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Picture: John Hopkins


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**WDP
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Editor's Comment

FOLLOWING on from Esther Ghey's comments that online safety laws should be tougher I would suggest We ALL (especially parents and school teachers) need to play our role in this.

I am broad-minded and have seen lots in my life but some of the stuff I see on social media, especially twitter and tiktok is horrendous.

We can't rely on Government to protect the minds of children and young people.

Those of us with responsibility for young people and their minds must make sure suitable restrictions are in place.

The only reason anyone under 16 needs a mobile phone is to stay in touch with home and learn new technologies and be creative. They don't need open access to the internet which can be done safely at home for learning purposes. Bullying is also rife in Whats App groups which can be as equally toxic. Monitor what your child is going through from their "friends!"

Meanwhile, it was recently announced that we are officially in recession! Really? I'm no economist but known this for ages! We feel it in the media first! Don't make the mistake of cutting your marketing and advertising budgets! Now is the time to promote your business more than ever! Experience has shown me those that stop will struggle to survive! Remain positive and keep investing in your business.

This is the mildest recession for 50 years so time to bounce back!

As we celebrate 25 years of Warrington Worldwide and free community news, we haven't cut back - far from it - we have invested in making our products better!

When we launched our product we were in recession and there have been a few since - But we are still here to tell the tale!



Deadline for the April issue is March 12



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Brianna Ghey's mother tells vigil teenager was 'amazing, unique and joyful'

BRIANNA Ghey's mother has told a vigil marking the first anniversary of the murdered Birchwood teenager in Warrington that she was "amazing, unique and joyful".

People gathered at Golden Square Shopping Centre in Warrington to pay tribute to Brianna.

The vigil marked one year since the 16-year-old was murdered by teenagers Scarlett Jenkinson and Eddie Ratcliffe at Culcheth Linear Park.

During their sentencing, the judge said the "exceptionally brutal" murder had elements of both sadism on the part of Jenkinson and transphobic hate on the part of Ratcliffe.

Addressing the crowd at the vigil, Brianna's mother Esther Ghey said: "Brianna was an amazing, unique and joyful teenager.

"I will be forever thankful that I was lucky enough to spend 16 years with her.

"She taught me so much and gave me so much happiness and love.

"If there's one piece of advice that I can give to any parent, it would be to hold your children tight, and never stop telling them that that you love them.

"I want to thank you all for coming here today to pay respect to Brianna.

"I hope that wherever she is now that she can feel the love that we've

created by joining together today."

Brianna's headteacher Emma Mills told those gathered at the vigil to honour her memory by being "true to yourself".

"Brianna knew who she was," she said.

"And she was determined to be true to that.

"This determination spirit is something that I always admired about Brianna, and it's a deserving legacy for us to remember her by."

She said that the pressure to conform is "so intense" for teenagers.

"Societal pressure to conform is very real, for all of us," she said.

"But the level of pressure as a teenager amongst your peers can be so intense.

"Brianna knew who she was, and she didn't bow to the pressures around her. Please remember that about her.

"Be true to yourself, be yourself, and not a version of yourself that you think others want you to be."

It comes after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak refused to apologise to Brianna's father and said it is "sad and wrong" to link his transgender joke at Prime Minister's Questions to her case.

Brianna's father, Peter Spooner,

said Mr Sunak should say sorry for the "degrading" and "dehumanising" remark made in the Commons.

Mr Sunak had accused Sir Keir Starmer of having difficulty in "defining a woman" during an attack on Labour Party U-turns.

Esther Ghey was visiting Parliament when Mr Sunak aimed the jibe at Sir Keir.

His comment prompted fierce criticism from across the political spectrum, with Sir Keir telling Mr Sunak: "Of all the weeks to say that, when Brianna's mother is in this chamber. Shame."

But on later the Prime Minister claimed it was "the worst of politics" to link his comments to Brianna's case.



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Tractor rally helps raise funds for British Heart Foundation

MORE than 100 tractors took to the streets of Warrington for Stretton Young Farmers' annual Tractor Rally.

The event helped raise funds for the British Heart Foundation as hundreds of people lined the streets of south Warrington.

Crowds lined the streets cheering on the colourful cavalcade of tractors as they made their way through various villages including Stretton, Appleton Thorn and Antrobus.

Stretton Young Farmers will share

the proceeds between the club and The British Heart Foundation, a charity close to their heart.

An estimated 115 tractors paraded through the villages.

Donations of more than £600 have been raised so far and further donations can be made via the Stretton Young Farmers' Facebook Page.

Pictures: John Hopkins and Youd Productions



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College hosts pioneering Girls in Construction Summit

WARRINGTON & Vale Royal College recently hosted its first Girls in Construction Summit in partnership with Galloway Construction and the 'Women in Construction' social impact project.

The ground-breaking event with one of the North West's most experienced building contractors, empowered Year 10 pupils from secondary schools across Cheshire and Warrington to break boundaries and become the builders of tomorrow.

Hosted at Warrington & Vale Royal College's Warrington campus, the event welcomed 72 Year 10 pupils from six secondary schools to partake in an exciting day of talks from female industry professionals, engage with a panel of accomplished construction experts, and gain hands-on experience of construction training in the college's cutting-edge workshops.

The expert panellists included Renee Preston, Director of Galloway Construction and CEO & Founder of Women in Construction, Julie Ferns, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager of Vistry Group, and Grace Roberts, Estimator at Kimpton.

Renee, Julie and Grace kick-started the day with an interactive employer panel in the college's

newly renovated theatre, inspiring the next generation through an innovative workshop aimed at empowering the students to explore the diverse career opportunities within the construction industry.

The pupils were then accompanied to the college's new Construction & Civil Engineering Academy (CCEA) where they had the unique opportunity to engage in hands-on activities, including bricklaying, carpentry & joinery, plumbing, electrical installation, and construction design, surveying and planning.

The pupils were treated to lunch by the college and received parting gifts of CCEA goody bags and delicious cupcakes provided by Renee.

CCEA Business Centre Manager, Kerry Dowd, commented: "At Warrington & Vale Royal College, we are committed to playing our part in encouraging young people to explore the vast array of opportunities available to them within the construction industry.

"Through our partnership with Women in Construction, we aim

to inspire the next generation of female construction professionals, helping young people be the best they can be by providing opportunities to learn more about a career in construction and gain hands-on experience across a range of practical skills.

"We were delighted to host over 70 female students for our Girls in Construction Summit, which we hope will go a long way towards challenging stereotypes and showcasing that construction is not just for boys!"



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About to get Krazy in Warrington

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

So whilst speculation on election dates looms following by-election results and a variety of other high-brow political events I thought I would remain grounded or 'keeping it real' as someone implored me to do the other day (I didn't, you'll be glad to know) by talking about and with complete credit going to the Business Improvement District Team; Krazy Races. Yes with a K - crazy right? Or Krazy?

Anyway Warrington will host a thrilling soapbox derby through the town centre streets this summer, with competitors gearing up to put their best driving skills to the test. Sunday 9th June is the date, which I know is a long way off but there is a reason for mentioning here.

The event is brought to you by Warrington Business Improvement District (BID), in partnership with Sarah Belcher Events Ltd, Krazy Races will see up to 40 teams

build and race their own go-karts downhill, while tackling the track with chicanes, obstacles, water, ability and they will all be looking to have the fastest soapbox down the course. There'll be a main winner's trophy for first place but there'll also be prizes for showmanship, innovation and best dressed. The soapbox is only half of the show, as each team will need to wow organisers with a 20-second performance before they launch



themselves downhill.

So the reason to highlight it here is that there are opportunities for businesses to take part either just for the fun of doing it, teambuilding etc. or to fundraise for a particular charity. All reasons are equally as valid, but you will have to get a move on as I believe you have to build your own soapbox, each team will be entertaining crowds and competing to have the fastest soapbox kart on Sunday, June 9th.

