

Relationships Policy Launch



Voice for All (VFA) held a launch party for the new Brothers of Charity Services in England's 'Love, Sex and Relationships' easy read policy on Valentine's Day. The launch party was attended by many people from across the service as well as friends, colleagues and partners from across the North West.

In 2016 Voice For All created a new National 'Sex and Relationships' policy. This was produced in partnership with the 'Pleased to Meet You' self-advocacy group in Merseyside. The policy is very much aimed at support staff to help them whenever they are supporting people with friendships and relationships. But to accompany and compliment this policy, members of 'Voice For All' and 'Pleased to meet you' wanted to write an 'easy read' version of the policy and produce some clear guidelines and information for all the people who use the Brothers the Charity Services.

Becky Gammon, the chair person of VFA and other members of VFA's Relationship sub-group, worked closely with John Whitehead, Advocacy and Communication Coordinator, to create this much needed and long awaited document entitled 'Love, Sex and Relationships'.

At the celebration to officially launch the easy

read policy and booklet, Becky delivered a wonderful presentation on behalf of VFA and the BOCS, explaining what the 'Love, Sex and Relationships' policy is about and what it means to herself, her colleagues, and everyone that we support at the Brothers of Charity Services and beyond.

After Becky's presentation, everyone celebrated the launch with party poppers, and a glass of bucks fizz. Delicious cupcakes and biscuits from Roccoco were also served at the celebration event with tea and coffee.



Please turn to page 4 for the second part of this article.



Inside this Issue



Digni-tea for Dignity Action Day - Page 2



SelectionBOCS Days Out - Page 3



Voice for All AGM Celebration - Page 5



Pastoral Group Trip to Whalley Abbey - Page 6



Christmas Card Competition 2016 Winner - Page 8

Digni-tea for Dignity Action Day at Lisieux Hall

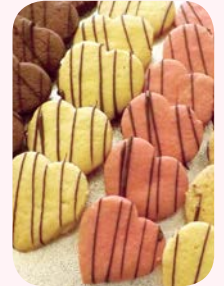
Brothers of Charity Services celebrated Dignity Action Day by holding Digni-tea parties across their services in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside. Our Digni-tea parties were a great way of raising awareness of the importance of Dignity in care as well as being an enjoyable day for the people we support.

Brothers of Charity Services in Lancashire held their Digni-tea party on Friday 3rd February in the Voice for All Room at Lisieux Hall. We invited the people we support and staff to come along for a hot drink, a slice of cake and for a chat about Dignity in care. Roccoco, our coffee lounge social enterprise in Leyland, provided delicious heart shaped biscuits for the event which everyone enjoyed!

The event also featured a beautiful handmade Digni-tree created by the Art Department!

Everyone at the party was able to add a message of what Dignity means to them to our Digni-tree which is now on display in the Voice for All Room at Lisieux Hall.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Digni-tea party a success!



Volunteer Case Study: Meet Jackie from Pet's Corner

I have volunteered at Pets Corner since August 2016. I feel a real part of the team and I really enjoy the time I spend here.

I deal with all aspects of caring for the animals and ensuring their health and wellbeing. I love animals so this is an ideal role for me; especially when there are new chicks and baby rabbits! But just as much, I love working with the people with learning disabilities and the staff.

I support people and encourage them to be involved in all activities. I love to see them doing things they have not attempted before. When they begin to do jobs for themselves, it builds up their self-confidence to do more. Even the simple jobs like sweeping up can be done together.

I encouraged a person who is supported, to



provide food and water for the chipmunks and hens. At first he was wary of them and lacked confidence to go into the cages. After some time, he is able to go into the cages himself and is really pleased that he can hold a chicken!

I am aware how important it is to help others achieve things, as the volunteer role has helped build up my own self confidence and feelings of self-worth.

I attended a Training Session at Lisieux Hall and I was quite nervous initially. I felt I was 'thrown in at the deep end!' But once I had been there a while, I ended up being the volunteer demonstrating to others how things should be done! I was really pleased I managed to do this.

I hope that other people will give volunteering a try and they will see the positive benefits that it can bring. Eventually, I hope to gain employment in this area of work. But, for the moment, I am very happy to continue volunteering at Brothers of Charity Services and I have asked for another day here at Pets Corner!

Crafty Uniforms Free Valentine's Day Craft Session

Crafty Uniforms held a free craft session on 14th February, from 11am to 12:30pm, at Café Connect in the Living Waters Church, Chorley.

The team had brought along art supplies for people to make beautiful hanging love birds. Children and adults joined in with the craft activity and everyone was very proud of what they made to take home!

