



Annual Review 2010

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



A message from Our Way's Manager



2010 has been an exciting and positive year. We have developed new projects and increased the membership of existing projects. Our Way has a great team of staff, management group, trustees and volunteers who work hard to make sure **all** people have the chance to speak up for themselves and live the life that they choose.

Our Way projects include:



Stars in the Sky: A friendship/dating/social project with over 100 members. The project also provides free safe relationship training.



Both Ways Housing: This aims to give disabled people the freedom and choice about where and who they live with.



DY10 Nightclub: A nightclub experience for people who have a disability over 18 years old.



Self Advocacy Groups: For young people and adults with learning disabilities across Worcestershire to get together to speak up about things important to them.

People with learning disabilities are involved in all that we do at Our Way. This includes working on our projects, being a member of the board of trustees, volunteering and six people are members of the management group.

Volunteers are very important to the success of Our Way and if you would like to join us we will give you support and training.

Sylvia Lacy

Who's who in Our Way Self Advocacy

Office Staff



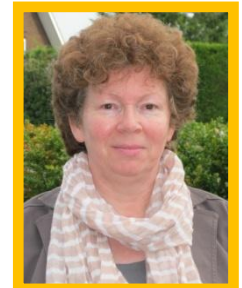
Sylvia Lacy
Management



Rachel Fernihough
Development
Worker



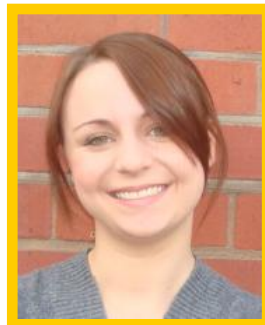
Caroline Jones
Development
Worker



Margaret Groome
Administrator



Catherine Quekett
Development
Worker
(Both Ways)



Lucy Bushell
Housing Link
Worker
(Both Ways)



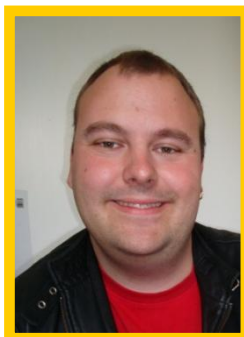
Emma Darby
Co-Worker
(Both Ways)



Martin Jones
Co-Worker
(Both Ways)



Anna Hansell
Self Advocacy
Worker
(Sideways)



James Tweedie (JT)
Co-Worker
(Stars in the Sky)



John Ekama
Co-Worker
(Stars in the Sky)



Lisa Stokes
Co-ordinator
(DY10)



Jean Fields
Office Cleaner

Board of Trustees 2009 - 2010



Fred Mumford
Chair



Annette Summers
Treasurer



Tom Morden
Company
Secretary



Sue Garbett



Andrew Neville



Sarah Baker



Lin Bullock



Ray Gallier

Message from the chair

Our Way Self Advocacy has had another busy and successful year building on the achievements of activities such as our Both Ways housing project, our hugely successful and popular Stars in the Sky project, the DY10 nightclub project and our self advocacy groups for young people and adults with learning disabilities. 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 that all our work is led by people with learning disabilities who work on our projects and are members of the Management Group and Board of Trustees.

At present the financial outlook for the charity sector is not good - the Government has outlined its spending review and the impact this may have on Our Way will become clearer over the next few months. 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



Ray Gallier



John Ekama

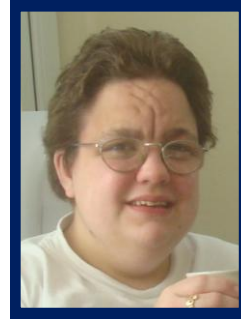
Volunteers



Lin Bullock



Sue Cantello



Sarah Baker



Lisa Stokes



**Esther
Anastasis-Davies**



Emma Darby



Helen Smith



Ben Prince



Ray Gallier



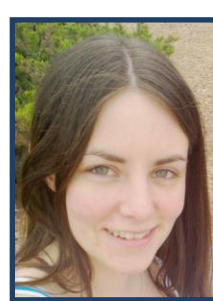
Craig Powell



**Marc Staniland
Davis**



Cat Seddon



Holly Quekett



Julie Slade

Our Way Self Advocacy Groups in

Independence 1st, Steps, Freedom Fighters, Focus (Kidderminster College), Our Group, Blakebrook School, Young People's Group, Sideways and Shoot for the Sta

Our Way's speaking up groups have had a busy year. We have worked on lots of projects, sharing our ideas and having our say. These projects include:

Job Centre Plus

A group tried out and gave their views on the Job Centre's new computers and software.



