



The Annual Report of Worcestershire Association of Service Users 2011



"Together we aim to be a stronger voice for service users in
Worcestershire"

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Charity Number: 1116390

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ABOUT WASU

WASU is a registered charity run by a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees are all volunteer service users from varying user groups. The Chief Executive provides support and advises the board of trustees who make all final decisions on the direction and strategy of the organisation.

WASU was successful in June 2010 in securing the services of a former soldier of the Crown, Mr Scott Barnes. Scott came to WASU through the Government funded Future Job Fund for a period of six months. At the end of this period WASU decided to keep him in the position of Development Assistant.

Every year WASU holds an AGM to celebrate its achievements for the year and to agree the accounts. Elections take place so that new Trustees can join the board. All service user members are invited to the AGM and have the opportunity to vote.

Mission & Vision

WASU aims to break down barriers which stop people remaining in control of their own lives and to change people's ways of thinking and working with people who use services. We believe that people of all ages and abilities have the right to the support and services they require to enable them to participate fully in their communities.

We also believe that people with physical and sensory impairments, learning difficulties or mental health problems, together with older people, are all at risk of exclusion.

CHAIRPERSON Winston Davis

Permit me to begin by expressing my sincere thanks and appreciation on behalf of Worcestershire Association of Service Users (WASU) board of trustees, our chief executive Zana Collins, members and everyone who has contributed to make the last twelve months a period of steady progress in WASU's efforts cement its place and values as an organisation which promotes and represents the interests of people living with disabilities here in the County of Worcestershire and beyond our boundary.

During the year we regretfully accepted the resignation from the board of trustees of Tracey Murphy who was also our treasurer due to her move to full time employment; we take this opportunity to thanked Tracey for her contribution to the work of WASU and wish her every success in her future endeavours. I am pleased also to report that we have been able to recruit two new members to WASU's board of trustees, they are Dave Robson, a senior lecturer at University College Worcester and Jim Tustain. WASU need more trustees so if you will like to serve in that capacity then please speak to me or Zana.

WASU through the efforts of its chief executive sort and gained financial support from Access to Volunteering which enable WASU to team up with TIME4PEOPLE to deliver training to their members over a six months period, the course were geared towards empowering people with disabilities to gain confidence to speak up for themselves and others, at the end of the training course each precipitant received a certificate. Our thanks go to Chris Clarke, Ian Parkhill and Stuart Hendry for delivering the training. Also WASU remain contracted and committed to delivering training on such topic as the importance of self management for people living with long term conditions and to understand the personal perspective of using services to student at UCW.

As an active member of the steering group for Worcestershire Coalition of Independent Living (WCIL), WASU accepted the responsibility to be the accountable organisation for Worcestershire Coalition of Independent Living (WCIL); this involves WASU receiving the sum of £17,000 from Worcestershire County Council as part of WCIL budget covering a six months period. I am pleased to let you know that we discharged our duties efficiently.

As part of our commitment to Worcestershire County Council WASU is collecting information on Supermarkets to gain a better understanding of how helpful is their efforts and actions in creating a shopping experience that empowers people with disabilities.

At our AGM last year a new member of staff was introduced to you, Scott Barnes, Scott came to us through the government funded future job fund program for a period of six months, his role as development assistant officer were to assist in progressing the ULO/WCIL project. I am pleased to inform you that Scott is still with us, however, he is now employ by WASU and we are making every effort to keep him in position.

Finally, as we contemplate the next twelve months, I would like to see many more members coming forward to give support to the hardcore of members presently shouldering the ever increasing workload, especially as we seek to strengthen our position by becoming more involved in providing services in the areas of mentoring and peer support. Your organisation needs you. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you.

Winston Davis



CHIEF EXECUTIVE Zana Collins

Our Annual AGM took place on the 6th July 2011 at the Perdiswell Young People's Centre, Worcester.

Chair of WASU opened the AGM and covered the main WASU business and yearly accounts. The Chair extended an invitation to any member interested in becoming a Trustee to contact us. Our AGM had two excellent key speakers; Peter Ashley, as a service user, talked about "living with Dementia". He has a wealth of experience within the Mental Health sector. He is a Councillor (Governor) for his local Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust. In addition he sits as a member of the Royal College of Physicians Medicines Forum and is Patron of South West Yorkshire Mental Health Collaborative. WASU has a copy of his full Biography and presentation available on request. All present were inspired and interested. His experience was positive and encouraging to our members.

Our second key speaker was Alison Hall, a Community Specialist Nurse for South Worcestershire. The talk covered the role of a Diabetes nurse and the importance of self management of Diabetes. She told us of signs to look out for and how Diabetes is treated. Members found it informative and a good opportunity to ask questions.

