



Annual Review 2012

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

Our Way Self Advocacy 2011/2012



A message from Our Way's Manager

We have had another very busy and challenging year.

In February I became the new Our Way Manager when Sylvia Lacy retired. Thankfully, we didn't lose Sylvia altogether because she still facilitates the Tenbury advocacy group, Shoot for the Stars, and has recently started supporting a new project - Team Tenbury, which provides sport and leisure opportunities for young people with learning disabilities in Tenbury.

Our Children in Need young people's advocacy groups have continued to be well attended and we have just heard that we have been successful in our bid for 3 more years funding for this work. Included in this funding is money to train Consultants who are young people who will be supported to run focus groups around Worcestershire. They will be asking young people with learning disabilities about what is important to them.

A massive disappointment for us was the loss of funding for the Both Ways service. This has meant we have had to say good bye to Steve Cooper, Martin Jones and Julie Price-Pass. I would like to thank them for all their hard work.

Our other projects have again proved very successful, including our popular Relationship Training Workshops and our new Safer Places project.

The success of Our Way is totally due to our very hard working and loyal team of staff and committed trustees, members and volunteers.

Volunteers are very important to Our Way and we really value their input. If you would like to join us we will give you support and training.

Catherine Quekett

Who's who at Our Way Self Advocacy

Office Staff



Catherine Quekett
**Manager/
Development
Worker
(Both Ways)**



Rachel Fernihough
**Development
Worker
(Both Ways and
Stars in the Sky)**



Caroline Jones
**Development
Worker
(Stars in the Sky
and Groups)**



Margaret Groome
Administrator



Julie Price-Pass
**Development
Worker
(Both Ways)**



Stephen Cooper
**Development
Worker
(Both Ways)**



Martin Jones
**Co-Worker
(Both Ways)**



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



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



Michaela Evans
**Sessional Worker
Team Tenbury**

Board of Trustees 2010 - 2011



Fred Mumford
Chair



Annette Summers
Treasurer



Tom Morden
Company
Secretary



Sue Garbett



Andrew Neville



Sarah Baker



Linda Bullock



Ray Gallier

Message from the Chair

Our Way Self Advocacy is led by people with learning disabilities and their views and ideas play a valuable part in the running of our organisation. We always listen to what our members say they want and need and work hard to find the funding to develop appropriate projects.

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 the Management Group and Board of Trustees who continue to be committed to making sure Our Way continues to provide vital services in Worcestershire.

The financial outlook for the charity sector is becoming more difficult and in the last month we have been hit very hard by the decision of a funder to allow a housing association to take over the running of the Both Ways housing project. Both Ways represented a significant part of our business and meant that we had to let some of our dedicated staff go. However, we are in a stronger financial position than many other charities and are confident that we can find alternative funding and continue to empower vulnerable people.

Fred Mumford
Chair of Trustees

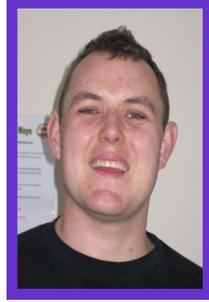
Management Group



Lisa Stokes



Martin Jones



John Ekama



Ray Gallier



Craig Powell

Volunteers



Lin Bullock



Sue Cantello



Nora Mumford



Sarah Baker



Holly Quekett



Helen Smith



Jill Stevenage



Sarah Carey



Sam Morris



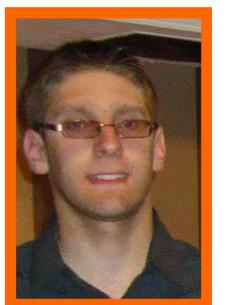
Sam Williams



Gill Hurst



Rachel Wall



Matthew Holder



Dickon Pitt



Carol Kimberley



Nigel Pearson

Self Advocacy Groups

There are 6 self advocacy groups:

Freedom Fighters, Independence 1st and Steps are for self advocates aged 18 or over. Friends United, Shoot for the Stars and the Focus Group are for self advocates aged 13 to 19.

In 2012 self advocates have taken part in lots of different projects. They have raised awareness of their issues and voiced their views and opinions.



Freedom Fighters



Independence 1st



Friends United

Shoot for the Stars

Recent issues that the group have discussed include hate crime, independence, alcohol and drug awareness and keeping safe. The group are making a short film for the Mistletoe Festival.



Shoot for the Stars

Team Tenbury

This new project was set up to offer sport and leisure opportunities for young vulnerable people living in Tenbury and surrounding areas. Members are involved with the Regal Cinema and are busy making a film about their activities.

West Midlands National Forum

We represent Our Way at Regional Forum Meetings in Birmingham.