Taking place between 10am and 5pm, sponsorship opportunities are available for any businesses wanting to support the event and Krazy Races offers a unique opportunity for businesses to get local exposure and there are a number of sponsorship packages available to suit businesses of all sizes.

So get building or borrowing. I can hardly believe it, and I bet you can't too but the highlight of the year has come round to us again. Not Easter not the Olympics and not even the 2024 Warrington Borough Council election (which will be held on Thursday 2 May 2024 by the way) but the Property Review is just around the corner again. Warrington & Co. hold a property review every year and this year is no exception being on 19th April where Warrington & Co

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John Laverick
01925 442 243

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undertake a review of the property market within Warrington, ably aided by our partners at BE Group. The review looks primarily at how many property transactions and at what level have taken place within Warrington in the previous 12 months, in this case over 2023. It is generally a very good barometer of economic health in the borough and is therefore generally well attended by property professionals and local businesses alike. I will try and give a digestible version of this in next months column but if that does not do it for you on the same day there is also a Warrington Careers & Recruitment Event 2024 at Parr Hall.

Charlotte Nichols MP Warrington North

If you live in Warrington North and have an issue you need help with or would like to book a surgery appointment, please get in touch.

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Chambers Fletcher Solicitors Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Q: My husband is refusing to provide his financial disclosure. What can I do to make him?

A: Financial disclosure is crucial in divorce proceedings because (1) it promotes openness and transparency ensuring that both parties have a complete understanding of the financial picture; and (2) it enables both parties to make fully informed settlement decisions regarding the division of the assets. Disclosure is a duty, and therefore an obligation, and so if your husband is refusing and cannot be persuaded by your solicitor, or his for that matter, to comply with this duty then your remedy would be to issue an application with the court for a financial order because this will trigger a court managed process and within which the court will order him, at an early stage, to comply and provide his disclosure. If he still refuses even when ordered by the court then he will run the risk of being penalised in costs and for contempt of court and in my experience most people, no matter how stubborn they are, are not so foolish as to put themselves in this position.

Q: My husband controls our finances, he always has. Now we're divorcing he is threatening that if I don't agree to settle on his terms he will spend all the money so that there is nothing left and he says that I cannot have what we haven't got. What can I do?

A: Such conduct on his part could be considered to be financial misconduct and taken into account in the eventual division of the matrimonial pot but once the money has gone then it's gone (unless it can be traced into another asset) and depending on the size of the disposal and the size of the pot then it may be that your best bet would be to apply for a freezing injunction to prevent your husband from disposing of the money in the first place. However, court orders don't come out of cereal packets so you will need to provide strong evidence in support so as to satisfy the court that a freezing injunction is necessary. In the first instance such applications are made 'without notice' so that your spouse doesn't have an opportunity to dispose of the money in the period between being notified of the application and the court hearing.

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Peter Wilkinson



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Uproar over plans for town centre lap dancing venue



CONTROVERSIAL plans for a lap dancing venue in a town centre nightclub have been met with uproar as Warrington Borough Council says it must consider any application in accordance with the law.

Following Warrington Worldwide's exclusive online story on a licensing application to open a sexual entertainment centre at The Truth nightclub on Friar's Gate, hundreds of people took to social media to voice their opposition—although there were some people in favour.

It follows a licensing application to open a sexual entertainment centre, including lap dancing, pole dancing, striptease and table dancing on the first floor of the premises.

Opening hours being sought are from 7pm to 3am seven days a week.

The application is being made in the name of We Warrington Holdings Group Ltd and is understood to be the management of the existing nightclub but will operate as a separate business should a licence be granted.

More than 300 comments were posted on social media in reaction to the story, the majority opposed to the idea of a lap dancing venue in the town centre.

When asked for his views on the proposed venue in his constituency, Warrington South MP Andy Carter said: "I thought we were a little past Lap Dancing clubs in 2024—I'm sure the very sensible members of the licensing committee will make the right decision on the

application once they've studied the application very carefully."

A Warrington Borough Council spokesperson said: "As the licensing authority we must consider any application in accordance with the law. There is a 28-day consultation period and further information is available on our website".

The full application states:

Notice is hereby given that We Warrington Holdings Group Ltd (full names): applied on 6th February 2024 to Warrington Borough Council in respect of the premises known as:
Name: 15-17 Friar's Gate
Address (including postcode): 15/17 Friar's Gate, Warrington, WA1 2RR under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, Part II, Schedule 3, for the Grant of a Licence to use the premises as a Sexual Entertainment Venue*

Any person objecting to this application should give notice in writing stating in general terms the grounds of the objection to:

Licensing Section, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH or by E-mailing ceclicensing@warrington.gov.uk

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Warrington Disability Partnership

Annual Report 2023



Giving Disabled People
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Introduction

Chair and Chief Executive's Report

Welcome to our latest annual report.

Looking back on the past year, it certainly has been a rollercoaster, with many highs in terms of service delivery, collaborations and new partnerships, tinged with lows, when last minute cancellation of a contract badly affected our financial year ending in March 23.

As a charity focussing on disabled and older people, carers and families, we constantly strive to find solutions to everyday challenges. Since April, the uncertainty felt during the Covid pandemic has eased. Increased confidence has led to more collaborations with several local agencies to raise awareness of, and to tackle the disproportionate effects of the cost of living crisis. In particular, energy, food, transport, care and support.

One resounding success has been our collaboration with Warrington Community Energy, resulting in a successful bid for funding to operate an Energy Efficiency Scheme, that has already supported over 9,000 Warrington residents during the first year. Outcomes include successful referrals for replacement boilers, Disabled Facilities and Safe and Secure Grants. The team work closely with health and social care, including the NHS Respiratory Service.

In collaboration with the Torus Foundation, we have delivered employment and training support to over two hundred disabled and vulnerable people. As well as supporting them into work, we assisted employers who want to make reasonable adjustments in the workplace to recruit and/or retain, disabled employees. This included supporting businesses to attain the national "Disability Confident" accreditation, and training over 450 senior managers.

We pride ourselves in being able to adapt and change to local needs which enables us to respond quickly to challenges and new opportunities. One example of this is, as customers buying habits have affected some of our retail services, we have utilised the skills and experience of our staff, by redeploying them in delivering a new service in collaboration with Drive Ability North West and the national charity, Driving Mobility. The HUBS service supports people who have been stopped, or chosen to stop, driving. During the first quarter of the contract our team have exceeded targets, reaching over 600 vulnerable people, providing them with mobility solutions.

Our 32nd annual Disability Awareness Day, held on Sunday 16th July, attracted twenty-one partners, who together, provided the financial support, enabling us to run the week of events that, along with Sunday's main show, attracted nearly 22,000 visitors and involved over 1,100 volunteers. Over 3,200 miles away in Cameroon, our partners the

'Closing the Gap' organisation, ran their 8th successful event which was featured on their national TV News channel.

Our social enterprise, the Disability Trading Company continues to grow in popularity. In response to customer feedback, we launched a Mobile Mobility Engineering Service, resulting in shorter turn around with servicing and small to medium repairs, which increased productivity.

As we look ahead to 2024, we are eager to start two new projects financed by the Warrington Place Transformation Fund. In collaboration with the NHS and voluntary sector, the Complex Pain Pilot will provide opportunities for us to demonstrate our considerable experience in the field of self-help and peer led support. Our Digital Inclusion Service will work with residents who lack basic digital skills. Estimated to be around 20% of the population, the target audience includes those who have a disability or long-term health condition and older people.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who shares and supports the WDP dream, especially our volunteers, our trustees, our staff, our supporters, our clients/customers and our partners.

