



N.O.W

Annual Report

April 2020 – March 2021

www.speakeasynow.org.uk

Charity number 1106914



A year of overcoming challenges

“Making Voices Even Stronger”

Introduction



During these unprecedented times it has been an absolute delight to be a Trustee for an organisation that has not only adapted to working remotely but has continued to thrive.

By being both collaborative and straightforward Speakeasy has ensured that those of us, in the community, who have trouble at the best of times in communicating, have been able to feel supported, signposted and listened to.

Jacqui

Board of Trustees, Co-chair

It was a difficult year last year because of Covid-19.

My mum had to move into nursing care and I had to find a flat to live on my own. This was all held up because of Covid-19.

It's been an anxious time for everyone.

Some of our members have felt scared to go out and lonely when it was the lockdown. But we have still carried on working at Speakeasy in a different way.

We've had chat groups and done quizzes on FaceTime and our "Cookalong" group have continued to meet up and cook together, that's been fun. We have had some laughs and felt less alone through doing this. Zoom has been more difficult for some but a new experience for others.



Ray

Board of Trustees, Co-chair



I would like to thank everyone at Speakeasy N.O.W for pulling together and yet still achieving so much, for people with learning disabilities, during this last year.

In adapting the way, we work, it's made us focus more on what's important to our members as well as in our own lives within our own communities.

The icing on the cake has been our successful application for Community Lottery funding which will allow us to grow and develop our services to be more sustainable over the next 4 years.

Sandra

Chief Officer

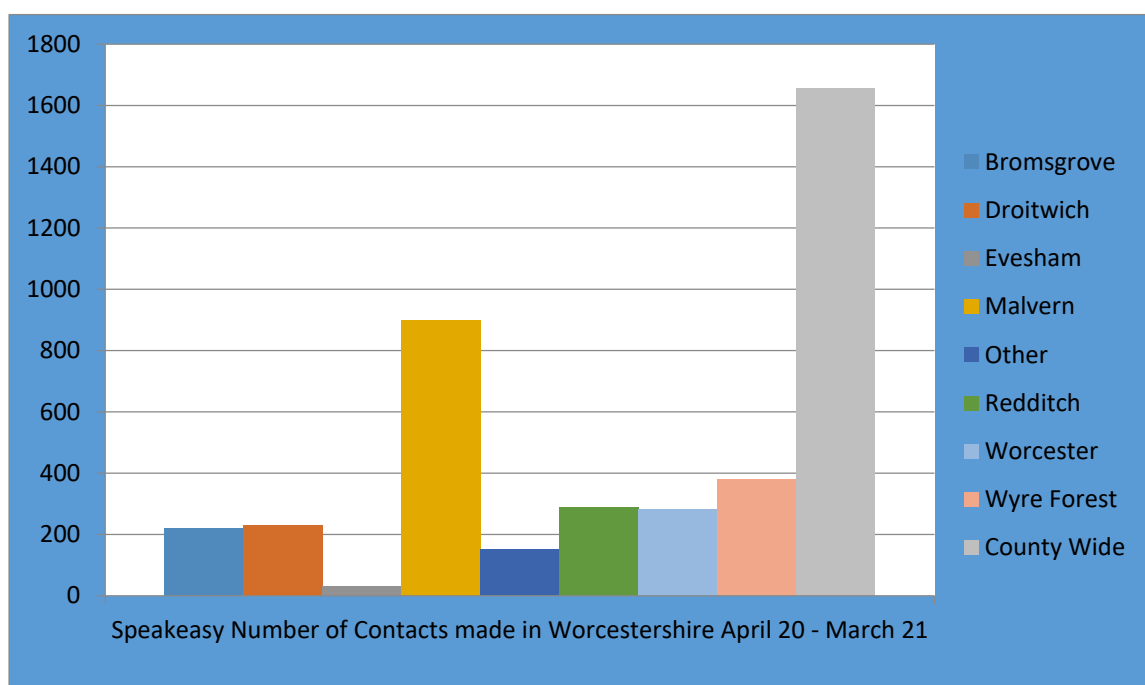
A year of overcoming challenges

It's been a challenging year for everyone. When Covid-19 hit and we went into lockdown, Speakeasy N.O.W. were all set up to continue their work remotely.

We changed the way we worked with our Expert Members, colleagues and other organisations. We supported people in lots of ways and ensured that we shared accessible easy read information, to keep people up-to-date with the latest guidelines.



Our meetings continued using Zoom and other methods of communication to reach out.



Speakeasy N.O.W. staff made over **4,200 contacts** with our members and other stakeholders in Worcestershire during the lockdown between April 2020 and March 2021.

We also sent out over **1,650 messages** with helpful information updates to large groups of people across the county to keep everyone informed of the latest news and how to stay safe.

People contacted us about their worries and concerns, these included things like:

**Information
Sharing
(45%)**

**Isolation
and
loneliness
(24%)**

**Mental
Health
(14%)**

**Physical
Health
(9%)**

Other Reasons (5%) things like preparing for meetings, support and general reassurance.