Build for the Future

We meet at BILD to exchange information and take part in national and regional consultations and discussions such as welfare and healthcare reform - we also talk about human rights.

Birmingham University

We gave a presentation about Self Advocacy to students at Birmingham University.

Safer Places

Seventeen young people have worked with Mencap, West Mercia Police and local businesses to create a 'Safe Place' scheme in Kidderminster.



Barclays Bank Project

We worked with Barclays Bank and BILD to produce an easy read Money Skills and Resource Pack.

In January we went to the House of Commons to meet with our MP, Mark Garnier, and Barclays Bank Directors to launch this project.



Kidderminster Arts Festival

In the summer we worked with local artists and designed and made posters, flags and Olympic lanterns.



Health Champion

Sally Lapsley became a Health Champion and has been part of the West Midlands NHS Self Assessment Team.

Keeping Safe

The Police have met with us and spoken about safe use of social network sites.



Children in Need

The Young People's Group is funded by Children in Need. Members of the Young People's Group had great fun when the BBC came to film them at one of their meetings.



Self Advocacy Groups - Continued



Drug and Alcohol Workshops

Fourteen young people attended a Drug and Alcohol workshop run by Worcestershire Drug and Alcohol Team.

Live UnLtd

Chris Puttock, Janet Richards, Tamsin Shaw and Chris Robins were funded by Live UnLtd to organise 3 projects/events:

- **Worcestershire Wall Website**
- **Fun Day**
- **Variety Show**

Both Chris's have been working with MMC to design a 'What's on in Worcestershire' website.

Janet planned and held a Fun Day in Bewdley

Tamsin is organising a Variety Show to be held at Kidderminster Town Hall.



Stars United

Last season Stars United went to Ludlow, Hereford and Worcester and played in 6 football tournaments.



*Coach
Nigel Pearson*

The team practices regularly at Baxter College in Kidderminster.



Both Ways Housing Project

Sadly, we were unsuccessful in winning the tender to continue providing the Both Ways Housing Service which supported vulnerable people to find somewhere and someone to live with in Worcestershire. Our contract for this project ended on the 31st October 2012.

However, up until then we had a very busy year and succeeded in finding suitable accommodation and housemates for more people.

This year we have worked with 111 people, helping them all to think about their housing options. Some decided they wanted to share and some wanted to live on their own.

We have helped 28 people to find a housemate.

We found accommodation for 14 people and supported 3 others to find their own accommodation.

We have supported 17 people to move into their own house, flat or bungalow.

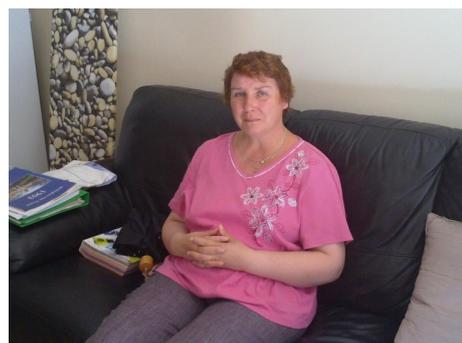
We have supported 19 people to find support to help them keep their tenancies.

We worked with 8 Livewell clients to provide pre-tenancy training and matching. We also helped them write their Housemates' Agreements before they moved into their new homes in Kidderminster and Bromsgrove.

Since the project began we have supported **241** people.



Amelia and Charlotte - Housemates



Sarah - in her new flat

Stars in the Sky Project

Stars in the Sky is a friendship and dating agency for people with disabilities. Membership costs £30 per year.

Over the past year we have organised 32 events and activities across Worcestershire. Below are photos taken at some of the events.



Go Karting in Stourbridge



Laserquest in Malvern



Treasure Trail in Evesham



Karaoke in Worcester



*Michael Jackson
Tribute Act in Redditch*



Summer Ball in Kidderminster



Quiz Night in Droitwich



Drayton Manor Park



*Radio Station Tour
BBC Hereford & Worcester*



*Art Workshop in
Kidderminster*

Adam took part and completed the Birmingham Half Marathon on 21 October. It took him 2 hours 15 minutes and he raised lots of money for Stars in the Sky.



We have supported 27 couples to go on dates.

We have delivered 9 workshops about sex and relationships this year.

Rachel and Caroline have done some more training with the Family Planning Association in London.

The project organised a training event for workers and volunteers on alcohol and drug awareness. Workshops will be held for members in the new year.

This year we have worked with the TV Company, Betty, who are making the second series of the Undateables and we supported a couple to take part in the programme.



DY10 Nightclub Project

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



Lisa

The project has been busy doing lots of theme nights. Some of the theme nights we have done are 'Superheroes', 'Hour of Rock' and 'Back to School'.