John Gartside OBE DL JP
Chair of Trustees

Dave Thompson MBE DL MBA
Chief Executive



Warrington Disability Partnership
'Supporting Independence throughout Life and Work'

Centre for Independent Living
Beaufort Street, Warrington WA5 1BA
01925 240064

www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk
www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk
www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk
info@disabilitypartnership.org.uk



2023 Highlights

The year in pictures



Our Kings' Coronation events included a 'Walk in the Park' and a party for Lunch Club Members



The Fiddler's Ferry 'Press the Button' Draw raised a huge £14,800, Congratulations to our winner Grace.



WDP Team members and supporters took part in a Skydive raising over £3000



Our Young People's Lunch Club have organised a variety of events including a MacMillan Coffee Morning



Team WDP received an award from The High Sheriff of Cheshire, Jeannie France-Hayhurst during her visit to our Centre for Independent Living

Who we are and what we do

Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) is an internationally acclaimed user-led charity. With over 30 years of experience in developing and delivering mobility and independent living services, we aim to support disabled people and those living with long-term health conditions. We are proud of our wide-ranging services, which include:

Promoting Independent Living

Visit our **Centre for Independent Living (CIL)** - located on Beaufort Street; the **Disabled Living Centre** at the Lifehouse on Brunswick Dock (Liverpool), and the **Mobility and Independent Living Store (MILs)** in Birchwood Shopping Centre. We offer showrooms full of the latest equipment from baths, showers and kitchens to beds, wheelchairs and stair lifts. Advice is available from our team of trained staff and volunteers, and a short-term loans service for various equipment.

The **Energy Service Support Service** provides help and support to households falling into fuel poverty. The fully qualified advisors will give 1-2-1 advice along with home visits and referrals to wider services. We also have a fully accessible “**Energy Efficient Smart Flat**” demonstrating the latest assistive technology solutions, based at the CIL. Our popular **Disability Helpline** (01925 240064) offers advice and support about local support groups and services, accessibility, transport, and more.

Our two **Shopmobility Schemes** in Legh Street Car Park and Birchwood Shopping Centre offer scooters and wheelchairs for use while shopping. They are available for hire to both members and day visitors, Monday to Saturday (9 am to 5 pm). A six-month membership costs just £10. The **Scoota Safe** campaign helps promote safe use of personal equipment and advice on maintenance.

The **OWCH Pain Management and Beyond the Scars support group** helps and supports local disabled people with self-management of Chronic Pain.

Our **Long Covid Support Service** is available specifically for Warrington residents and those registered with Warrington practices. Access to workshops, groups and services is not possible without the inclusion of Warrington & Halton Long Covid Support Service via your GP.

Our **Independent Living Team** provides a support service for Warrington residents who use the Direct Payments scheme from Warrington Borough Council, assisting with all aspects of employing a Personal Assistant including assistance and advice regarding recruitment, DBS checks, pension schemes and contracts, with support from our in-house payroll team.

Our Care and Support Advisor promotes **Personal Health Budgets (PHBs)** for individuals with complex health needs throughout Warrington and Halton. PHBs aim to allow greater choice, flexibility and control over how and when NHS-funded care is delivered. The Advisor works with the clients to produce individual Care and Support Plans, liaising with the NHS Cheshire & Merseyside concerning individual budget allocations.

The Disability Trading Company Limited

WDP's trading arm – Disability Trading Company (DTC), offers high-quality, independent living products at competitive prices. Running as a Social Enterprise, all profits are donated to WDP to support many of our unfunded services. For further details of services, please see page 6.

Employment & Training

Our **Employment Team** specialises in supporting local disabled people, people living with long-term health conditions (including mental health), ESA claimants and those in receipt of incapacity-related benefits. The team support individuals through all stages of the employment

process, job searching, CVs, application forms, preparing for interviews and when gaining employment. We also support people who are in work, as well as employers, by giving information about reasonable adjustments in the workplace including the Disability Confident Scheme and the Mindful Employer.

Learning and Development

Visit the **Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre** on Beaufort Street and take advantage of a whole host of courses designed to educate and inspire. Many courses are held in the Discover IT Suite and include ‘Computers for the Terrified’, vocational OCR qualifications and pre-employment IT. In addition, several other courses are available, which include flower arranging and creative writing.

We work closely with numerous local charities and voluntary organisations to provide a place for groups to meet and offer support to their members. Our well-equipped meeting and training rooms are also available to hire at a reasonable cost.

WDP delivers a variety of training, including **Equality & Diversity, Disability Confident and Disability, and Sex Matters**. Half-day training sessions are available to service providers, voluntary organisations and individuals to build knowledge and insight on these issues.

Accessible Holidays & Days Out

Our fully accessible holiday home in North Wales and our adapted, accessible narrowboat **The Wizard** are available for hire at competitive rates. With a range of options, they allow a bargain break or a day out on the water!

Opportunities to Socialise

We run two **Luncheon Clubs** for individuals looking for friendship, activities, fun and lunch! Our **over 55's club** meet every Wednesday from 10am to 2pm. As well as enjoying a two-course lunch and drinks, attendees also enjoy playing bingo, games, quizzes, chair-based exercises, and guest speakers. Our **Monday Club** caters to under 55's with a variety of social activities, including crafts, bingo and films. There is a £7.50 charge for the sessions and individuals are required to attend using their own transport.

Our **Galleries Community Café** offers a wide range of hot and cold meals, snacks and drinks in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The Café is open to members of the public and visitors to the Centre and Support Groups.

Listening and Advocacy

Get your voice heard locally by attending our monthly ‘**Staying Connected**’ meetings via Zoom, which provides a forum to exchange ideas and information about local services. Sessions are open to all who have been affected by long-term health conditions or disabilities, carers and representatives of support groups/organisations and statutory services.

Our **Your Voice** young disabled person's forum aims to provide young people a safe space to communicate their views and the opportunity to grow, learn and socialise with other like-minded individuals.

We organise the **Warrington's Appreciation of Efforts Awards**, which provide an opportunity for disabled people and carers to nominate local employers, businesses, service providers or individuals who deserve recognition for promoting independence, delivering accessible or inclusive services or maintaining exemplary employment practices for disabled people and carers.

For further information on any of these services, including how you can be involved as a WDP Volunteer, please contact the team on 01925 240064

2023 Highlights

The year in pictures



Members of Team WDP were invited to a special reception at 10 Downing Street to celebrate their achievements and to say thank you on behalf of everyone who they've helped in Warrington South.



Successful 'SOLD OUT' 'Bjorn to be Abba' fundraising event as part of our DAD Week Activities, raising over £3,000.



Successful Golf Day at Lymm Golf Club, organised by David Jones (DTC Director) in July 2023.



Members of Penketh High Leadership Team visited the CIL to learn about our services, speak to our Team, and take part in activities including wheelchair skills and wheelchair basketball.

Hubs Mobility Advice Service

Operated by: Driving Mobility

We offer FREE impartial advice on:

- Accessible buses and coaches
- Easy access rail and air travel
- Community transport
- Rights as a disabled passenger
- Hiring or purchasing the right mobility scooters and wheelchairs
- Local, national and international travel planning

Guidance available at Centres across the UK - face-to-face, on the telephone or via the website.

Your local Hubs Centre:
 Warrington Disability Partnership
 Centre for Independent Living
 Evelyn Street
 Warrington
 WA5 1BA
 Tel: 01925 240064
 Email: info@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

www.hubsmobilityadvice.com
 Tel: 0800 559 3636

Supported by: Working with:

© Driving Mobility, The Old Carriage Works, Moresk Road, Thru Tm 10G. info@drivingmobility.org.uk. 4.05.23. v14

Launch of the Hubs Mobility Advice Service in partnership with Drive Ability North West and Driving Mobility, as part of a national project offering advice and support to people with no longer able to drive, due to a disability or a long term health condition.