Our Expert Members

Speakeasy N.O.W. is a user led organisation – people with real life experience speaking up for themselves and others.

Expert Members have worked diversely using new technology and found new ways of sharing information.



**Our chat groups
became a fun and
informative way of
sharing information
and keeping
everyone's spirits
up**

Our Expert Members have continued to work with Worcestershire County Council's Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB). This means that issues that affect them can be raised at local government level.

Our Expert Members sit on the Board with other professionals.

Our Expert Members also got involved in:

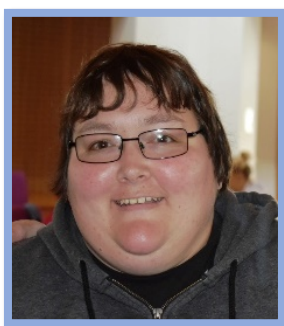
- Successfully challenging the Government on its vaccine programme priorities
- Raising issues about the quality of care with the Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Presenting to the Provider Forum on quality of care issues
- Promoting information sharing on Covid-19 guidance and advice
- Worked closely with Worcestershire People's Parliament on issues arising from Covid-19



Transforming Care Partnership (TCPs)

TCPs are made up of Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England's specialised commissioners and local authorities.

Transforming Care is all about improving health and care services so that more people with a learning disability and/or autistic people can live in the community, with the right support, and close to home. This means that fewer people will need to go into hospital for their care.



Rachel is our Lead Expert by Experience for our work with the TCP. Rachel sits on the panel at Care and Treatment Reviews (CTRs) to inform and advise. Rachel will review and discuss, with other professional panel members, the care and treatment plans for patients who are in locked NHS facilities.

During lockdown, these meetings took place via Microsoft Teams.



Health Checkers continued their meetings using Zoom.

The group also attended 7 Health Webinars, and 3 Health Watch Zoom Events.

Health Checkers also get involved with **LeDeR (Learning Disability Mortality (death) Review programme)**

They also they attended 3 LeDeR Priority Action Groups.

Research shows that people with a learning disability die earlier than the general public and do not receive the same quality of care as people without a learning disability.



Health Checkers have also completed questionnaires about:



- ✓ Covid-19
- ✓ GP Services
- ✓ Annual Health Checks
- ✓ Reasonable Adjustments
- ✓ Digital Access



Health Checkers
chat group
meeting – using
Zoom





As with our other groups, we couldn't hold our usual face to face meetings.

We held Zoom meetings every 2 weeks and extra meetings leading up to the debate.

This year our theme was **'The Coronavirus Experience for People with Learning Disabilities, in Worcestershire'**

We published this report in January 2021. It was launched in February 2021, 49 people attended on Zoom.

We held an online debate on 4th March 2021 and 51 people attended.

Here are a couple of the 17 pledges that we received:

- Worcestershire County Council Commissioners pledged to develop a communication strategy for people with learning disabilities that would underpin the Learning Disability Strategy which is currently being revised. They will also include promoting and developing opportunities for community engagement.
- Speakeasy N.O.W. to provide Learning Disability Awareness Training to a Housing Association and the Lifestyle Service Providers
- Learning Disability Social Care Teams pledged to ensure communication needs, including support to access technology, was included in support planning

**Worcestershire
People's Parliament
Workshop discussing
the effects of Covid-19**

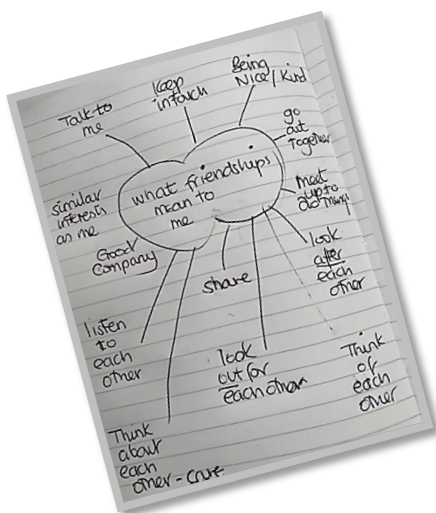


Some of the things that our Expert Members did, during lockdown



We supported the
NHS with our rainbow
artwork





In June 2020, during Learning Disability Week, our Expert Members talked about the importance of friendships



Our 'Online Cookalong' became very popular and gave people some new recipe ideas - from sweet and sour dishes to mince pies!



Our talented members Ruby and Emma decided to get creative in a different way.



Our Countywide Self-Advocacy Groups

During Covid-19 our group facilitators kept in touch, with group members, using different communication methods. This could be a telephone call or even a meet up using WhatsApp.



On a sunny afternoon in July, our Comet Self-Advocacy Group members were able to hold a socially distanced meet up.

The group meet in Malvern, Worcestershire.

For more information about our countywide Self-Advocacy groups, email: mail@speakeasynow.org.uk

When people started to have the Covid-19 jab, a lot of people had worries and concerns.

