



30th Anniversary
Annual Report
2015

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

Our Way Self Advocacy 2014/2015



A message from Our Way's Manager

So, we have come to the end of another busy and enjoyable year based at Youth House in Kidderminster. I would like to thank Ben and Mike who manage KDYT for making us feel so welcome and for helping us settle in. It's great to be in a building where we can work in partnership with other caring organisations as well as making the most of excellent onsite facilities.

2015 marks the 30th Anniversary of advocacy in Worcestershire! At our AGM we will have a display of photographs of people who have used and supported our services over the years, including past members, trustees, staff and volunteers.

This year we said a temporary goodbye to Julie Price-Pass who left in April on maternity leave to have baby Lewis.

John Entwistle stepped in to work with Caroline Jones on the Young Consultants project and he and Connie Croft support Stars in the Sky events as required.

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



Margaret Groome
Administrator



Julie Price-Pass
Development
Worker



John Entwistle
Consulters Development
Worker and
Stars Sessional Worker



Lisa Stokes
Co-ordinator
(DY10)



Chris Sloan
Facilitator
(Shoot for the Stars)



Connie Crofts
Stars Sessional Worker

Board of Trustees 2013 - 2014



**John Lawley
(Chairman)**



**Linda Bullock
(Secretary)**



**Jerry Conway
(Treasurer)**



Ray Gallier



Carol Kimberley



Sue Houghton

Message from the Chair

I was pleased to become the Chair of Our Way Self Advocacy in June this year.

We have now been at Youth House for over a year and we have made some good savings as a result.

We have done some useful partnership working with other organisations in the building and hope to develop this further. We have also worked with BILD, Sendiass, West Mercia Police and the Community Safety Partnership.

I was excited to attend the National Medical Awards when we were nominated for our work with BILD on producing easy read information about dementia.

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

Volunteers



Lin Bullock



Sam Williams



Beth Williams



Holly Quekett



Paul Evans



Carol Kimberley



Graham Kimberley



Julia Hall



Sophie Walker



Addison Walker



Nigel Pearson



Chris Sloan



Shirley Hughes



Jan Calvert



Dickon Pitt



Nick Clarke



Cat Seddon



Richard Kilburn



Jerry Conway



Sue Houghton



Rachel Wall



Shirley Llewelyn

Self Advocacy Groups

Our Way's six self advocacy groups meet regularly. These groups provide a place and an opportunity for self advocates to get together, share experiences and talk about issues that are important to them. During the past twelve months they have taken part in both national and regional projects and consultations, voicing their views and ideas. Below are photos of members from each of the groups.



*Pottery painting
(Members of Focus)*



*Fishing
(Member of STEPS)*



*Enjoying a meal out
(Members of
Freedom Fighters)*



*Visit to Nineveh Farm
(Member of Independence 1st)*



*Visit to Cob House Farm
(Members of Friends United)*

Shoot for the Stars

Shoot for the Stars is an advocacy group for young people who live in or around Tenbury. Members have a chance to meet new friends, share news and experiences, grow in confidence and have fun. The group is facilitated by Chris Sloan.

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



(Members of Shoot for the Stars)

Self Advocacy Group Projects

Gardening Project

Isaac Grainger, parent of one of the Shoot for the Stars members, has generously offered the use of polytunnels and surrounding ground next to his house near Clee Hill. During the spring and summer months, Chris and group members from Tenbury and other Our Way advocacy groups, worked hard to clear and plant the tunnels. Produce was then sold at Tenbury Applefest to raise money.



Self Advocacy Group Projects (Continued)

Build for the Future

Representatives from Our Way are part of BILD's advisory group of self advocates. This year they have taken part and contributed to NICE's good practice clinical guidelines for people with learning disabilities who have mental health needs.



'Living a Good Life'

On 15th May Build for the Future (BILD's group of self advocates) held an event at the Birmingham ICC called 'Living a Good Life'. Sally, a trustee of BILD, gave a welcome speech. Lots of Our Way members attended the event. They listened to people who spoke about their experiences and learnt about the kind of support needed to make great lives. Cath gave a speech about having good support from family and friends and how this has enabled her to lead an independent life.