Development of Warrington Disability Partnership's Social Enterprise — The Disability Trading Company

In April 2011, Warrington Disability Partnership launched a social enterprise 'the Disability Trading Company'. Their first retail service was launched from the Warrington Centre for Independent Living, and in October 2011 they opened the Mobility & Independent Living Store (MILS) in the Golden Square Shopping Mall, followed by MILS Liverpool in early 2012.

In early 2013 DTC opened a large Mobility Workshop & Service Centre which provides servicing and repairs for individual customers, and businesses including Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, nursing homes and local Shopmobility Schemes. In late 2013 DTC launched a service aimed at recycling mobility equipment, scooters, wheelchairs and power-chairs which are sold from WDP's Shopmobility service located in Warrington Town Centre.

In October 2016 WDP and DTC, in partnership with St Mark Universal Care, launched 'the Phoenix Project', refurbishing and shipping wheelchairs and other mobility aids to countries including Egypt, Thailand and Syria. So far over £1million worth of equipment has been salvaged and donated.

In 2017 DTC joined the British Health Trades Association, underlining their belief in the BHTA "Buy with Confidence" scheme that is accredited to Trading Standards. Receiving "approved dealer" accreditation to the national Motability Scheme was also achieved, which allows disabled people to use the enhanced mobility component of DLA or PIP to lease a powerchair or mobility scooter.

In 2018 DTC added two new services with a retail store at the rear of Warrington Hospital and the Smart Flat, assistive technology showrooms located at the Warrington Centre for Independent Living.

In 2019 in partnership with the Golden Square Shopping Centre, DTC moved their Mobility & Independent Living Store (MILS)

from inside the Centre to a larger brighter store in Sankey Street.

In 2020 in partnership with Birchwood Shopping Centre, DTC open a Mobility and Independent Living Store (MILS) in the Centre, it also includes Birchwood Shopmobility Service.

In 2022, DTC launched a new online shop designed so customers across the UK can purchase high-quality mobility & independent living products from the comfort of their homes. All our products can help increase your ability to live independently. We pride ourselves on a fast delivery service, and promise to pick up and send you your order before the end of the next working day. If you are unsure what products best fit your needs or have any questions, visit our website's contact us page.

For more products to make life easier, visit our website: <https://disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk/collections/all>.

What makes DTC unique?

- DTC has no private shareholders, 100% of its profits go to support WDP's charitable services which include subsidised Lunch Clubs for disabled people, accessible narrow-boat offering daytrips on the Bridgewater Canal and an accessible caravan in North Wales,
- DTC staff do not receive any incentive bonuses, which results in us providing advice verses high pressure selling,
- Free impartial home and work assessments based on the philosophy of information, advice and guidance, not just sales,
- DTC is a user led social enterprise; many staff and all volunteers have used their experience of living with a disability or long-term health condition to develop the services and ensure they sell the right products
- Nearly £2,5million has been saved by disabled people who have purchased mobility and independent living products from WDP's Mobility and Independent Living Stores (MILS) rather than from commercially driven businesses

Services, Locations and Contact Details

Centre for Independent Living
Beaufort Street
Warrington
WA5 1BA

Mobility & Independent Living Showrooms
Email: [ShowRoom@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto>ShowRoom@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

Workshop and Service Centre
Email: Workshop@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Galleries Cafe

Payroll Services

Tel: 01925 240064

Loved B4 Mobility
Unit 8
Gatewath Industrial Estate
Barnard Street
Warrington
WA5 1DD
Tel: 01925 240064

Mobility & Independent Living Showrooms
Lifehouse
Summers Road
Liverpool
L3 4BL

Tel: 0151 709 0121

Email: Liverpoolmils@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Mobility & Independent Living Store - Birchwood
Unit 6
Birchwood Shopping Centre
Dewhurst Road
Birchwood
WA3 7PG

Tel: 01925 251079

Email: birchwoodmils@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Mobility & Independent Living Store - Warrington
Golden Square Shopping Centre
30 Sankey Street
Warrington
WA1 1TD

Tel: 01925 416624

Email: Mils@disabilitypartnership.org.uk



owned and
operated by



Our Impact in 2023

WDP Purpose

'To enhance the lives of disabled people and their families by enabling independent living'

The business directory describes social impact as being the effect of an activity on the social fabric of the community and well-being of the individuals and families. Whilst many people are aware of the wide range and scope of the services that Warrington Disability Partnership provide, the direct effect that they have on a persons' life, is not necessarily always apparent. This supplementary report has been produced by us to show the impact that our services have on local disabled people, their families, friends and carers throughout 2023.

“Having cared for my Mum I'd never imagined that I would be someone who needed care myself. Your advisor has listened carefully to all I have said, helped me through difficult times and convinced me of the benefits of receiving Direct Payments. Thanks so much for making my life easier.”

Direct Payments Employer 2024

Over

9,000

households falling into the fuel poverty bracket have received advice and support since the start of the Energy Saving Support Service in February 2023



Lewis – Volunteer Casestudy

What year did you start volunteering for WDP?
February 2022 – Main Office.

How did you start volunteering for WDP?
I met Dave at a Warrington Wolves game and asked about volunteering and placement opportunities surrounding administration to expand my skill set whilst in college.

Why do you like volunteering?
I like meeting new people and integrating within the community to expand my social skills. I enjoy being part of the family, DAD's army and giving back to the community.

About Lewis:
I enjoy watching rugby games and going to visit my caravan in wales on the weekend. I am currently studying employability in college whilst also being on a supported business administration internship. My favourite thing to do is spend time with my family when we are having takeaway night. I love going swimming and I am a very happy all of the time.

What has WDP done for you?
WDP has helped me expand my learning skills to enable me to gain employment in the future. It has also given me great stability in life and along with this I have increased my confidence too. I have made good friendships during my time at WDP and my plan for the future is to embrace the skills I have learnt to gain employment after college.

Tips for other volunteers
Take it slow and embrace new opportunities when they arise and remember to always be yourself.



Our Impact

“WDP continues to deliver exemplar Information Advice and Guidance services where the ethos of the organization is always ‘can-do’. The alignment of a Wellbeing Strategy internally and externally proves valuable in demonstrating a culture of wellbeing relevant to all services. The importance of ‘lived-experience’ and ‘peer support’ is at the core of delivery and is demonstrated by the achievement of participants into work and training opportunities.”

**WDP Matrix Reaccreditation
November 2023**

WDP Disability Confident Training completed by

740

managers in local and national organisations



Team WDP supported the Summer 2023 HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) programme preparing and delivering hot meals & lunches from the Galleries Community Café

Eileen MacDonald – Volunteer Casestudy

What year did you start volunteering for WDP?
Through meeting Dave my involvement with WDP started in 1996.

Current roles?

WDP Trustee, DTC Director, WDP Acting Treasurer, Main Office Volunteer, Trustee Safeguarding Lead, Pain Management Support

How did you start volunteering for WDP?

I trained as a tutor to deliver self-management programmes across the north-west. Through the work I was doing I met Dave Thompson in 1996 through a challenging Arthritis course which he commissioned and eventually evolved into enquiring what volunteering opportunities were available.

Why do you like volunteering?

I like volunteering as it gives me a structure and purpose within the role I do. I use lived experiences to help people and give back to the community. After giving up my job I adopted a voluntary role in providing self-management programmes which I use as a driving focus towards my work with WDP.

About Eileen:

I moved from Scotland through my husband Murdos' work in 1994, I have 2 daughters and I have had a full career in accountancy. Through health experiences, it has set me off on the journey I am still on today.



What has WDP done for you?

Since joining WDP as a Volunteer and Trustee, it has provided me with family, friendship and a support network.

“Thanks for the great service you and the team provided us with. The biggest compliment would be that we could almost forget about you - as in we didn't have to worry about delivery or quality and knew you would deliver for us everyday we needed it.”

