



Voice for All Advocacy Group



Spring Newsletter

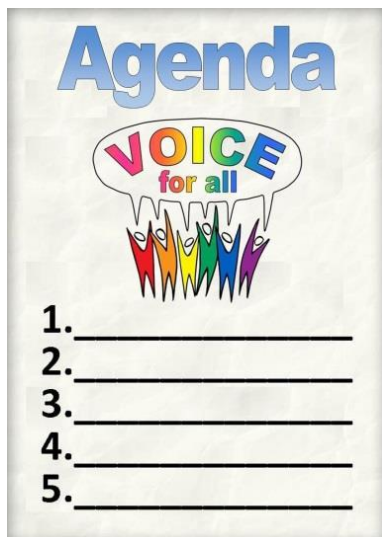
Latest news from Voice for All



Please find below some of Voice for All's latest news and what we have been up to recently;



- The Voice for All committee members continue to work very hard and meet every week to discuss important local, regional and national issues on behalf of everyone using the Brothers of Charity Services and beyond!



- Recent agenda items have included;
 - Meeting our new facilitator Daniel
 - Electing a new Vice Chairperson
 - Reviewing BOC's family questionnaire
 - Blackpool conference 2018
 - VfA action plan and new planning day
 - Planning film nights
 - Party and present for John Whitehead
 - Graveyard at Calderstones
 - Y B Safe training
 - Easyread feedback for Advocacy Focus
 - Lancashire's health and wellbeing event



- **New committee members and Vice Chairperson**



- Following a very successful Annual General Meeting and evening of Celebration in November, members of Voice for All elected 3 new members to join the committee.

- We welcome back Chris Clegg and welcome as first time members Shelly Corlett and Andrew Beattie.



- Becky Gammon was re-elected as Chairperson of the Voice for All Committee.

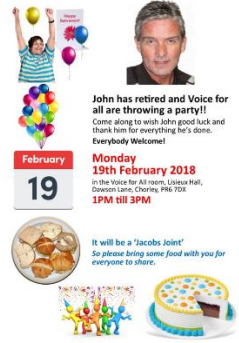


- Clare Whittle was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Voice for All Committee.



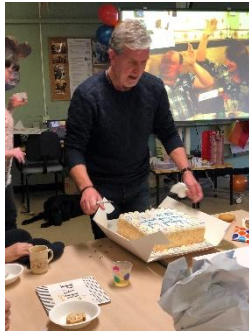
- **Our facilitator and friend John Whitehead retired in December**
And after everything he did for us we couldn't let him go quietly...

John Whitehead retirement party!



We decided to throw a surprise party to say goodbye and thank you for everything he had done. He was very surprised!

We had a Jacobs Join, Music, Speeches and gave him a retirement present.



Almost forgot to mention the fantastic cake made by Rococo, it didn't last very long!



Voice for All want to say to John 'thank you for the music' (he is a fantastic singer!) and also for all the support he has given VfA. We wish him all the luck with his retirement, he's certainly earned it after 30 years!



- **Meet our new facilitator Daniel Hall**

How was he chosen and what is his new role?



Daniel applied for the job, and we met with him in the new year. We asked him some questions and we were happy to confirm him as our new Advocacy Coordinator



Daniel's new role is regional, which means he will be working in Lancashire, Merseyside and Manchester.



He will be supporting and promoting people in each area to use their voice and speak up about things that are important to them, to make things better for everyone. This is known as Advocacy.



Dan is really excited about his new role and is looking forward to working with everyone.



- **You'd hear them Jingle**
Life in an institution



John Thompson and Alan Gunn from VfA told their stories about what life was like in an institution.

Their stories were put into an exhibition that told the public what it was like.



John and Alan went to Clitheroe Castle where it was being shown. They were happy to see that people would know what life was like for people with learning disabilities back then.

You can listen to John, Alan and others talking about their experiences here:

<http://www.lancslearningdisabilityinstitutions.org.uk/content/category/the-mes>



- **Calderstones Graveyard campaign**



What is it about?

Calderstones was a place where people with learning disabilities were sent to live between 1920 and 1995. In that time some who lived there died and were buried there.

The NHS sold the graveyard to a builder in the early 2000's. They want to build over the graves of the people who are buried there.



John Thompson who used to live at Calderstones worked with other people who used to live there to raise awareness, and to try to stop them building over the graves.



John got Voice for All to send off letters to the Bishop of Blackburn to let him know our concerns.



At conference John made a video with 3 other people about why they shouldn't be allowed to build over peoples graves.

You can watch it here:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=l-MkMnAIV3I&feature=youtu.be>



The builders recently wrote to the Bishop of Blackburn to ask him to de-consecrate the graveyard.

De-consecrating something is removing the blessing that was done by a priest. The builders need the blessing taken away to be able to build there.



Fantastic News!

We have just heard the Bishop of Blackburn has said no he will not de-consecrate the land.

This is because he said we were right about where the garden of remembrance is.

This means that no building will happen where people have been laid to rest!



Blackpool Advocacy Conference



13 people from Brothers of Charity Lancashire went to conference this year. We arrived at the Hilton on the 27th of February. Once we had settled in, we chose our workshops for the next day and then went to the main room where Jason Rhodes welcomed us with his famous saying 'I'm back.'



We enjoyed Mark and Phil's famous music quiz on the first night. We had Lizzie on our table who knew most of the answers. We scored very high but lost to a group from Liverpool. We all agreed they were cheating.



Day 2 got started with some Zumba. This really helped wake everyone up. We then went on to our workshops. Some of the workshops were, supported loving, bad relationships, and men's and women's health.