Alzheimer's Society

Last year our members worked with BILD and the Alzheimer's Society to produce easy read dementia factsheets. These were highly commended at this year's Medical Association Patient Information Awards.



'Get it Together' Learning Disability Day

Scott worked with Worcestershire health workers and volunteers to plan a 'Get it Together' learning disability day at St George V Community Centre in Worcester.



Learning Disability Hate Crime Conference

Representatives from Our Way joined in the debate about hate crime at the Learning Disability Hate Crime conference which was held at Hindlip Hall.



Learning Disability Mortality Review Programme

We worked with Bristol University and helped to develop easy read information leaflets on the Learning Disability Review programme.



West Midlands Regional Forum

During the past two years Sally has been co-chair of the West Midlands Regional Forum. These meetings are an opportunity for Our Way Self Advocates to meet and share information with other self advocacy groups in the West Midlands.



Self Advocacy Group Projects (Continued)

Worcestershire Young Consulters

It has been another busy year for the Young Consulters who have continued to meet and consult with Worcestershire Young People's groups, schools and organisations.

The young consulters attend Worcestershire Transitions Steering Group meetings and Worcestershire's Transition Confirm and Challenge Group where they have the opportunity to represent young people and raise issues that are of importance to them when accessing different services and support networks.



Anti-bullying Week



Young Consulters at Evesham School



Young Consulters

Safe Place Scheme

The Safe Place scheme has now been launched in the Wyre Forest, Redditch, Malvern and Worcester. There are plans to launch it in Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Evesham, Pershore and Tenbury.

We now have over 90 registered Safe Places in Worcestershire. The Worcestershire Safe Place directory can be found on the Our Way website (www.ourway.org.uk).



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.



Visit to see Misty the horse



BBC Mailbox Tour



Camping Trip



Sports Taster Session



Wembley



The Shed



Come Dine With Me

Stars in the Sky (Continued)



Dog Walk in the Wyre Forest

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.



Julie and Craig's Wedding

In June Julie and Craig became Mr and Mrs Powell. They were married in Worcester and Faith was a bridesmaid. The happy couple then went to Cornwall for their honeymoon. We wish them happiness in their future together.



Liberal Stars

The Liberal Stars group is a social group for lesbian, gay or bisexual members. It meets once a month in Droitwich or Kidderminster. The group had a great day out at Gay Pride in Birmingham again this year and have applied to be part of the Grand Parade in 2016. An LGB sex and relationship course is being planned for Spring 2016.

Cath sits on West Mercia Independent Advisory Group for West Mercia Police. She also attends LGBT forums.



Liberal Stars 1st Birthday Party



Gay Pride 2015

DY10

The themed nights at Tribe Nightclub have been very popular with over 80 people attending the Halloween event. If anyone has any ideas for themes for next year, please let Lisa or John know. We would like to say thank you to all the staff at Tribe Nightclub and all the volunteers that have helped keep this project going.



1960's Theme Night



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Halloween Zombie Theme Night

Football Club

The Our Way football club continues to grow. We have been able to register two teams with the FA for the 2015-2016 season - Stars United and Galaxy Stars. Both teams play in the 3 Counties Disability Football league, playing tournaments in Worcestershire, Shropshire and Herefordshire.



Stars United



Galaxy Stars

Sports and Wellbeing Sessions

Our Way members have enjoyed relaxed and friendly sports and wellbeing sessions which have included basketball and football. These sessions have been facilitated by Chris Sloan.



Funders

Children in Need
Police & Crime Commissioner (West Mercia)
Esmée Fairbairn
The Big Lottery Awards for All



Donations

The Football Association
Isaac Grainger
Worcestershire County Council (Councillor Pollock)
Speak Volumes
Edmund Godson Charity
Burlish Park Golf Club (Barchester Open)
Monday Night Group
Mrs PM Trow
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Tenbury
Lodge of St Michael, Tenbury
Applefest, Tenbury
HMP Oakwood, Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton Wanderers



We made £100.45 when members packed bags at Morrisons.

T Shirts

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





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