HAF Provider 2023



99%

of visitors would recommend WDP services to Family and Friends



“Extremely helpful, very knowledgeable and we were given plenty of time and help to really explore products and find what would work best for us. Thank you”

DTC customer 2024

et in 2023

WDP Environmental Strategy

- Reduce our carbon footprint
- Evidence Green credentials
- Practice what we preach
- Sustainable efficiencies
- Saving the planet

Recycling Measures

- Offices – all offices and departments have recycling bins.
- Café – recycling bins, recycling packaging and used cooking oil.
- Printer cartridges – use of standalone printers has been reduced. All cartridge from printers and the main photocopiers are recycled.
- Telephones, Computers and IT – recycling of everything possible.
- Workshop – we recycle parts, used batteries, pallets and packaging. All used mobility equipment is transferred to the Distribution Centre for refurbishing or recycling.
- Distribution Centre – refurbishing of pre-owned equipment and the team have set up a showroom.
- Pallets and packaging are recycled.
- Cardboard – an extra-large cardboard bin is now available at the Distribution Centre.

Energy Efficiency

- Secured an LED grant of over £26,000 from Warrington Community Energy Efficiency Trust to replace all lighting in the Centre for Independent Living with energy efficient systems.
- Secured over £55,000 from Warrington Community Energy to cover the cost of installing Solar Panels at the CIL during 2024.
- Exploring cost and grant opportunities to install energy efficient lighting in the Learning Centre and Workshop.

Since becoming a Motability Supplier in 2019

361

DTC customers have used their enhanced Mobility Allowance to lease equipment from small boot scooters to complex powerchairs

“Thank you for being so supportive throughout the preparation and validation process for Disability Confident Leader status. You provided a clear focus for our Equality and Diversity Steering Group which has been able to deliver improvements across all our group and services. Our aims are to be the most inclusive employer we possibly can be and you have helped us provide a clear framework to achieve this.”

Sellafield Ltd following successful accreditation as Disability Confident Leaders with support from WDP

Hayley Carrick – Volunteer Casestudy

What year did you start volunteering for WDP?
August 2001 – Main Office

How did you start volunteering for WDP?
I started volunteering for WDP after hearing about the opportunities it would give me. I started volunteering at the disability information stall in Warrington Market. I have since then focused my skills and time on helping the teams in the main office during busy times such as Christmas and Disability Awareness Day. I also like helping with payroll administration.

Why do you like volunteering?
I enjoy volunteering as I make new friends. I also like helping people and giving back to the community whilst showing service users the good work we do here at WDP.

About Hayley:
I enjoy my mini hobbies such as relaxing, word searches, and watching TV. My favourite food is cheese on toast and in the future, I hope to visit Blackpool with my family and see the lights.



What has WDP done for you?

Joining WDP as a volunteer has enabled my confidence to grow whilst being able to relax amongst friends.

“I never thought that I would be able to access the support you have provided. Nothing I have asked for has been too much trouble and now, after being unemployed for more than 10 years, I have a job I truly love and feel I have regained the respect of my family and friends.”

New Leaf Participant 2023

Our Impact in 2023

Supported over

600

Direct Payments users to employ
and manage their care

What 3 words would you use to describe
Disability Awareness Day?



Sue McMillan – Volunteer Casestudy

What year did you start volunteering for WDP?
2018

Current roles?

WDP Trustee, Policy Development,
Main Office Volunteer
DAD Management Team member – responsible for
Entertainment & Activities at Disability Awareness Day
Santa's Grotto Design Team

How did you start volunteering for WDP?

After retirement, I wanted to get involved with the local community organisations. During my career I worked in social care and through volunteering I wanted to make an impact on the community. I met Dave Thompsom and he mentioned volunteering opportunities to me.

Why do you like volunteering?

I like contributing to a charity that makes a significant impact on the community as it gives me a sense of purpose within the role play. I enjoy meeting new people and making new friends. Volunteering has allowed me to experience and try new things since retiring.

About Sue:

I have lived in Warrington for 44 years after moving from London. I worked in Health and Social Care for over 40 years before retiring. I have 2 children and grandchildren which I look after as well as combining volunteering for WDP. I have been a trustee at WDP since 2020. I am also a trustee at The Hilbre Island Environmental Project, my family lived on the island in the 1880s as lighthouse keepers.



What has WDP done for you?

Volunteering has enabled me to keep active and make a positive contribution to the community where I live.

1,100+

Volunteers involved in DAD 2023:

109 charities and community groups were involved, an average of 4 volunteers per exhibitor, with over 430 volunteers promoted their services

Over 600 volunteers were involved in performing in the Arts Marquee, Sports Zone and Main Arena

Over 100 volunteer stewards and support workers, aptly named DAD's Army. This including 10 prisoners from HM Prison Thorn Cross



“ I first attended DAD as stall volunteer for first several years, later returning many times with family as visitors. 2022 & 2023 I have returned to perform with Batida Rio Samba Band. It is an honour to be involved in this remarkable, positive & fun filled event. One which still delivers such a high quality of information & communication too! ”

DAD Exhibitor / Visitor / 2023 Performer

2023 Highlights

The year in pictures



WDP Team Members and WDP Supporters took part in the annual 64 length (1 mile) Scuba Challenge. Others tried Scuba Diving for the very first time, with a Scuba Try Dive.



The WDP Charity Dinner held at the Village Hotel, was attended by local businesses and WDP supporters including Bright Futures Care, sponsors of the event.



The WDP Wellbeing Working Group was launched to look at ideas on how to further support our Team.



Following essential refurbishment, trips on the accessible Wizard Narrow Boat were relaunched in July 2023.



Over 800 free nutritional afterschool snack boxes were provided for local school children, as well as providing a safe and warm place for families to gain information and support during the cost of living crisis.



Successful Golf Day organised by the team at AKW, raising over £4,000 for WDP.

Christmas 2023 at WDP

This Christmas we were back again at Walton Garden's Indoor Riding Stables hosting our Santa's Grotto Winter Wonderland from the last weekend of November, right up until Christmas week.

After a mega build that started in late October, our team produced our biggest and best ever Santa's Grotto. It included a meet & Greet with Mrs Claus, followed by an amazing walkthrough themed on an Enchanted Forrest and Santa's Workshop. Supported by our Teddy Tombola, Yule Log decorating, letters to Santa and colouring, sale of Christmas gifts, a Reindeer Trail, a WDP/DTC information

stand and an incredible Sensory Zone that added to the inclusive nature of the Grotto.

In addition to full wheelchair access, we offered weekly Quiet Hours, catering for people with a range of conditions such as Autism and Alzheimer's, and we accommodated children and families who communicated through British Sign Language.

Our friends at F11 Photography were on hand capturing the magical moments that we provided to 2,589 children, accompanied by 1,000s of parents, grandparents, other family members and friends.

On Sunday 11th December, we hosted our annual Santa Dash sponsored by Birchwood Shopping Centre, a 3km walk/dash with almost 150 Santa's. The Mayor of Warrington, Councillor Steve Wright was on hand to present participants with a medal and certificate.

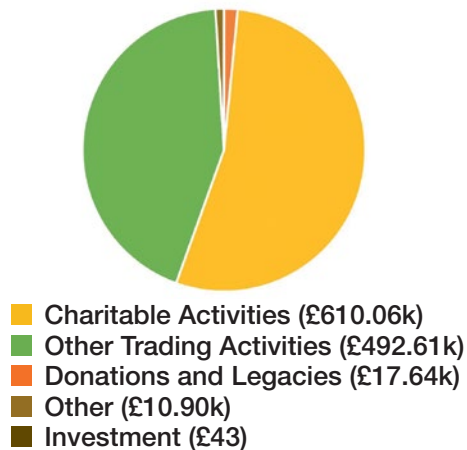
What makes our Grotto unique?