It was then time for the gala dinner, where we enjoyed a 3 course meal! We then danced and sang the night away. There was Karaoke where John sang 'Edelweiss' from the Sound of Music, and Lizzie sang 'She Bangs' by none other than Ricky Martin.



On the last day Daniel and Becky did a workshop with Sue and Lucy from the U-Night group. It was all about being safe in relationships, everyone who came said they enjoyed it.



Finally we met with the bosses from Lancashire County Council. We told them we want more support with friendships and relationships. The bosses said they had some money to support us with relationships, and we all agreed it should go to Meet N Match so they can expand their work to support even more people in Lancashire to develop friendships and relationships.



Y B Safe training course



Becky and Dan have been doing a train the trainer course about how to stay safe in relationships.



The course is for service users and their staff and aims to teach people about:

- Being safe online
- Healthy relationships
- Un-healthy relationships
- How to say no
- What is consent
- Where to go for help

It is delivered through a mix of practical tasks, group work and discussion and games. It is a very interactive course.



If you want to do the course or want some more information contact Daniel Hall on:

Office: 01257 248859 Mobile:07436790069

Or email: daniel.hall@brothersofcharity.org.uk



Advocacy Focus and Change workshop



John and Dan went to a workshop in Leeds all about advocacy, here is what we did and talked about:

- Discussion 'what does advocacy mean to you'
- Group work 'what is it like to have/not have power'
- Forum theatre exercise in groups.
- Group discussion 'how do we make change happen'

This was a really interesting day where we got to share lots of ideas and meet lots of new people from across the Northwest.



Voice for All at the Anderton Centre



On the 16th April we went to the Anderton Centre to see if we could set a partnership up, so people from BOC could do outdoor activities.



We got to try 2 activities, Archery and Bush craft (learning to make fires). The group really enjoyed the day and think a lot of people at BOC would enjoy going there. We are waiting to hear from the centre about what they can do for us.



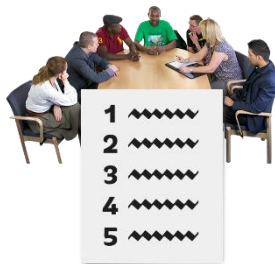
Runshaw College recruitment fare



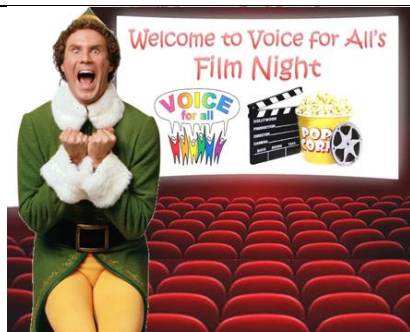
On the 25th April Dan and Becky went to a recruitment fare at Runshaw College with Lisa and Millie. We got to talk to lots of young people about coming to work for BOC and what a fantastic job being a support worker is.



Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Patient Advisory Group (PAG)



We continue to meet and work with Dawn at the CCG and recently attended a PAG meeting and a meeting to come up with new branding for the group.



Ongoing monthly film nights



We watched '*Gnomeo and Juliet*' in March and '*Secret life of pets*' in April.

Our next film night has not been decided, but stay tuned for a date!



Voice for All is starting a new events and finance group!



The new group will plan Lancashire's events such as:

- The Halloween disco
- AGM
- Valentines disco
- Film nights
- Coffee mornings

They will also look after VfA's monies.

If you are interested contact a member of VfA or Daniel Hall.



As always Voice for All continues to meet and work with all our partners across Lancashire and the North West.

We are presently meeting and working with;



- Chorley and South Ribble and Greater Preston CCG's (*Clinical Commissioning Groups*) and the CCG Patient Advisory Group



- Lancashire Friends and Relationships Group and associated partners



- Lancashire LGBT group



- Ian Weedall from Advocacy Focus



- Lancashire County Council Learning Disability Commissioners and Partnership Board



- North West Training and Development Team and Pathways Associates



- North West 'Being Safe' Group
- North West 'Living Well' Group
- North West Regional Forum
- North West National Campaigns Forum



- Caritas Care and REACT and other Lancashire advocacy groups and providers



- Meet 'N' Match Learning Disability Friendship and Dating Agency (Lancashire)



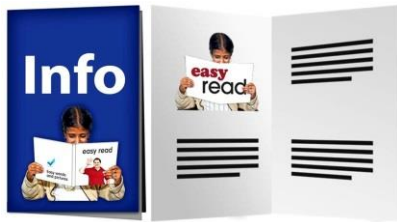
- Dr Claire Bates and the National 'Supported Loving' Campaign



- Healthwatch Lancashire



- The Brothers of Charity Services Senior Management Team



If you would like any more details or information about any of the above, please contact Voice for All or Daniel Hall at Lisieux Hall



Please remember that Voice for All is **your** advocacy group and we represent and speak up on behalf of everyone using the Brothers of Charity Services in Lancashire.



If you ever need our help and support for yourself or someone you support, or simply want to contact Voice for All please use the Voice for All contact form (*see back of newsletter*)

Contact forms are also available from any Voice for All committee member



You can find out much more about Voice for All by visiting our webpage



Voice for All Advocacy Group

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Telephone **01257 248856** or **01257 266311**

Email voiceforall@brothersofcharity.org.uk

Web brothersofcharity.org.uk/lancashire/about-us/voice-for-all/



Thank you and bye for now!



Kind regards

*The Voice for All Committee
Members*







I would like to tell Voice for All...

Something that is **working well for me** and that I am **happy** about is

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Signed Date



Please complete and return your form to:

Voice For All, Lisieux Hall, Whittle le Woods, Chorley PR6 7DX



I would like to tell Voice for All...

Something that is **not working well for me** and that I am **not happy** about is

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