

ADVOCACY LEADS

Leeds
Advocacy

THE NEWSLETTER OF LEEDS ADVOCACY
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“Speaking out for people with learning disabilities ...”

What a fun run

On the sunny and blustery morning of Sunday 12th June we held our fundraising event in the lovely grounds of Temple Newsam. A group of around 20 keen walkers and wheelers gathered at the start line to warm up and get ready to go, and they all managed to complete the event before the weather took a turn for the worst! All came into the finish line wearing big smiles to have their photo taken and receive their medal.



George Long has managed to retain his title as winner of the race for the 2nd year running, so well done George!

Many thanks to all those who turned up to take part, help out and stand on the sideline to watch and hold the gazebo down as the wind started to pick it up!

We will let you know in the next newsletter how much money has been raised by sponsorship.



It is not too late to donate, and this is how you can do it. You can send a cheque made out to Leeds Advocacy and post it to the office, you can go to the website at www.leedsadvocacy.org.uk and click the button which says ‘Donate Online Now’ which takes you to a secure form where you can enter your credit card details, or you can donate now from your mobile phone all you need to do is send a Text to **70070** the word **LAFR11** then **£3**.

Investors in Volunteers Award

We are very pleased to announce that we have been awarded the Investors in Volunteers Award which recognises good practice in volunteer management. We completed ‘Step 4 - the Assessment Days’ on Thursday May 5th and Friday May 6th. Our Assessor came into Leeds Advocacy for 2 days and interviewed a total of 31 people from the volunteer and staff teams. The Assessor spoke to people individually, in pairs and small groups and the report he has compiled from those interviews contains many quotes from people regarding their thoughts and experiences of Leeds Advocacy. He had selected a sample group from a variety of people of all ages and some of whom have been with the organisation for over 20 years, and also people who have only recently joined us, in order that he would get a wide selection of experiences. The feedback we have received was very positive, and we were very excited to have the award confirmed on 6th July. The report will be available for all to read on the website shortly.

Welcome back!

We are pleased to welcome 3 former service users to our team. Lucy Hamilton and Terri Waite are assisting at the Leep1 office and Cathy West is helping with admin tasks in the Leeds Advocacy office.

Cathy West hard at work in the Leeds Advocacy office



Exciting opportunities!

We are recruiting for paid sessional workers for issue based advocacy work. This is open to our current volunteers.

To find out more, give Fiona a ring on 0113 2440606 for an informal chat.

Leep1 Update

The Leep 1 team have been visited by a Leeds University student called Deborah Fenny. Deborah is doing a research project about people with learning disabilities and their experiences about being environmentally friendly. She talked to us about whether we care about the environment and if so, what we can do to contribute.

June the 9th saw the Leep 1 team attending St James's University NHS Fair. On arrival the team had to do a quiz where they were given an x-ray picture, and had to guess which part of the body the x-ray was from. Also we got to look at lots of bones and skeletons. We saw a Wii fit computer, which the hospital use to help people who have cystic fibrosis for muscle movements and exercising to keep the chest clear.

We are also doing some more work with Norman Campbell at NHS Leeds about safeguarding. Norman has asked us to put together a team of people to go into the community and educate people about where to go for help if they are being abused in any way.



Future of advocacy in Leeds

Commissioners have asked seven advocacy services in Leeds to make efficiency savings from 1st April 2012. Whilst we are not going to enjoy this, we are hoping to look at working more closely than ever with colleagues from other advocacy services. On the morning of Saturday 23rd July we are holding one of our Pizza events at the Unity Business Centre. The meeting is open to members, service users, and advocates of Leeds Advocacy and we will be reporting on our work during the year and our plans for the future.

It's easy to give

A reminder that you can donate any amount of money, however big or small, to Leeds Advocacy via our 'Donate Online Now' button on our website—www.leedsadvocacy.org.uk

If you do any shopping online then you can always use TheGivingMachine. Purchases you make via TheGivingMachine trigger retailer donations to your good causes and you can select Leeds Advocacy as a beneficiary when you make your purchase.

A change of faces

Some of you will know that we have had a change in our administrative staff recently.

Devika Italiya had been working with us on a temporary basis as Referral Administrator since September 2010 and has now left to have a baby. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her all the best for the future.



We have been joined by Faye Feeney who we have recruited as Administration Assistant. Faye started working with us at the end of May and we look forward to a long and happy working relationship with her.

Annual General Meeting Date

Here is a date for your diary ...

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st September 2011.



The meeting will be an evening event this year and it will be held at Jubilee Social Club, Melville Place, Leeds LS6 2LZ.

There will be a bar serving alcohol and soft drinks and we hope it will be a good social occasion, as well as a chance to do all the usual business.

Business papers and agendas will be sent out to members nearer the time. If you would like any more information in the meantime then you can contact katie@leedsadvocacy.org.uk.

We hope to see you there.

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