- Not only is the grotto fully wheelchair accessible, so too is the undercover winter wonderland scenery that is held in the indoor riding school at Walton Hall and Gardens, Warrington. Warrington Disability Partnership have over 20 years' experience of running a fully inclusive Santa's Grotto, which can be visited by all.
- WDP's Santa and some of our elves can communicate with deaf children and parents through British Sign Language.
- After listening to parents, WDP have included Quiet Hours, where the individual needs of children, parents and grandparents can be met, including Autism, Dementia and Alzheimer's.
- The Quiet Hour also caters for people who have sight loss, with trained sighted guides offering guided tours and interactive experience including touching, feeling and smelling a Christmas tree and other display items, within the sensory area.

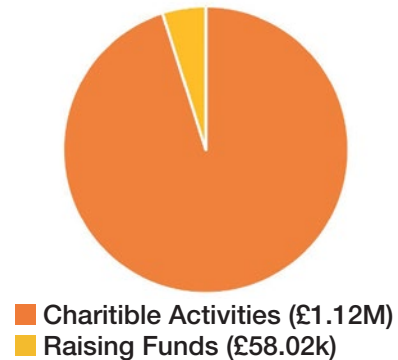


WDP Financial Position 2022-23

Income £1,131,153



Expenditure £1,178,020



The above information has been taken from the audited Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) Accounts for the financial period 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023, as reported to the Charities Commission. These accounts, as well as accounts in relation to the Disability Trading Company Limited (WDP's Subsidiary Company) have been reported to Companies House.

WDP Board of Trustees & DTC Directors



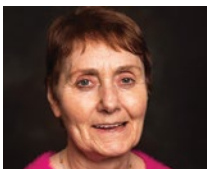
JOHN GARTSIDE OBE JP DL
Chair



PAT FFRENCH
Vice-Chair &
DTC Board Member



PAM THOMPSON
Honorary President



EILEEN MACDONALD



JAN PRITCHARD



GARY SKENTELBERY



ANITA CAWLEY



SUE McMILLAN



DAVE KELSALL



CLAIRE TOBIJANSKI



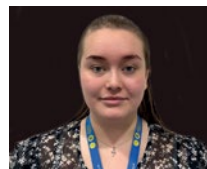
ADAM HAINES



TONY BROWN



PAT MCLAREN



ELLEN HOUGHTON
WDP Young Trustee



DAVID JONES
DTC Chair



SHAUN RYAN
DTC Director



ANDREW STEVENSON
DTC Non-executive director



BILL BRADLEY
DTC Non-executive director



JAMIE BOYD
DTC Non-executive director

Disability Awareness Day 2023 (DAD32)

Despite intermittent showers, the crowds gathered for the 32nd annual Disability Awareness Day on Sunday 16th July 2023. With nearly 20,000 visitors to Sunday's main show, there is clear evidence that we are building back to attendance figures on par with our pre-pandemic events.

Disability Awareness Day (DAD) is recognised as the world's largest 'not for profit' voluntary-led disability exhibition, held annually since 1992 in a huge tented village within the grounds of Walton Hall Gardens in Warrington. Thanks to the ongoing support from our joint principal sponsors Expanse Learning and United Utilities, we were able to launch our 32nd anniversary DAD within weeks of last year's event.

DAD Warrington has inspired other voluntary organisations to hold DAD events in towns and cities across the UK and as far afield as Cameroon, India, Uganda, Gibraltar, Denmark, Sweden, Egypt and Thailand.

DAD is a pan-disability event which promotes a can do culture focusing on what disabled people can do throughout life and work. It is peer-to-peer support, supplied mainly by charities and community groups, which can make a meaningful difference. DAD provides a one-stop-shop for information, advice and guidance on a range of pan disability and pan age matters relating to inclusion and independence.

Visitors to the show could interact with over 200 exhibitor stands that included support groups, statutory services, equipment suppliers, transport, holidays, leisure, employment and much more. Plus a huge Sports Zone with free have-a-go events, a Performing Arts Marquee, two Arts and Crafts Marquees, Silent disco, Main Arena and family entertainment. Many visitors report feeling inspired by what they find at DAD.

This year we saw more Mobility and Independent Living suppliers from across the UK, one Yorkshire based business encouraged members of a local disability support group to attend DAD, resulting in them hiring a 52-seater coach. Joint principal sponsors United Utilities, had a very busy day. All of their water saving items taken to the show were given away by mid-afternoon.

Health, social care, education, employment and training providers were well represented, led by our joint principal sponsors Expanse Learning. Several members of staff from our statutory partners stated it was the first public engagement event they had attended since the pandemic.

As well as promoting their services, exhibitors were able to network with other organisations. Businesses were able to display their range of innovative products and services. Charities and community groups were able to raise much-needed funds through various fundraising activities. More importantly, thousands of disabled people and their families are now better informed about services and products that can aid mobility and independent living.

Thousands were entertained by the very talented acts in the Performing Arts Marquee and Main Arena, with acts including Ella Performance Group, Creating Adventures, Wolf Print Dance and Warrington BSL Signing Choir. Others left inspired after participating in activities in this year's extended Sports Zone.

A week of complimentary events were held leading up to the big day including United Utilities Customer 'Vulnerability Summit', the 'Carers Wellbeing Festival', 'Ignite your Life' and the 'Bjorn to be Abba' fundraising event.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters, without your continued support the event would not be possible. Our next DAD event will be held on Sunday 14th July 2024. For more details, please visit the DAD website www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk



Working in Partnership

A Big Thank You

Warrington Disability Partnership would like to thank everyone that has supported, donated and worked alongside us during the past 12 months - including:

- Warrington Borough Council
- Torus
- Expanse Learning
- NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care System
- United Utilities
- MerseyCare NHS Foundation Trust
- Livewire Warrington
- Culture Warrington
- BAS (NW) Ltd
- Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Disability Positive
- Warrington & Vale Royal College
- ProTive Security & Surveillance
- Terry Lifts
- Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Liverpool City Council
- Catalyst Choices
- Warrington's Own Buses
- Unison
- The Steve Morgan Foundation
- Cheshire Community Foundation
- Your Housing Group
- David Lewis
- Peel NRE
- Donn Timmons & 15 Travel
- Ella Performance Group
- Bright Futures Care
- AKW Medi-Care Limited
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Energy Redress Scheme
- National Energy Action
- Warrington Worldwide
- Golden Square Shopping Centre
- F11 Photography
- Walton Hall and Gardens
- Mark Bates Insurance
- Royal London Insurance
- Birchwood Shopping Centre
- Today Team
- Warrington Business Exchange
- Warrington & Co
- Warrington Voluntary Action
- Handelsbank
- Technotub
- UPS Builders
- Chapelford Farm
- Cheshire Scuba Academy
- Thorn Marine
- Warrington Guardian
- Urban Builders
- Warrington Youth Zone
- Skillzone Ltd
- Fairview Windows
- CDX Security
- Warrington Borough Council Passenger Transport Unit
- Electricity North West
- Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Trust
- The Heritage Café Walton Gardens
- Creating Adventures
- WBC - Highways Assets Team
- Radio Warrington
- Radio General - Hospital Radio
- HCC Printers
- Cheshire Times
- University of Chester
- Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
- Acts Sound & Lighting
- St John Ambulance
- Warrington Sea Cadets TS Obdurate
- Warrington Lions
- Warrington Carers Hub
- Nick Gartside
- Ethel Munslow
- Steff Manfredi
- Thorn Cross HMP
- Relay Technical Transport
- Bruntwood
- NSL Parking
- Thorn Marine
- Penketh Methodist Church
- Pam Rouse
- Aaron & Partners
- Paul Matthews
- Mark Goulding
- Louise Banner
- Pat McLaren
- PPS Rail
- Lynda Jackson & Friends
- Hilary Evans
- Neil Benson
- Kerry Dawbarn
- Olsen Engineering

