



# **Annual Review 2014**

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

## Introduction

# Our Way Self Advocacy 2013/2014



### A message from Our Way's Manager

Another busy year has flown by!

We said goodbye to Rachel Fernihough in August, and presented her with a signed plate and had a lively leaving party here at Youth House. Rachel had worked at Our Way for over 16 years and will be much missed. However she has joined in some of our events as a volunteer so we haven't lost her completely! Julie Price-Pass has taken over Rachel's hours, supporting the Stars in the Sky events.

Sylvia Lacy retired from facilitating Shoot for the Stars - the Tenbury Advocacy group. The group held a goodbye meal for Sylvia and have now welcomed Chris Sloan as their new facilitator.

Richard Lockley, our counsellor, also sadly left Our Way to spend more time with his family.

We have settled in at our new offices at Youth House with the phones and broadband all up and running. Members had to use our temporary mobile phone number for a while so thank you all for your patience.

Our Young Consulters have made a real impact this year, talking to young people with learning disabilities about what is important in their lives and taking their views to planning meetings at Worcestershire County Council.

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

## Office Staff



**Catherine Quekett**  
Manager



**Caroline Jones**  
Development  
Worker



**Rachel Fernihough**  
Development  
Worker  
(Stars in the Sky)



**Margaret Groome**  
Administrator



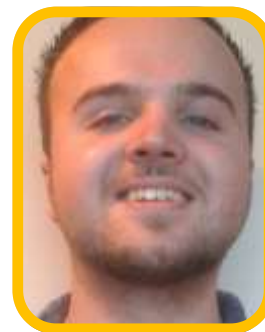
**Julie Price-Pass**  
Development  
Worker



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



**Sylvia Lacy**  
Facilitator  
(Shoot for the  
Stars/  
Team Tenbury)



**Chris Sloan**  
Facilitator  
(Shoot for the Stars)

## Board of Trustees 2013 - 2014



**Sue Garbett**



**Linda Bullock**



**Jerry Conway  
(Acting Chair)**



**Ray Gallier**



**Carol Kimberley**



**John Lawley**

### **Message from the Chair**

Our Way Self Advocacy has had another busy year, particularly with our move to Youth House. Hopefully the savings we will make by renting smaller offices will mean we can carry on running the organisation well into the future.

None of our work would have been possible without the enthusiasm and commitment of our loyal members who have regularly attended and supported all our events, workshops, clubs and advocacy groups.

On behalf of the trustees I would like to thank the staff and volunteers for all their hard work and good humour. It's what makes being part of this organisation so rewarding and such fun.

Jerry Conway

Acting Chair of Trustees



# Volunteers



**Lin Bullock**



**Sue Cantello**



**Sam Williams**



**Holly Quekett**



**Dickon Pitt**



**John Entwistle**



**Richard Lockley**



**Richard Kilburn**



**Cat Seddon**



**Nigel Pearson**



**Carol Kimberley**



**Graham Kimberley**



**Julia Hall**



**Sophie Walker**



**Addison Walker**



**Jan Calvert**



**Nick Clarke**



**Chris Sloan**



**Beth Williams**



**Paul Evans**



**Rachel Wall**



**Shirley Llewelyn**

## Self Advocacy Groups

Our Way's six Self Advocacy Groups have had a busy year taking part and having their say in consultations, projects and activities.

### Young People's Group (funded by Children in Need)

The Young People's group have had an interesting and fun year, organising and taking part in activities and events that are of interest to them.



*Adventure Day*



*Farm Visit*



*Safari Park Visit*



*Self Advocacy Group Activities*

### Shoot for the Stars

Shoot for the Stars is an advocacy group for young people and is based in Tenbury. Members have a chance to meet new friends, talk about issues that are important to them and have lots of fun.

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





## Projects we have been involved with over the past year

### Safe Place Scheme

The Safe Place scheme has received funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner. During the next year it will be re-launched in Kidderminster and launched in Worcester, Redditch, Malvern and Wychavon. The Safe Place scheme provides a short term place of safety for people who feel vulnerable when out in their community.



### Young Consulters

The young consulters have had a busy year talking about and raising awareness of issues that concern young people when in 'transition'. During the year they have spoken to young people and found out about their experiences and views and have met with parents, carers and professionals



from across Worcestershire. The Young Consulters now attend and contribute to the Worcestershire Transition Sub Group and Worcestershire Transitions Steering Group.



*Young Consulters' Consulting Tree*

### Birmingham University

Rachel and Matt went to Birmingham University and worked with social care students raising awareness of important and meaningful issues.