Birmingham University

A group reported on the resources and accessibility of two of the city's libraries.



Worcester University

Members of Our Way shared and compared experiences with Student Learning Disability Nurses.

Wyre Forest Parliamentary Candidates

Members from groups met with the Candidates and told them about their issues and experiences.





Self advocacy groups worked with BILD and learnt about their Rights and Responsibilities.



Aiming Higher

Members of groups attended a training event at BILD and talked about the importance of good and flexible support.



Members of self advocacy groups have learnt new skills and had lots of fun planning events and trying out new activities

Members had a great time exploring Warwick Castle.



Tackling the challenges at the Pioneer Centre and the Safari Park were a great adventure.



Pioneer Centre



Pioneer Centre



West Midlands Safari Park



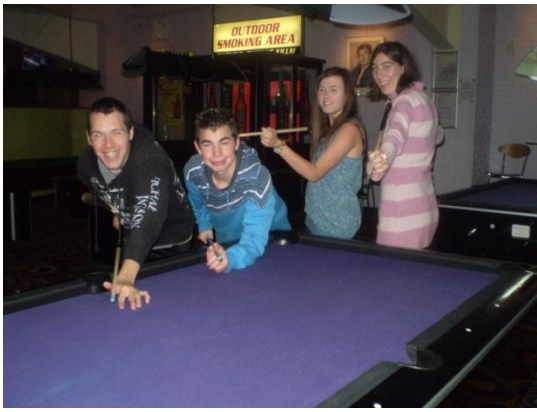
Group members enjoyed a day out in Birmingham.

Birmingham

Our Way members had a good time at the Dowles Road Fun Night.



Dowles Road Fun Night



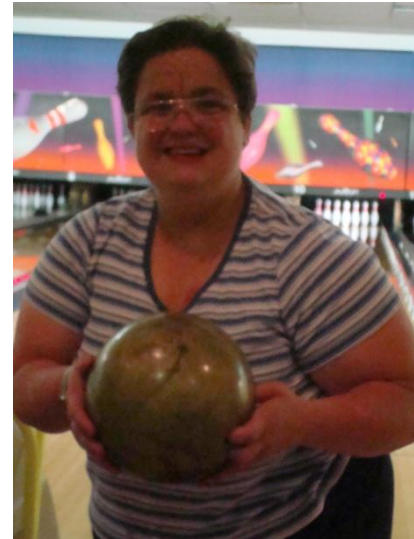
Members of a new self advocacy group getting to know one another



Members enjoyed a meal out in Worcester.



A night out at Bowl Xtreme in Worcester was enjoyed by members.



Group members help each other celebrate special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries.

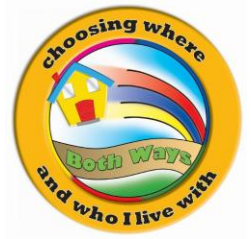


Laura's Birthday Party



Gaby's Birthday Party

Both Ways



Both Ways is a housing matching 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 **43** new people joining the project.

Since the project began we have supported **118** people.

We have developed our Housing Options Plan to help people think about their housing choices. Some of them are:

- Living on your own in a rented home
- Sharing with one person or more
- Shared ownership
- Family buying a property and renting it to their son/daughter



Some of the barriers have been:

- Not enough housing in the areas where people want to live.
- Not enough ground floor accommodation.
- Finding the right person to share with in the chosen area.
- Getting the right support for people to live in their own home.



