

Speakeasy Advocacy



Giving a Voice



17 New Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 7PR

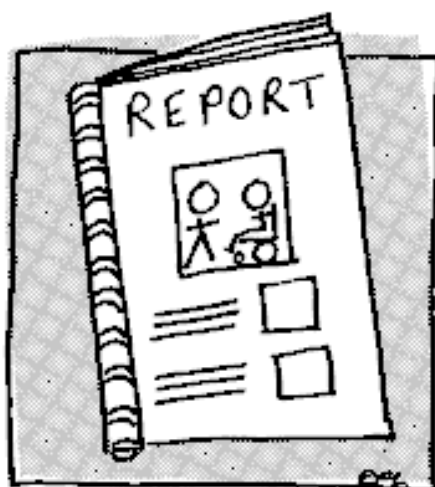


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Annual Report 2006

(June 2005 - May 2006)



Providing a Voice and Support for people with Learning
Difficulties, Autism and/or Asperger's syndrome

Registered charity number: 1108304



Message from the chairman

Once again Speakeasy Advocacy has had another very good year with existing services growing and more volunteers recruited. We continue to be well thought of by other organisations and many wish to work with us.

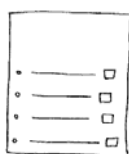
I would like to thank many people involved in our success this year:

- Amanda and all staff members for working so well and professionally to give excellent service to existing and more new service users. New ways of working together has resulted in many more volunteer advocates recruited and in partnerships.
- Volunteers who are advocates, work with the groups or are Trustees also have made our success possible. People like Pete who was thanked in January after 10 years of volunteering with Wicked and Wacky and Richard and Matthew who were given a Shaw Trust Award.
- Many of the Trustees are coming to the end of their first year in office. They have given much time and effort to learning the job, speaking up for their groups and deciding what Speakeasy should do.
- The Operations Group with Carole, Derek and Matthew works hard to support Amanda and inform the Trustees.

It was good during the year to see Internet Explorers and the other groups with more members and doing more of what they wanted.

In the future we can look forward to new and exciting services that will bring advocacy to many more people. As you will hear from Amanda's report we are continuing to develop and expand the services we support and put new services in place. We will continue to work with local authorities, other advocacy organisations and where appropriate private companies. We are always careful that what we do allows people to have their say and encourages advocacy.

Financially we are sound, as Derek will tell you, and we are waiting for a response to our Lottery application.



Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Name of charity: Speakeasy Advocacy

Registered charity number: 1108304

Address: 17 New Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7PR

Trustees:

Name	Position
Bob Hannah	Chairman
Carole Over	Vice chairman
Derek Easton	Treasurer
Matthew Ansell	Secretary
Sue Morris	Wicked and Wacky representative
Wendy Stubbs	Wicked and Wacky representative
Maureen Taylor	Advocacy representative
Sam Miles	Virtual Friends representative
David Budd	Virtual Friends representative
Paul Daykin	Happy Club representative
Sarah Cox	Happy Club representative

(Other people who acted as trustee during this period were Jane Turner and Ross Angus Smith).

Project manager: Amanda Kent

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland, Winchester Street, Basingstoke

Independent examiner: David Hargrave



Structure, governance and management

We are governed by a Constitution (based on the charity commission model), and are an unincorporated association.

We must have at least 3 trustees who are either users of the service or advocates - at least 1 of each.

We have decided that each of the 3 adult self advocacy groups can have 2 members who represent their group as trustees.

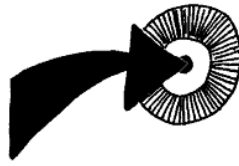
Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. All trustees receive training to do their role; trustees who are also users of the service have support from an advocate.

Trustees always make decisions about:

- What our priorities are
- Whether we do new work
- If we should employ a new member of staff

The operations group (chairman, vice chairman, treasurer, secretary, and project manager) have responsibility for the day to day running of Speakeasy Advocacy. This includes putting in place systems and procedures to manage the risks that the charity is exposed to.