Birthday Fundraisers:

- Dave Thompson
- Mr S Jackson

Donations in memory of:

- Philippa Cannon



UPS Builders building Santa's Grotto

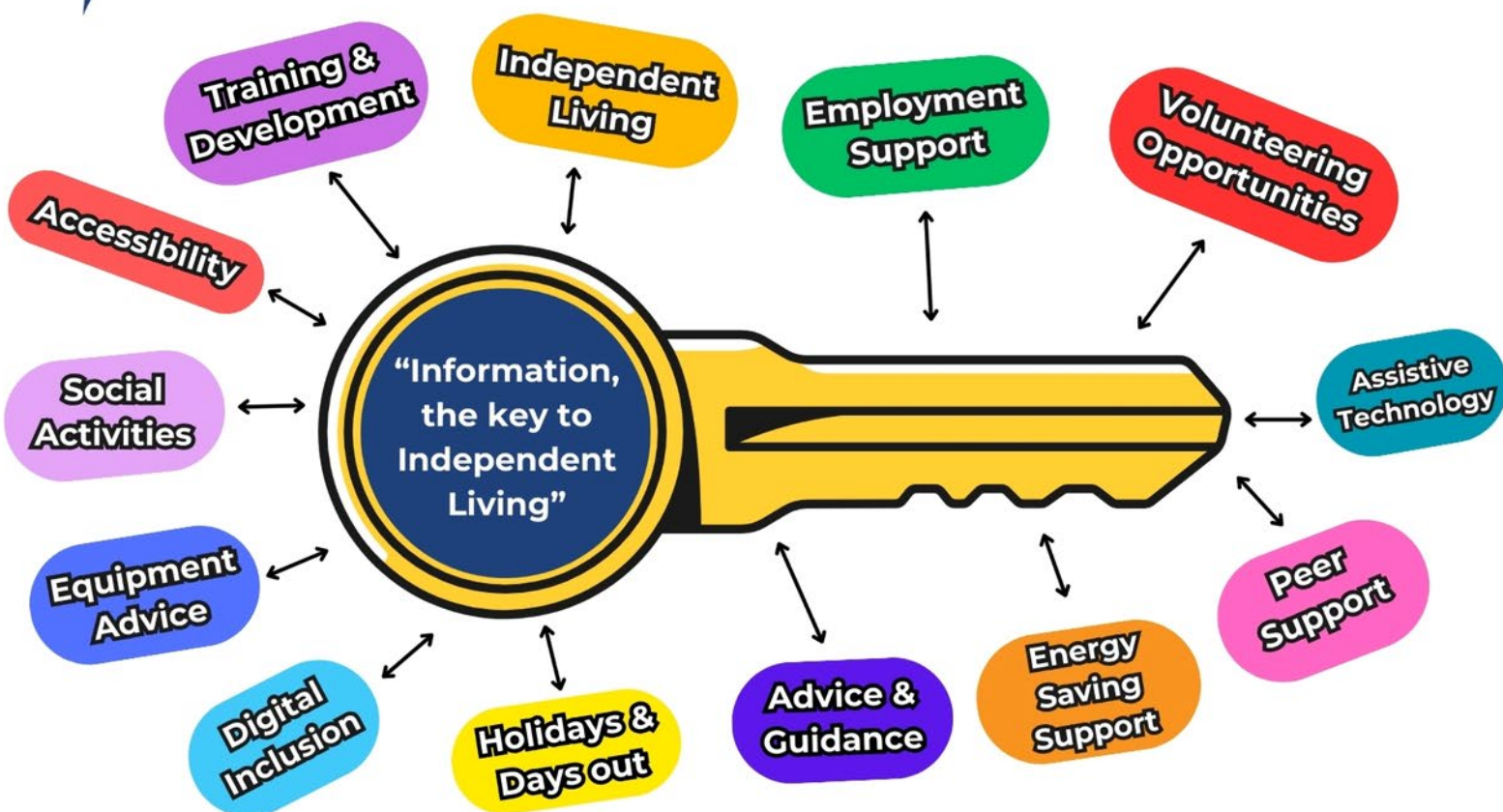


Expanse Learning volunteering during DAD Week 2023



AKW attending the WDP Charity Dinner 2023

How we can help!



How you can help!



for more information please call or visit our website
01925 240064 or www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk

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No.1 Choice for Mobility and Independent Living Equipment

The Disability Trading Company offer high quality, mobility & independent daily living aids, backed up by an extensive range of support services including information, advice and guidance.

- Mobility products, sales, service & repairs
- Rise & recline chairs - Adjustable beds - stairlifts
- Walking aids (3 & 4 Wheel walkers & walking sticks)
- Continence products (Pads, raised toilet seats, etc)
- Daily living aids (Kitchen & shower seats, cutlery, etc)
- Battery testing & Safety checks on mobility equipment
- Free assessments on site or at home
- Low prices and part exchange considered
- Limited range of pre-owned equipment available



Serving the Warrington community since 1991



All profits support our charity work at Warrington Disability Partnership

MOBILITY & INDEPENDENT LIVING STORE T: 01925 416624
30 SANKEY STREET, WARRINGTON WA1 1TD

MOBILITY & INDEPENDENT LIVING STORE T: 01925 251079
UNIT 6, DEWHURST ROAD, BIRCHWOOD WA3 7PG

CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING T: 01925 240064
BEAUFORT STREET, WARRINGTON WA5 1BA

www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk

disability
trading
company

Warrington
Disability
Partnership



New manager appointed for Living Well Hub

A new manager has been appointed for the Living Well Hub created in Warrington town centre at the former contact centre premises.

Key priorities for Emma Whaley include building relationships, strengthening partnerships, reducing inequalities and improving the wellbeing of Warrington residents.

Emma has been appointed to look after the day-to-day running of the multi-million-pound town centre facility, which is set to open its doors to residents on Monday 11 March.

The Living Well Hub, in Horsemarket Street, is a three-storey, fully accessible 'one-stop shop' aimed at helping people live as happily, healthily and independently as possible. It is intended to be a safe and welcoming space where you can go to get advice and support about your overall health and well-being.

Having worked in the town for more than 20 years and in the public sector for 24, Emma is passionate about transformational work and using holistic approaches to support those most in need.

Emma, who lives in Fearnhead said: "It's my job to support the day-to-day running of this fantastic facility, and so far it has been very hands on in terms of working towards our completion date for the building, meeting our delivery groups, liaising with multiple



teams from partner organisations across the town, and finalising the timetable of services ahead of next month's opening. Once open, the Living Well Hub will provide a range of clinical and non-clinical services under one roof that can offer advice and guidance around health and wellbeing, from conception through to older age."

The Town Deal-funded initiative will see the spaces within the new Hub shared by around 25 organisations, led by teams from Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Warrington Borough Council, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, with support from voluntary and charitable sector partners.

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ADULT COLLEGE

Year of the Dragon as Warrington celebrates Lunar New Year

Warrington town centre was transformed into a festival of colour and sound as it welcomed the Year of the Dragon for Lunar New Year.

Organised by Warrington Borough Council in partnership with Warrington Business Improvement District (BID), Culture Warrington, Live Wire and Independent Street Markets a host of free activities took place throughout the day.

The East Asian festival included an authentic lion and dragon dance, symbolising good luck, health, and prosperity, a martial arts demonstration, arts and craft workshops, live music, face painting, traditional western foods and up to 50 artisan market stalls.

Amy Dawber, Warrington BID Manager, said: "This was the first time we have held an event of this kind in Warrington and we felt it was important to celebrate the town's rich culture and diverse communities."

The event was held across Queen Gardens in Palmyra Square, Time Square, Warrington Market, Warrington Central Library and Warrington Museum and Art Gallery.