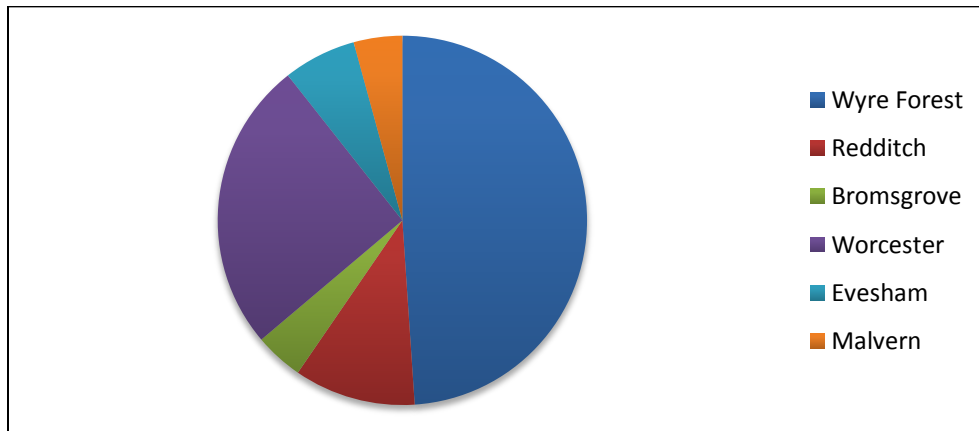
We have arranged some enjoyable Both Ways Get Togethers to help people get to know each other.

Members of Both Ways took part in the My Life, My Choice events in Kidderminster and Worcester.



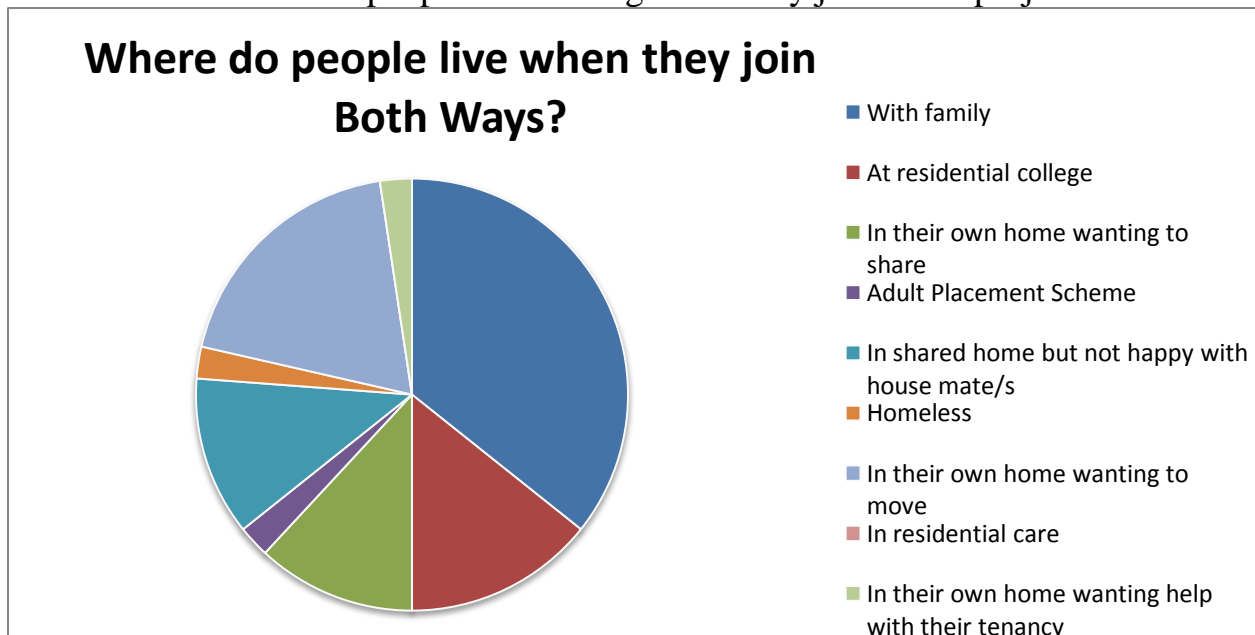
People who join Both Ways come from all over Worcestershire.

This chart shows where people want to live.



The majority of people want to share with one or two people. Six people want to live on their own.

This chart shows where people were living when they joined the project.



Stars in the Sky

Stars in the Sky is a dating, friendship and social project for people with learning disabilities over 18 years old.



How does Stars in the Sky work?

You pay to become a member of Stars in the Sky. Membership is £12 if you want to join in all the events and training and £18 if you **also** want to have chaperoned/supported dates. The training workshops are about safe relationships including safe sex, drugs and alcohol information.