Speakeasy Advocacy is a member of Hampshire Advocacy Regional Group (HARG) and the National Coalition of Citizen Advocacy Schemes.



Objectives and Activities

The objects in our constitution are:

"To protect and preserve the good health of children, young people and adults with autistic spectrum disorders and/or learning disabilities".

As an advocacy project our aim is to:

- Make sure people are listened to
- Empower people to take control of their lives, making their own decisions and choices so that they become as independent as possible
- Support people to become part of their local communities and prevent social exclusion

Summary of our activities this year:

- 1:1 advocacy partnerships for adults
- Supported 3 self advocacy groups for adults
- Supported a self advocacy group for young people with Asperger's syndrome
- 1:1 advocacy partnerships for children with autism/Asperger's syndrome and their parents
- Recruitment of volunteers
- Supported people to access community based opportunities
- Coffee mornings at 17 New Road
- Ethnic Minority Learning Disability project
- Health team user satisfaction survey
- Loddon Alliance quality review project
- Local and national networking



What we did this year



1:1 advocacy partnerships

During the year we have worked in **81** advocacy partnerships on issues like:

- not being listened to
- housing
- money
- getting support
- getting a job
- problems at home with family
- looking after children

We had **79** referrals for advocacy.

Most of these partnerships are new, but some have been going on for years as some people need continued advocacy support.



3 self advocacy groups for adults

There are **58** members of the groups.

Wicked and Wacky have put together their group rules using work done in sessions looking at how they behave

Happy Club continue to have a full agenda, with a mixture of evenings in the group room or nights out in the town

Virtual Friends have quite a few new members, and as a result have decided to meet every other Monday in the group room to talk and get to know each other



Children's advocate

Debbie has completed her 1st year working with children and young people who have autism or Asperger's syndrome, and their parents.

During the year Debbie has

- received **31** referrals
- worked in **28** 1:1 advocacy partnerships
- helped a parent win a local educational authority tribunal, and another parent win an appeal to get their child at the school of their choice
- supported the running of Internet Explorers with a team of volunteers - the group is so successful they now have **10** members and a waiting list!
- supported "Different Worlds" parent group
- spoken at a national conference about Internet Explorers
- found out lots of useful information for parents



Recruitment of volunteers

During the year we had a total of **36** volunteers:

- **13** trustees
- **12** advocates
- **5** with the groups
- **4** with Internet Explorers
- **4** doing admin, IT or maintenance work

Thank you to all our volunteers who have given over **2,000 hours** of their time over the year!



Supported people to access community based activities

We have continued to gather information about what is on in Basingstoke, so that we can offer lots of opportunities to people who would like to try something new. We support people when they try a new activity if they need it.

New activities people have tried include:

- college courses
- work preparation courses
- horse riding
- paid work
- volunteering
- music lessons

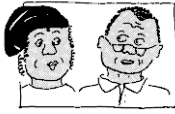


Coffee mornings

This year we started Saturday coffee mornings every other month at 17 New Road, because that is what you told us you wanted.

The coffee mornings have been a good way for people to:

- do something social on a Saturday and make new friends
- do something different - some people have gone out to lunch together afterwards
- find out about activities in Basingstoke
- learn about money and doing things for yourself



Ethnic Minority Learning Disability project

We started this 1 year project in April 2006, and the aim is to make sure people from different backgrounds know about advocacy.

We work with the project officer, Dominique Rawlings, who meets different communities in Basingstoke and tells them about learning disability and advocacy. We provide advocacy support to anyone who needs it.

Some of our members will be involved in putting together an exhibition at the Willis museum that will show some of the different cultures in Basingstoke.



