

Becky in London with the National Supported Loving Campaign

After the successful launch earlier this year, of the new Brothers of Charity Services easy read policy and guidelines entitled 'Love, Sex and Relationships', Becky Gammon has been busier than ever championing the importance of 'Friendships, Love and Relationships' for people with a learning disability.

In 2016, Becky, together with friends and fellow self-advocates from Lancashire and Merseyside, were invited to write a National 'Sex and Relationships' policy for the Brothers of Charity Services, England. This policy was written to help support staff in providing great support with friendships and relationships and with love, sex and sexuality, and staying safe, to name but a few.

Becky and her colleagues were extremely proud of their new policy for staff, but to compliment and accompany the staff policy, they wanted an accessible and easy to read 'Sex and Relationships' policy and guidelines for themselves, for the people who use the Brothers of Charity Services.

Hence the easy read document '**Love, Sex and Relationships**'.

This easy read policy, together with Voice for All's booklet 'How best to support me with Friendships and Relationships' have been shared far and wide and received many positive comments from numerous social care providers, commissioners and professionals from all over Lancashire and the North West of England.

Becky and Voice for All were delighted when Dr. Claire Bates from Choice Support, London contacted Voice for All and wanted to come and meet them. Dr. Bates is the founder of the National 'Supported Loving' Campaign, a campaign to highlight the importance of good support in helping people with learning disabilities develop and maintain loving relationships. <https://www.choicesupport.org.uk/our-work/supported-loving-campaign>

Claire had heard about the creative and innovative work Voice for All were doing in the area of friendships and relationships and was so impressed, particularly with the easy read policy and guidelines, she wanted to share them nationally. Both 'Supported Loving' and 'Paradigm UK' shared and promoted our policy and guidelines as 'best practice' at a national level and they were featured on the world wide web, twitter and Facebook.

When Claire came up from London to visit us she met lots of our colleagues from across the North West and heard lots more about the fantastic work that is being done, especially around sex education and joint training courses, easy read and accessible information, improvement to Sexual Health Services, involvement with PRIDE events and championing the LGBT community.

All this resulted in Becky being invited to come and do a presentation and workshop at the National Supported Loving Conference, Choice Support, Westminster, London, on 5th October.

This was a great honour and it was a pleasure and a privilege to accompany Becky and see her in action. Not only did Becky make lots of new contacts and friends from all corners of the UK, but she made a huge impact with all the delegates regarding the importance of 'Love, Sex and Relationships' for everyone and in raising awareness of people with a learning disability having the right, choice, freedom and support to form meaningful and loving relationships of their choice.

Congratulations Becky and keep up the fantastic work!

John Whitehead

Advocacy and Communications Coordinator





Becky delivering her presentation about developing a 'Sex and Relationship' policy and the importance of 'Love and Relationships' in our lives



Becky, Stephen and Sue talking about the 'Y be Shy about Sex' training course and sharing their positive experiences of joint training with their support staff



Lucy, Stephen, Sue, Becky and John with Sally Warren (Managing Director of Paradigm UK) and Dr Claire Bates (Founder of Supported Loving Campaign)