Visitors enjoyed fun with Liverpool's Hung Gar Kung Fu

Pictures: John Hopkins

School performing a lion and dragon dance as well as a martial arts demonstrations.

Organisers also commissioned indoor activities in Warrington Central Library and Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, in partnership with Mulan Culture. This included free arts and crafts workshops, from 3D printing dragons to calligraphy, birth year badge, paper flower making as well as displays of the museum's full collections to celebrate Lunar New Year.

"The Year of the Dragon is said to foster growth, progress and abundance in Chinese culture

– let's hope it does just that for Warrington," added Amy, "to everyone who is celebrating we wish you all a Happy New Year."

Warrington's Lunar New Year Festival is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Warrington BID is committed to enhancing and promoting Warrington town centre as a thriving and vibrant destination for businesses, residents, and visitors. Their efforts include supporting events such as this and initiatives that bring the community together while supporting local businesses.



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Plan to immortalise Wire legend Paul Cullen approved

A PLAN to immortalise Warrington Wolves' legend Paul Cullen with a giant mural on the side of King's Head pub has been approved by town planners.

The proposal by Warrington Arts Council working alongside local artist Anthony Turk, who painted the famous Warrington Pink Eye, also features former player and assistant coach Paul Darbyshire who tragically died from motor neurone disease aged just 41.

Warrington Borough Council planners say the proposed scheme to create a mural showcasing Paul Cullen's success at Warrington Wolves is not a traditional feature of the Grade II Listed building on Winwick Street, but it is reversible and will enhance awareness of the town's sporting heritage at this key gateway. The proposal will cause a level of less than substantial harm to designated heritage assets (The Kings Head and Winwick Street Conservation Area) by being a modern addition, but on balance the public benefits arising from local

engagement with sporting heritage of the borough to be gained from the proposal outweigh this low level of less than substantial harm.

They say the proposed works to create a mural on this Grade II listed building are on balance acceptable and comply with Policy DC2 (Historic Environment) of the Warrington Local Plan 2023.

Paul Taylor, Chair of Warrington Arts Council, who submitted the planning application said, "Anthony is itching to get started on it and we're extremely proud and excited that this mural will kick off our Art and About in Warrington Initiative that we launched recently.

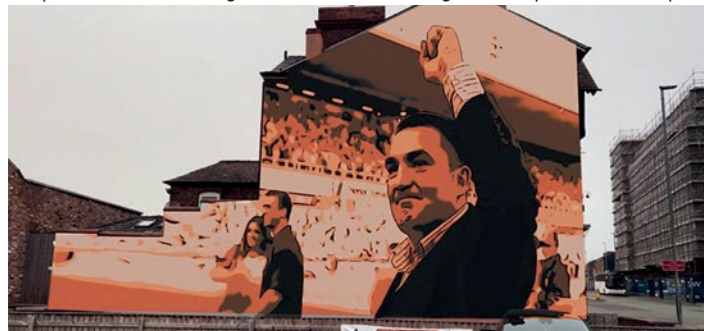
"This will be the first of many fantastic art projects in town that will brighten the place up and remind us of our amazing heritage and ambition that we have here in Warrington. It is just the first step in

a long, winding, walking tour of the town that people will travel to come and experience one day."

The main image chosen by Anthony is that of Paul Cullen saluting fans after the final match of the season when he saved Warrington from relegation in 2003. Not only was it the last league game the Warrington Wolves' first team would play at the Wilderspool Stadium before it was demolished but it was especially crucial that Warrington weren't relegated at that particular time as they needed to have the Super League status to ensure that their occupation of the new Halliwell Jones Stadium was sustainable.

The Kings Head, a pub that is well known for attracting rugby fans and has done so for many, many years exists right between the old location of the Wilderspool stadium and the new Halliwell Jones.

Paul added, "We all know rugby is a huge part of the town's heritage and that's why we should be loud and proud of what we have and this will further enhance the heritage value of the King's Head, which is already a Grade II listed building thanks to its ornate frontage, by placing this inspiring mural on a wall that is just bare plaster at the moment (since the neighbouring buildings were demolished)."



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By David Watkinson

As we enter a new tax year it's a goodbye from her and a goodbye from me

We are fast approaching the end of the current tax year on 5th April and there are a number of possible items to be looked at.

Firstly, as usual there are a number of possible tax saving actions that you should consider, especially if you are a higher rate taxpayer, most of which are fairly straightforward.

One of the main ways is to make contributions into a personal pension scheme. Contributions are made net of basic rate tax. Therefore, if you pay £800 into a pension fund then the government will add a further £200, meaning that your pension fund will increase by £1,000. A basic rate taxpayer will receive no further relief. However, a higher rate taxpayer will receive a further tax refund of £200 for the additional 20% tax payable. Additionally, pension contributions reduce the taxable income used to calculate High Income Child Benefit Charge, so if your income is above £50,000 then you can avoid having to repay any Child Benefit received by paying the surplus

income above £50,000 into a pension fund.

Similarly, payments made under Gift Aid will have the same effect as above on tax payable. However, these will have no effect on Child Benefit.

It is important to note that pension contributions and gift aid donations cannot be offset backwards against earlier years tax payable. Therefore, to affect the current year's tax then these payments must be made before 5th April.

Many of the other items will only affect people with extensive wealth. With the increase in property prices, however, it may be worth remembering a couple of the main Inheritance Tax Reliefs as follows:

- An annual gift allowance of £3,000 per annum. This is the total amount that be given in a tax year and is not "per gift".
- Small gifts not exceeding £250 to as many individuals as you wish. However, the £250 limit is per person and cannot be combined with any other gift or relief. Therefore,

if you have made a gift of £1,000 to an individual as part of your £3,000 annual gift allowance then you cannot make a further gift of £250 to that same individual under the small gift allowance.

Secondly, there is a major change to the tax system that will affect anyone trading on their own or in a trading partnership who do not make their annual accounts up to 5th April or 31st March.

From next year your tax will be calculated on your profits for the tax year, so your tax for 2024/25 will be based on your profits for the 12 months ending on 31st March 2025 or 5th April 2025. If you have made your accounts up to this date in earlier years then you will not be affected. However, for everyone else the tax for the current tax year will be calculated using transitional arrangements. Essentially, you will be taxed on your profits for the previously applicable accounting period, plus profits for the period from that year end to 31st March 2024, less an amount of overlap relief



Thomas Coyne and Stuart Barr

based generally on profits taxed in the first two tax years.

This could affect the amount of tax payable, and in many cases will result in a higher liability. However, there are a number of reliefs available which will mitigate any effect. This is not straightforward and will affect people in different ways. We cannot go into all the various possibilities in this article but we will be advising clients on an individual basis.

Finally, it is a farewell to Warrington Worldwide from both Margaret Black and David Watkinson who have been writing these columns for the last 25 years. However, WatkinsonBlack will continue to provide this information to you every month. From next month these columns will be written by our successors, Stuart Barr and Tom Coyne. Both Margaret and David wish you all a very healthy and prosperous future and thank you for your past support. We are pleased to be handing the reins to two pairs of very capable hands.

WatkinsonBlack have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services. This includes providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service, as well as assisting to ensure compliance with the latest Making Tax Digital legislation. **If you are employed or self-employed either as a sole trader, partnership or limited company and want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us by telephone on 01925 413210 or by e-mail to info@watkinsonblack.com.**

Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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Good luck Lucas Green!



Lucas is pictured being presented with his No. 25 shirt by Warrington Worldwide founder and owner Gary Skentelbery at the new season launch at the Halliwell Jones Stadium.

DURING our 25th anniversary Year Warrington Worldwide is delighted to be sponsoring Warrington Wolves' young teenage Prop Lucas Green, following his rapid rise through the Academy.

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