great way to boost confidence, meet new friends, get fit and have fun.

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, 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



Rachel Wall



Richard Kilburn



Sarah Turner



Tanya Sinden



Sean Griffith

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 Kidderminster groups are Independence 1st, Freedom Fighters, Steps and Friends United and the Tenbury group is Shoot for the Stars. These meetings are a time for self advocates to meet and talk about topics and issues that are of interest and importance to them.



Freedom Fighters



Steps



Independence 1st



Exploring Ludlow



Camping Trip



Quiz Night

Friends United (*Funded by Children in Need*)

Friends United is a speaking up and social group for young people aged between 13 and 19 years. The group meets every two weeks. The meetings are a chance for young people to meet and have fun with friends.



The National Citizen Service chose us as their charity and with the help of Beth, our young volunteer, we had a community fundraising day. With all the money raised they bought us lots of games and sports equipment.

Shoot for the Stars

Shoot for the Stars is an Advocacy group based in Tenbury Wells. We currently have around 10 members and meet twice a month. Through discussion and interactive activities we engage with each other and discuss our opinions on the latest goings on in our lives, the local area and nationally. We also choose the direction in which our group is heading, making our own decisions - OUR WAY!

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



(*Funded by Children in Need*)

Self Advocacy Group Projects

Worcestershire Young Consulters

Our Way Worcestershire Young Consulters continue to seek and listen to the views of young people. They have been to Worcestershire schools and young people's groups to talk about transition issues, bullying, hate and mate crime. The Young Consulters have attended both the Worcestershire County Council Transition Steering Group and the Confirm and Challenge Transition Sub Group where they shared their ideas and findings.

Triangle Award

Aaron, who has worked hard as a Young Consulter, was recognised for his hard work when he was awarded a Young Solutions Triangle Award.



Anti-bullying Awareness Week

Gardening Project

Our gardening project has grown as a result of our own ideas and interests. The project teaches practical skills and also empowers members to have their say on what they want a garden to be like. It is a fun and interactive project. We also engage in various local fetes and events. The project is open to ALL Our Way members and is currently being run most Tuesdays and occasional Saturdays.



Build for the Future

Our Way members are part of BILD's advisory group of self advocates (Build for the Future). This year they have shared their experiences and views of issues such as NHS healthcare support and services and training resources for Positive Behaviour Support.



West Midlands Regional Forum

Representatives from Our Way meet with other West Midlands Self Advocates and groups to share information and take part in debates and discussions. Government cuts to benefits and NHS health care have been some of the issues talked about. Their views and ideas are reported to the National Learning Disability Forum.



Smart Energy Meters

Sally has worked with Smart Energy and BILD to help create an easy read Smart Energy Meter leaflet. She is now a Smart Energy Champion.



Keeping Safe Workshops

Throughout the year we have held keeping safe workshops, helping our members to have a better understanding of how to stay safe.



Self Advocacy Group Projects (Continued)

'Safe & Sound' Learning Disability Day

Scott worked with Worcestershire health workers and volunteers to plan and organise a 'Safe and Sound' Learning Disability Day in Droitwich.



Quality Care Commission

Our Way members attended a Quality Care Commission conference in Birmingham. They voiced their views regarding good and positive support.



Safe Place Scheme

The Safe Place scheme continues to grow. This year we have seen it launched in Bromsgrove and Droitwich. It has already been launched in Wyre Forest, Worcester, Malvern and Redditch.

We now have over 120 registered Safe Places in Worcestershire. The Worcestershire Safe Place directory can be found on the Our Way website (www.ourway.org.uk) and the new Worcestershire Safe Place App can be downloaded to smart phones and tablets.



Droitwich Launch

Many thanks to all our Safe Place partners, volunteers, Worcestershire businesses and retail outlets who have supported us with this project.

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.



Wii/Games Night



Sports Day



Paintballing



Canal Trip



Drayton Manor



Trip to Barmouth

Liberal Stars

Liberal Stars are our LGB support and social group which meets monthly. New members are always welcome.

In May Liberal Stars marched for the first time in the parade at Birmingham Pride with their banner flying high.



Sex and Relationship Workshops

We have worked in partnership with the Learning Disability Psychology Team and 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.



Coffee Shop

Since April we have been holding coffee shops every Thursday morning. They are a time for people to meet up with friends and enjoy a relaxing couple of hours chatting and playing games.

The Coffee Shops have been a great success with lots of members coming along to them. We were very pleased to welcome the Mayor of Kidderminster (Councillor Mary Raynor) to one of them.



Visit by the Mayor of Kidderminster

DY10

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the DY10 Nightclub project. We moved from Tribe nightclub to Nu Bar in Kidderminster and this has proved to be a very positive move. We have held a number of themed nights throughout the year including 'Back to School' and 'Halloween'.



Summer Holiday Theme



Onsie Party

Football Club

The Our Way Football Club continues to grow. We have registered three teams with the FA for the 2016-2017 season. These are Stars United, Galaxy Stars and All Stars. All three teams play in the 3 Counties Disability Football league, playing tournaments in Worcestershire, Shropshire and Herefordshire.



Certificates being given out at an Awards Evening



Some of the mums who support our footballers

Thank you to Chris Millington for facilitating the Football Club.
Thank you also to all the parents and supporters.



Football Teams

Sports Sessions

We have worked with Worcester Disability Sports to organise and run weekly sports sessions at Kidderminster Youth House. Hockey, basketball and badminton have proved to be some of the favourites.



Funders

Children in Need

Esmée Fairbairn

Eveson Charitable Trust

Police & Crime Commissioner (West Mercia)

Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust

The Big Lottery Awards for All

Barchester Charitable Foundation

Xpression (Wyre Forest District Council Leisure Grant Scheme)



Donations

Isaac Grainger

Monday Night Group

Lodge of St Michael, Tenbury

Mencap

Tenbury and District Nursing Association

TM Bache

Starbucks

Mars (Galaxy Hot Chocolate)



T Shirts

If anyone is interested in buying an Our Way T-Shirt please contact the office.





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