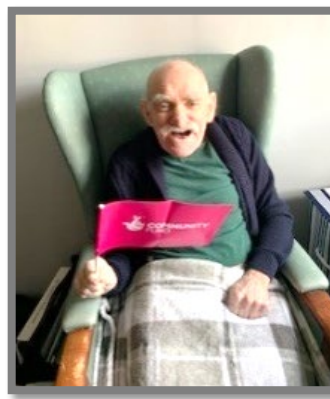
Below, is a photo of Anne having her Covid-19 jab, she had been quite anxious but she wanted to show other people how easy and quick it actually was.

Ray also showed us how important it was to use face masks when using public transport.



SpeakUp and Connect – our new project

Towards the end of the financial year, we received the good news that the Community Lottery would fund our new project '**SpeakUp and Connect**'.



The 4-year funding will help us to continue with and expand our valuable work, across Worcestershire.

The funding will allow further development of our countywide self-advocacy groups and also expand our engagement with other organisations, to include working with our local communities.

We will also continue to work with organisations that realise the benefits of making information accessible to all, by expanding our existing **Easy Read and Learning Disability Awareness Training Team**.



Accessible Information Standard



Contact us, for more information about our Learning Disability/Autism Awareness Training and Easy Read Services. We have years of experience in making your information accessible to all.

Our training is delivered by people with real life experience. We tailor training to your needs and also provide **e-learning options**.

Email: s.rice-jones@speakeasynow.org.uk for more information about our Easy Read and Training Services.



Follow us on **Facebook @speakeasynow22**



Email us: **mail@speakeasynow.org.uk**

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This Annual Report is created by Speakeasy N.O.W.



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SPEAKEASY N.O.W.

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED: 31ST MARCH 2021

Registered Charity No. 1106914

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name and Number

Speakeasy N.O.W: Registered Charity No. 1106914

Trustees

R. Gallier - Co chair
C. O'Neil
J. DeSouza - Co chair
R. Barrett - rep from Management Committee
D. Hope
L. Hancock

Principal Office

St. Richards House
22 Victoria Square
Droitwich
WR9 8DS

Independent Examiner

Ken Strange FCCA, 10 Ravenscroft Drive, Droitwich, WR9 7AP

(cont.)

SPEAKEASY N.O.W.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



X R. Gallier - Co Chair



X J DeSouza - Co chair

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH
2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Incoming resources					
Grants		3,930	147,022	150,952	150,694
Investment income	(2)	-	-	-	-
		<u>3,930</u>	<u>147,022</u>	<u>150,952</u>	<u>150,694</u>
Resources expended					
Charitable expenditure:					
Management and administration	(3)	<u>(527)</u>	<u>(107,654)</u>	<u>(108,181)</u>	<u>(150,691)</u>
Net incoming resources		3,403	39,368	42,771	3
Net movement in funds					
Balance at 1 st April 2020		<u>8,864</u>	<u>39,184</u>	<u>48,048</u>	<u>48,045</u>
Reallocate		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at 31 st March 2021		<u>12,267</u>	<u>78,552</u>	<u>90,819</u>	<u>48,048</u>

**NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

1. Principal accounting policies

(i) Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS105 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to Micro-entities; Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) and with Charities Act 2011.

(ii) Resources expended

Expenditure included on an accruals basis. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the financial statements as incurred.

(iii) Grants and donations are only included in the financial statements when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

(iv) Investment income is included in the financial statements when receivable.

(v) All general assets costing more than £ 500 are capitalised. Depreciation on furniture and equipment is charged on a straight line basis at 25%.

(vi) Fund Accounting

Taxation

The Charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. Investment income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest on cash deposits	-	-
	-	-
	====	====

**NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

5. Tangible fixed assets		Furniture and equipment
		£
Cost		
At 1 st April 2020		<u>6,988</u>
At 31 st March 2021		<u>6,988</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 st April 2020		5,545
Charge for the year		<u>865</u>
At 31 st March 2021		<u>6,410</u>
Net book value		
At 31 st March 2021		<u>578</u>
		=====
At 31 st March 2020		<u>1,443</u>
		=====
6. Debtors		
	2021	2020
	£	£
Grant	115	555
Prepayment	<u>677</u>	<u>805</u>
	<u>792</u>	<u>1,360</u>
	=====	=====
7. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		
	2021	2020
	£	£
Deferred income	12,500	21,440
Other creditors	<u>631</u>	<u>820</u>
	<u>13,131</u>	<u>22,260</u>
	=====	=====

RESERVES ANALYSIS 2021

DETAIL	PROJECT	TOTAL
<u>Restricted Reserves</u>		
Health Checker	24	54,695
Community Voices	86	(3,203)
KIT During Covid	140	23,333
Experience CTR Hub	120	716
NHSE Exports	130	<u>3,011</u>
		<u>78,552</u>
		=====
<u>Unrestricted Reserves</u>		
Core Advocacy	80	(14,348)
Easy Read	23	11,600
Quality Checker	90	11,937
Where Next	81	133
Events	100	(280)
Peoples Parliament	110	<u>3,225</u>
		<u>12,267</u>
		=====
		90,819
		=====