## Build for the Future

We go to BILD and are part of the Build for the Future team. We meet with other self advocates to discuss and voice our opinions about health, employment, changes in welfare and services.



## Alzheimer's Society

We have worked with the Alzheimer's Society and BILD to produce two factsheets about what dementia is and how to support a person with dementia.

## Mencap Young Ambassadors

Matt, John, Chris and Tamsin have represented Our Way at Mencap's West Midlands Young People Forums. They recently attended a reception and presentation at the Sky Loft in London to celebrate their achievements in the 'Inspire Me' project.



## West Midlands Regional Forum

Our Way representatives attend Regional Forum Meetings in Birmingham. Last year Sally was elected to co-chair the meetings.



## Keeping Safe

Throughout the year our members have worked with the police and taken part in hate crime, staying safe and internet safety workshops.



## Bushcraft Course

Four more Bush Craft Courses were run this year. Students enjoyed learning survival skills, shelter building, fire making and cooking on a campfire on the 6 session course which was held at Spetchley Woods.



## Our Way FM Radio

During the summer Chris, Luke, Rachel and Chris launched the Our Way radio. The team of presenters aim to share news, information and promote the events and activities of Our Way.



## Stars United

The 2013-2014 season saw lots of new players joining the team. They took part in the 3 Counties Disability League playing tournaments in Worcestershire, Shropshire and Herefordshire.

In the summer they went to Birmingham University and played in the Emily Jordan Foundation Tournament as well as going to Wales to play some competitive football with football teams from Derwen College.



## Worcestershire People Parliament

Our Way members have voiced their views and opinions on issues raised at the Worcestershire People Parliament. These have included 'future lives', 'crime and justice' and 'transitions'.

## DY10 Nightclub Project

DY10 is a project for people with disabilities to experience a nightclub scene in a supportive place so that they feel confident ordering drinks, dancing and making new friends.



*Tribe Nightclub*

Below are photos taken at our Halloween night.



We have about 85 to 100 people who come to the project. It is on a Monday night once a month at Tribe Nightclub, Green Street, Kidderminster and tickets cost £5.

## Princes Trust

During the year we have worked with The Princes Trust - they have helped us at some of our events.

*Opposite - Princes Trust helping out at a Stars in the Sky Zumba session*



## Counselling

A counselling service is available to our members. Counsellor Richard Lockley has provided this service over the past year, but has sadly now left the project. We are in the process of recruiting a new one.



*Richard*



## Stars in the Sky

Once again it has been another eventful year with many different events and activities for people to experience and join in with. Below are photos taken at some of the events.



*Farm Trip*



*Malvern Walk*



*Summer Ball*



*Chocolate Making*



*Camping Trip*



*Variety Show*



*Drayton Manor*



## Stars in the Sky (Continued)



*Sports Day - Sanders Park, Bromsgrove*



### **Julie and Stuart's Wedding**

In August, Stars in the Sky had its first wedding. Julie and Stuart were married at Worcester Registry Office. They were joined by Stars members who helped them to celebrate their special day.

### **Sex & Relationship Workshops**

We have worked in partnership with the Learning Disability Psychology Team and Worcester Sexual Health Team to deliver sex and relationship



### **Liberal Stars**

The Liberal Stars group meets once a month and continues to attract new members. In May they had a colourful and entertaining day at Gay Pride in Birmingham.



## Awards Received

### Worcestershire Triangle Award

In March Addison and Sophie's volunteering achievements were recognised when they were awarded the Worcestershire Triangle Award.



### No Barriers Awards

Caroline and Catherine were presented with a Mike Oborski 'No Barriers' award for Our Way's achievement in improving access to services and opportunities for people with learning disabilities in the Wyre Forest District.

## Funders

Children in Need  
Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales  
Co-op  
The Woodlands Trust  
Police & Crime Commissioner (West Mercia)  
Wyre Forest District Council (Leisure Grant Scheme)



## Donations

Burlish Park Golf Club (Ladies Section)  
Birmingham University  
Friends of Arley Kings Village Hall  
**Donations to Tenbury Group**  
Archbishops Council  
Worcestershire County Council (Councillor Pollock)  
Tenbury Dispensary  
Lodge of St Michael  
Tenbury Town Council







**Our Way Self Advocacy  
Youth House  
Bromsgrove Street  
Kidderminster  
Worcestershire  
DY10 1PF**

**Tel: 01562 820262  
E-mail: [office@ourway.org.uk](mailto:office@ourway.org.uk)  
[www.ourway.org.uk](http://www.ourway.org.uk)**

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