We have been busy planning themes for next year.



'Superheroes'

We have about 85 people who come to the project. It is on a Monday night once a month at Home Nightclub, Dixon Street, Kidderminster and tickets cost £3.



'Back to School'



'Hour of Rock'

Funders

Worcestershire County Council

- Supporting People
- LEADER Project

Children in Need

Esmeé Fairbairn

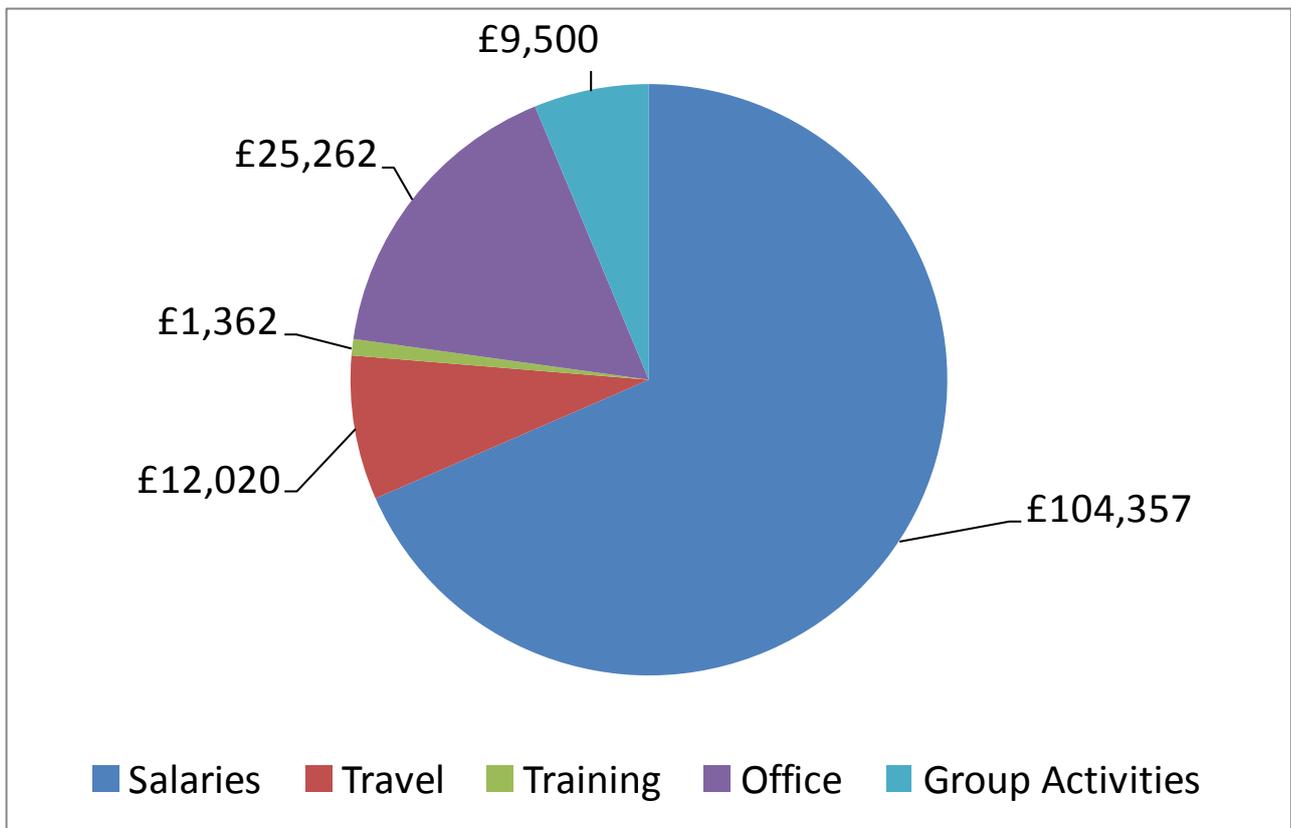


Donations

Adam Sivell
 Burlish Park Golf Club (Ladies Section)
 Carol and Graham Kimberley
 Lodge of St Michael
 Rosie Fernihough
 Tammy Brewster
 Tenbury Dispensary
 Tenbury and District Nursing
 Mrs R Billingsley



How we spent our money



Money that came in

£155,252

Money we spent

£152,501

What we had left

£ 2,751



**Our Way Self Advocacy
First Floor
26 Church Street
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY10 2AR**

**Tel: 01562 820262
E-mail: office@ourway.org.uk
www.ourwayselfadvocacy.com**



**Symbols from
Widgit**

Charity No. 1091939