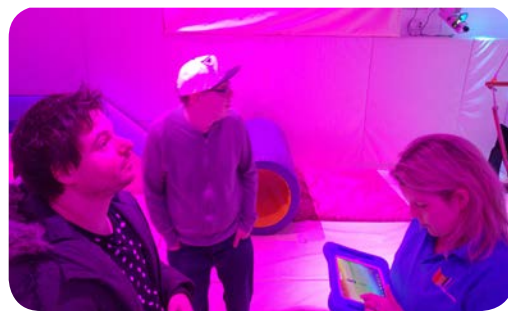
After a very busy morning of helping out, Emma and Kate were able to relax and enjoy their lunch and a coffee in the café.

Crafty Uniforms are holding their next free craft session in Café Connect during the Easter holidays, the date is yet to be confirmed.

Please visit www.facebook.com/CraftyUniforms to keep up to date with what's happening at Crafty Uniforms!



SelectionBOCS - Our Recent Days Out



SelectionBOCS have been very busy going on lots of day trips over the last few months. They have visited Galloway's Society for the Blind in Chorley, The Space Centre in Preston and the White Bear Studios in Chorley!

Continued from article on the front page.

Sue Sharples, who produces and delivers the 'Y Be Shy About Sex' training courses for people with learning disabilities, and a good friend of Voice for All, was invited to speak at the event and was given some lovely flowers as a thank you gift for the support and guidance she has given to VFA throughout their journey of writing the 'Love, Sex and Relationships' policy.

Sue gave some very kind words and said how pleased she was that VFA had created such a fantastic easy read policy and how proud they should feel.

Darron Grundy, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Brothers of Charity Services in England gave the closing speech. Darron talked about how important the values of 'love' and 'relationships'

are to the Brothers of Charity Services and to each and every one of us. He also said he was extremely proud and grateful, and congratulated the 'Voice for All' and 'Pleased to meet you' advocacy groups and thanked them for producing two excellent policies which are 'National' policies for the Brothers of Charity Services in England.

For the rest of the launch party, the people who attended enjoyed celebrating and dancing.

VFA have already had some fantastic feedback from lots of colleagues and partners from across the whole North West, for producing such a fantastic and much needed policy and booklet.



Valentine's Day Disco

On 10th February, Voice for All welcomed lots of friends, old and new, to their Annual Valentine's Disco at St Joseph's Club in Chorley.

The 'Friday Night Out' started at 7pm with disco dancing to the wonderful sounds of 'TABU', who were our live band and entertainment for the evening. Tony and Andrea have performed for us on many occasions and never fail to disappoint. They soon got everyone in the mood, not only for dancing but also in the mood for 'love'!

The bar was open all night long and we had a delicious hot pot supper and a super raffle with lots of fantastic prizes.

It was such a fun night and great to see so many people enjoying themselves and great to feel so much 'love' in the room! Happy Valentine's Day everyone and let the love continue throughout the year!



Annual General Meeting Celebration

In November Voice for All held their Annual General Meeting at St Joseph's Social Centre in Chorley. Once again it was a fantastic night and a wonderful evening of celebration. Clare and Becky (Voice for All's Chairperson and Vice Chairperson) welcomed all their members and guests and shared all the news, events and achievements from the previous year. Voice for All have had yet another very busy and successful year and had lots of reasons to celebrate.

The evening turned out to be a great party with live music from 'TABU', a delicious Hot Pot supper, a raffle, bar and disco dancing all night long.

As usual, one of the important parts of the evening was for members to elect new members to the Voice for All committee. The committee this year had 3 vacancies and we are pleased to say that Becky and Luke received the most votes. In joint 3rd place was Clare and Alex and we are delighted that the committee has agreed for both Clare and Alex to join Becky and Luke onto the committee as newly elected members. Becky, Luke, Clare and Alex will serve on the committee for 2 years. Becky as Vice Chairperson will be stepping into the position of Chairperson for Voice for All in 2017.

Congratulations to everyone and a big thanks to all those who came and supported the event! We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!



Update from the Pastoral Group

Whalley Abbey Retreat Visit

The Saturday before Advent a large group of us, including carers and guests, made our way over to Whalley Abbey Retreat Centre for a quiet day.

Andrew, the Pastoral Leader, had organised the programme for the day, which began with coffee and biscuits before we assembled our fellowship, which was to become both a reflective and thoughtful way in which we thought about Advent and Christmas.

Many thoughts were shared, from 'What means the most about Christmas to us'. We thought about family, the joy of exchanging presents, the Christmas Dinner and looking back on past Christmases with thoughts of people no longer with us.