We organise 2/3 exciting social events every month. These include:

Karaoke, Discos, Speed Dating, Theatre Trips, Sports Events, Salsa Dancing, Wheel Chair Dancing and DY10 Nightclub

**If you would like to join Stars in Sky contact
The Stars in the Sky Team at Our Way**



Caroline

JT

Rachel

John



Chocolate Evening -



Go Karting - Stourbridge



Summer Ball - Kidderminster



Single & Mingle - Worcester



DanceFest - Kidderminster



Pizza Night - Evesham



Ladies' Recruitment Morning -



Sports Day - Bromsgrove

DY10 Project



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

Caz, who I ran the project with, had moved so I now run the project on my own. We have had lots of great theme nights such as a New Year Party, Valentine's Night, Michal Jackson Night, Jungle Theme, Prom Night and Halloween. If you have any suggestions for other 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 every one at Home Nightclub.

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

Funders

Children in Need

Esmeé Fairbairn

Eveson Trust

Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales

Worcestershire County Council

- Supporting People
- FLOSS
- Young People's Panel
- Learning Disability Development Fund

Donations

Freemasons

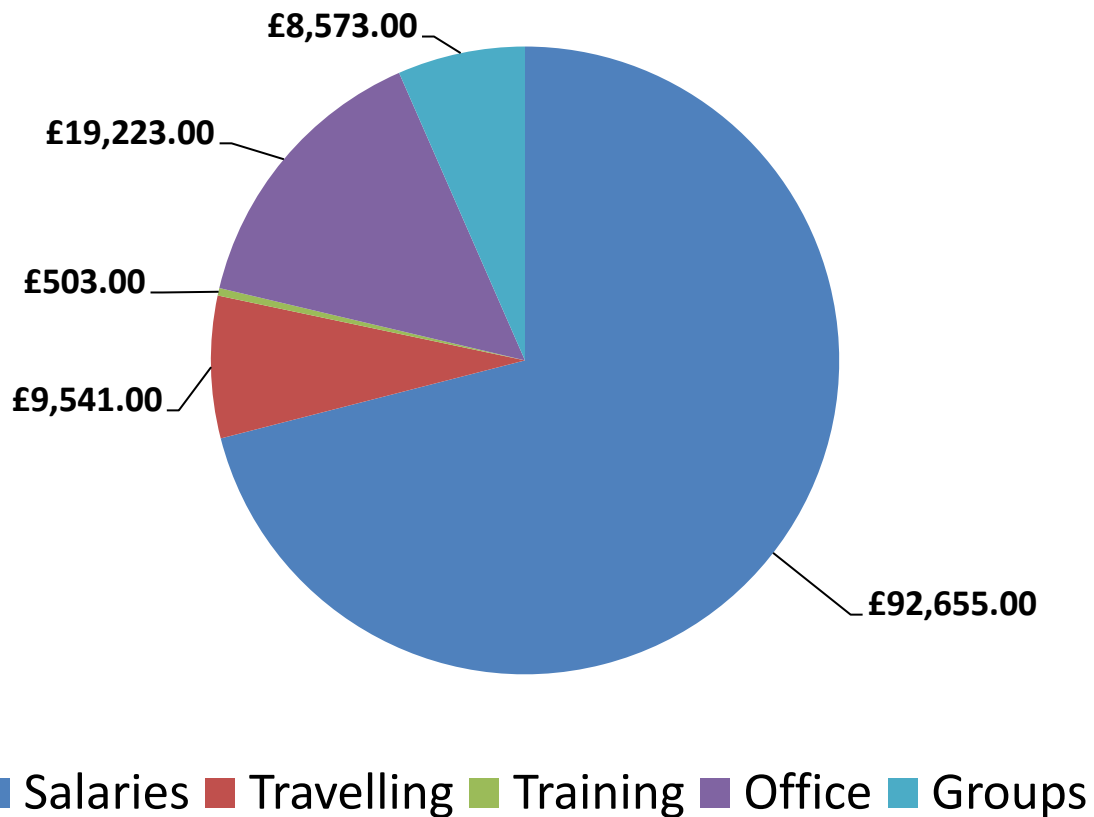
Monday Night Group

Mrs S Clark

Mrs M Palmer

Tenbury Dispensary

How we spent our money





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DY11 5AD**

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Charity Number: 1091939

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