WASU successfully teamed up with TIME4PEOPLE to deliver training over a six months period. The training was aimed at empowering Service Users to represent themselves and other service users at meetings, training events etc. Many thanks go to Chris Clarke for her support, time and commitment to the project. All members who took part received a certificate for attending and completing the 2 day training.

WASU's AGM afternoon session carried out workshops to look at upcoming projects. We engaged the service users and participants to give their views on the content of these projects.

WASU wishes to express its thanks to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Adult & Community Service - Customer Engagement team. WASU continues to

teach students at the University of Worcester on a wide range of modules, including

Social workers, professional nurses, paramedics and sport students. Due to the high quality and valued input from WASU and its service user members in this context, WASU has secured another 12 months contracted hours from Sept 2011- August 2012.

We continue to promote service user input and aim to increase the contract with University of Worcester for 2011 – 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the lecturers for their support and willingness to advocate service user involvement in their modules. WASU gives special thanks to Dave Robson, Miriam Isaacs and Deb Evans for their support and time throughout the year. WASU has been asked to do additional modules to a wider range of courses.

WASU Supermarket Checkout project is ongoing. We continue work with local supermarkets, asking if they offer shopping assistance services and to promote WASU to offer Disability Training. A report of the findings will be undertaken January/February 2012. WASU continues to apply for funds, bidding with a view to secure WASU's future after Dec 2011. Without our members and volunteers, WASU would not be here. WASU wishes to say "thank you" to all of them for their support, representation at meetings and, of course, training.

Zana Collins



TREASURER Les Whitehouse

The reserves increased during the year to 31 March 2011 whilst still covering the budgeted activity programme.

The figure for Net Current Assets as at 31 March 2011 was approximately £2000 higher than the previous year end due mainly to better collection of monies owing. The income for the year 2010/2011 was increased by more specialist training services from WASU to the extent of approximately £8000.

The Service Level Agreement Grant from Worcestershire County Council was higher by £1500 than that received in the previous year, the planned activities for current year (April 2011 to March 2012) will be adversely affected by the decision made by the Worcestershire County Council to discontinue the Service Level Agreement to WASU after 31 December 2011.

As a result of the loss of funding from the Worcestershire County Council, it is inevitable that the reserves will be fully exhausted by 31 March 2012.

This will therefore place WASU in a position from which it will not be able to continue to operate.

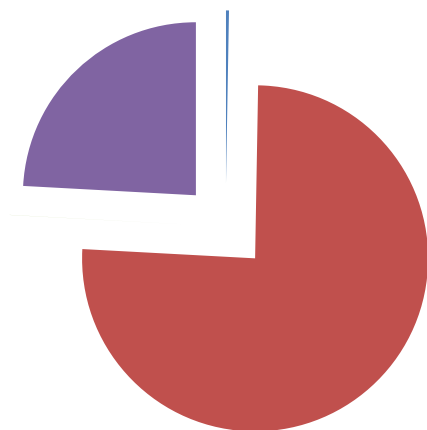
Les Whitehouse



SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2010 - 2011

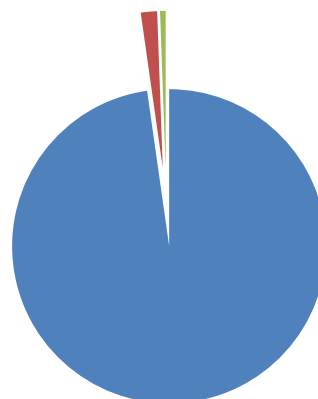
INCOME 2010-11	£	EXPENDITURE 10-11	£
Voluntary Income	145	Charitable	49,056
Service Grants & SLA's	39,500	Governance	840
Investment Income	3	Depreciation	287
Service & Training Fees	12,616		
TOTAL	52,264	TOTAL	50,183

INCOME 2010-11



- Voluntary Income
- Service Grants & SLA's
- Investment Income
- Service & Training Fees

EXPENDITURE 10-11



- Charitable
- Governance
- Depreciation

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March 2011

	2010 - 2011		2009 - 2010	
FIXED ASSETS	£	£	£	£
Tangible Assets		-		287
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	4,228		8,323	
Cash at Bank	23,469		14,486	
	<u>27,697</u>		<u>22,809</u>	
CREDITORS	7,292		4,772	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>20,405</u>		<u>18,037</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>20,405</u>		<u>18,324</u>
RESERVES				
Unrestricted		20,405		21,610
Restricted		-		-
		<u>20,405</u>		<u>3,286</u>
		<u>20,405</u>		<u>18,324</u>



trustees

Winston Davis
Simon Heng
Jenny Shales
John Tempest
Berni Powell
David Robson
Jim Tustain

WASU IS YOUR VOICE

Telephone, Write, Email or Visit Us in Person...

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