After a break and sharing a lovely lunch together, we resumed our programme with Andrew showing us some very inspirational videos to help us think of the main reason for Advent as Christians. It is a waiting time, a time to prepare ourselves for celebrations of the birth

of a baby boy, who was to become the saviour of the world, Jesus Christ.

We ended our day with Andrew giving us an assortment of instruments for us to sing praises and lift our hearts to the joy of being in fellowship with God and at one with each other.

We returned home with all of us feeling enriched and inspired by the whole day's events.

Thank you to Andrew for preparing and leading this day for us all.



Friends in Faith Christmas Party

This year, as usual, we celebrated our Friends in Faith Christmas Party on the 9th January at St Chad's Parish Centre.

We started off with 'pass the parcel' which had been made by Mary, each time a layer of paper came off there was a prize inside, which delighted everyone. Our next game was 'bingo' but they took a long time for each one as our caller Michael was very much a novice and kept mixing things up like 'on its own blind ninety'. We all had such a good laugh at Michael expense but he didn't get upset.

Sue from St Chad's provided an excellent buffet, there wasn't much left by the time we had all eaten what we wanted. To finish the evening we had our raffle. All of our prizes had been donated by members of the group and each person went home with a raffle prize.

Why not come and join our group? We would love to meet you. All the details are in the Pastoral Programme 2017.



New Chaplain

I am pleased to inform you that Father Piotr Boczula sdb took up residence in the Brothers Community House on the 6th September 2016.

As you are probably aware, we didn't have a chaplain in the previous year which caused some difficulties in running our pastoral activities.

Fr Charles Garrick sdb from Bolton kindly agreed to come every Sunday and to say Mass for us but we didn't have a minister to celebrate funerals



in our chapel and to help us with other pastoral events.

Fr Piotr (Peter) will be available to administer the Sacraments to any of our Residents that ask or need them. He will also say Mass every Sunday for any Residents of the Campus that wish to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr Charles for his service and his commitment. He will be hugely missed!

Andrew Kesiak

Leyland in Bloom 2017 at The Walled Garden

Children's Workshop - Build a Bug Hotel

Join us for a free interactive session at The Walled Garden on Monday 10th April 2017 and help build a Bug Hotel!

The session will be between 10am and 12 noon.

The Walled Garden is located in Worden Park on Worden Lane in Leyland. Everyone is welcome to join us!

For more information contact The Walled Garden on 07834 480 375.



BOCS 5-a-Side Football Tournament

Brothers of Charity Services are holding a 5-a-Side Football Tournament!

BOCS in Lancashire will hold their tournament on Friday 31st March 2017 at Lisieux Hall.

If you are interested in taking part in the football tournament, please sign up yourself or as a team!

Contact the Marketing Team on marketing@brothersofcharity.org.uk for a sign-up sheet or download a copy on our website: www.brothersofcharity.org.uk/england/bocs-5-a-side-football-tournament/.

Please take note that there will be a limit of 4 teams per tournament!

Sign-up sheets will need to be returned to the Reception at Lisieux Hall by Friday 17th March.

The winning team will play BOCS in Merseyside's winning team at our Heritage Day at Lisieux Hall. Date yet to be confirmed.



Christmas Card Competition 2016 Winner

Throughout October and November we held a Christmas Card Competition. It was open for the people we support to enter a festive design which could then be chosen to be Brothers of Charity Services in England's 2016 Corporate Christmas card.

We had so many amazing entries from across Lancashire; it was extremely difficult to decide on a winner! We chose a card that really stood out to us and felt like they summed up Christmas perfectly.

Congratulations to Emma, who was supported by Crafty Uniforms. Your bright and colourful Christmas tree really caught our eye!

Thank you to everyone who had submitted a Christmas card and to the support that was given to make them. The effort that had been put in to creating the designs was superb!

We look forward to seeing everyone's entries for our 2017 Christmas Card competition!



Runners-up Christmas Card Entries

Closing Date for the Summer edition of VoiceBOCS

The closing date for submission of articles for the next edition of VoiceBOCS is **Friday 30th June 2017**. Are you going holiday, having a day out, celebrating a birthday or would like to tell us about a hobby? Let us know about it!

Please email your articles and photographs to marketing@brothersofcharity.org.uk.

VoiceBOCS Information

VoiceBOCS is available to download on our website: www.brothersofcharity.org.uk. You can have your own personal copy emailed to you by supplying your e-mail address to info@brothersofcharity.org.uk. If you would like to arrange a copy to be sent out by post contact Lisieux Hall Reception on 01257 266 311.

www.brothersofcharity.org.uk

[f/Brothersofcharity](https://www.facebook.com/Brothersofcharity) [t/BOCS_England](https://twitter.com/BOCS_England)