Loddon Alliance quality review project

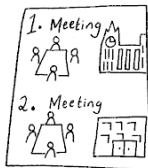
This project was completed in November 2005. We supported 5 people who received support from Loddon Alliance to complete a booklet about their lives. They attended sessions at Speakeasy and talked about their lives and what support they received. Andrea, our worker, transferred this information into the booklets. The 5 people got paid for their work and enjoyed taking part - so much so that 2 now come to our self advocacy groups!



Health team user satisfaction survey

Our advocacy worker, Lynda, spent 4 months interviewing 15 people who had been seen by the learning disability health team. She asked them questions to find out what they thought about the service they had received.

The results were given to the health team so that they can change some things they do in the future. Lots of people said they didn't have enough information about seeing their health professional, so hopefully this will get better as a result of this survey.



Local and national networking

This year we have continued to be part of many local and national networks, so that we can tell others about advocacy and find out information about services.

The networks we are part of include:

- Voluntary Sector Forum in Basingstoke
- Hampshire Partnership Board
- "Completing the circle" user and carer involvement group
- Hampshire Advocacy Regional Group (HARG) - our manager is chair of this group
- National Coalition of Citizen Advocacy Schemes



Financial Report

Accounts - Year ended 31st May 2006 **Financial Report by Treasurer Derek Easton**

1. We received £44,321 more than we spent. The main reason for this was that we received £32,000 from the Local Authority which was late and went into this year instead of last year.
2. We have to show separately how we have spent the Big Lottery money and as you can see we have received £63,166 and spent £62,018 leaving a balance for the year of £1,148.
3. The Lottery funding will finish at the end of July. We have applied for a further grant to last us for the next five years. We expect to receive funding from the Local Authority next April but we are not sure if we will continue to receive this funding in future years. In the meantime we will also be looking at other sources of funding.
4. We are carrying forward a balance of funds of £100,574 to next year so that should we not be successful with our Lottery bid we will have sufficient resources to enable us to continue our work and at the same time find alternative funding.



Accounts - Year ended 31st May 2006

Statement of Financial Activities

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2006	Total 2005
BIG LOTTERY				
Grant Income	63,166	85,672	148,838	77,210
Other Income		904	904	1,164
Total Income	63,166	86,576	149,742	78,374
Salaries & NIC	47,539	27,114	74,653	56,010
Premises Costs	6,458	8,477	14,935	12,903
Other Expenditure	8,021	7,812	15,833	14,239
Total Expenditure	62,018	43,403	105,421	83,152
Balance of Funds for Year	1,148	43,173	44,321	-4,778
Balance of Funds Bfwd	12,284	43,969	56,253	61,031
Balance of Funds C/Fwd	13,432	87,142	100,574	56,253



Balance Sheet

	2006		2005	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Office Equipment	543		361	
Furniture & Fittings	597		717	
Equipment for Groups	70		105	
		1,210		1,183
Current Assets				
Debtors	1,893		3,145	
Petty Cash	56		96	
Bank Deposit Account	77,436		40,641	
Bank Current Account	24,008		19,067	
		103,393		62,949
Current Liabilities				
Creditors - Short Term	1,589		5,517	
Taxation	2,440		2,362	
		4,029		7,879
Current Assets Less Liabilities		99,364		55,070
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		100,574		56,253



Balance of Funds	Restricted	Unrestricted		
B/Forward	12,284	43,969	56,253	61,031
This Year	1,148	43,173	44,321	-4,778
C/Forward	13,432	87,142	100,574	56,253

The accounts were independently examined on 7 July 2006 by David Hargrave, a fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.



What we will do next year



Look for more funding

We have made an application for more Lottery funding, and will continue to look for funding from different sources as well.




Loddon Alliance user involvement project

We will be starting this new 2 year project in September 2006. We will support 2 people with learning disabilities to attend Loddon Alliance meetings and influence decisions that are made.



Friday drop in

Social Services have asked us to run this new part of the day services which will start soon. Anyone with a learning disability will be able to drop in at the United Reform Church café and spend time with their friends, and find out information about new activities or services.



This report was approved by the trustees on 9 August 2006