Warrington Disability Partnership Annual Report 2017









Giving Disabled People Hope & Opportunity



Introduction

Chairman and Chief Executive's Report

During 2016, our 25th Anniversary Year, Warrington Disability Partnership and our social enterprise the Disability Trading Company continue to make a positive difference to the lives of tens of thousands of disabled people, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Our performance against contracts have continued to receive excellent outcome results, but due to a reduction in funding in a number of areas, and the realignment of some grant payments, our financial position has suffered in year. This has resulted in us reviewing our services, and we feel confident that we will redress the position during our next trading year.

Throughout our 25th year we have highlighted the selfless involvement of hundreds of people, especially our volunteers. Together we have laid down a number of milestone achievements that have helped to shape the organisation we have and helped influence disability services worldwide. Today, WDP has an excellent team of 50 staff, 230 volunteers and 14 trustees, as well as a substantial following of supporters and loyal customers.

This support has been evident as individuals, community groups and businesses got behind our Legacy Appeal, raising funds that will help to continue our work into the future. Thirty-one staff from Birchwood based Claremont, endured a 42 miles Canoe Challenge down the river Wye, whilst staff from Solvay climbed Mount Snowdon and the Today Team walked over hot coals. Nearly a dozen organisations chose us as their Charity of the Year including our Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington and the Royal Mail at Omega. Individual efforts also stood out, with Lindsey Mapp's sponsored walk, Dominic Hall's sale of woodwork, and our biggest thanks go to St George Healthcare and St Mark Universal Copts Care, joint sponsors our Legacy Fund.

One of our biggest milestones was our 25th Disability Awareness Day that was principally sponsored by Your Housing Group. David Briggs MBE, Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire presented certificates of appreciation to a number of individuals and organisations that have supported each of our annual events. DAD25 also influenced other DAD events around the world including India, Cameroon and Uganda.

Further milestones saw the launch of our Accessible Warrington Pledge; with sixteen leading statutory, private and 3rd sector organisations promising to involve disabled people at the predesign stage of all new build and major refurbishment schemes. In partnership with St Mark Universal

Copts Care; we launched the Phoenix Project which aims to provide refurbished mobility aides to disabled people living in the Middle East. Our world record tombola attempt brought together 70 people from a dozen organisations including Lions and Rotary Clubs.

Sadly, during the year, we lost several members of our team; Audrey Rogers, Vivienne Jones, Dorothy Gatley and Andrew Carmen MBE. Their passing has been felt by everyone at WDP

Last year we made reference to future challenges, and the climate of continuing funding pressures and strong competition for corporate support. We make no apologies for repeating this call, as we strive to continue to develop a commercial/social enterprise approach, albeit, we will stay consistent with our values and vision: "To be the leading userled organisation in the UK providing mobility and independent living solutions".

Finally, we would like to thank everyone involved in 'Team WDP', our partners, our funders, supporters, service users and customers.

Thank you.
John Gartside OBE DL JP
Dave Thompson MBE DL
Chairman, Co-founder and 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



WDP Services

Who we are and what we do

Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) is an internationally acclaimed user-led charity. With over 26 years' experience of developing and delivering mobility and independent living services, our aim is to support disabled people and people living with long-term health conditions. We are proud of our wide-ranging services, which include:

Promoting Independent Living

Our popular Disability Helpline (01925 240064) offers advice and support around local support groups and services. The 'OUCH Pain Management' and 'Beyond the Scars' support groups support local disabled people around selfmanagement.

Our Shopmobility Scheme - located in Legh Street Car Park - offers both scooters and wheelchairs for use within the Town Centre. They are available for hire Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm. A six-month membership costs just £10 or £20 for a full year. In addition our Scoota Safe Campaign was launched earlier this year to improve the safety of mobility scooters within Warrington.

Visit our Centre for Independent Living (CIL) - located on Beaufort Street, the Disabled Living Centre at the Lifehouse on Brunswick Dock, Liverpool or our Mobility and Independent Living Solutions Store in Golden Square, Warrington to see all the latest equipment from baths, showers and kitchens to beds, wheelchairs and stair lifts, plus so much more!

WDP's trading arm - Disability Trading Company (DTC) offers high-quality independent living products at competitive prices. In addition, the Mobility Workshop provides servicing, repairs and maintenance support for mobility equipment; alongside the Phoenix Project providing mobility aids to those in need. All profits from DTC services are gifted to WDP to support the work of the charity.

Support with Employment and Money

Our award-winning Employment Team is proud to specialise in supporting local disabled people with a health condition (including mental health); ESA claimants and those in receipt of incapacity-related benefits. The team support individuals throughout all stages of the employment process; enabling everyone to make more effective choices about skills, careers, work and life.

Our Independent Living Team specifically 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 support from our Payroll team).

Learning and Development

Visit the Discover IT Suite at Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre on Beaufort Street to take part in a host of educational and inspiring IT courses including 'Computers for the Terrified' and pre-employment IT.

Additional training including 'Disability Equality Training' and 'Disability and Sex Matters' training are regularly available for health and social care providers, voluntary organisations and Over 220 active volunteers support our WDP services (including Disability Awareness Day)

individuals.

Accessible Holidays & Days Out

Our fully accessible holiday homes in North Wales and our adapted, wheelchair-accessible narrow boat 'The Wizard', are available for hire at competitive rates - leaving you to enjoy a bargain break or day out on the water!

Sports for Children and Young People

The Children's and Young People's Leisure, Recreation and Sports Team deliver a number of targeted sessions. They actively promote inclusion and integration to ensure that children can achieve in a safe and fun environment. Our clubs and activities welcome people of all abilities and include The Disability Inclusive Sports Club, and in conjunction with local partners Wolf Club and the Planet Blue Youth Club. The team regularly attend events at local schools and organisations to promote disability awareness.

Opportunities to Socialise

We run a variety of Luncheon Clubs for individuals who are looking for friendship, activities, fun and - of course lunch! Our over 55's clubs meet every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 2pm (come as often as you like). New for 2017 our Monday Club caters for the Under 55's. Attendees enjoy playing bingo; games; quizzes; taking part in arts and crafts and chair-based exercises, and listening guest speakers.

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. The CIL and MGLC's well-equipped meeting and training rooms are also available for hire, with catering facilities available.

Our large team of volunteers work across all our services, including supporting our team at many of our weekend fundraising activities (see our website for our 2018 events).

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



Volunteer Spotlight:

Dave Williams

Dave and his wife Janis joined WDP as Disability Awareness Day Stewards in 2011 after meeting our Chief Executive, Dave Thompson and his wife, and Honorary President, Pam on holiday in Egypt. Since then, Dave's involvement has continued to grow, joining the WDP Board of Trustees in December 2011. Dave currently holds the roles of Executive Member of the WDP Board, WDP Secretary, DTC Board Member and Chair of the Fundraising and Community Engagement Sub Group, amongst a range of other roles.

Dave has a long history of volunteering stemming back over forty years. He has worked for local government for the past eight years; previously holding senior management positions in public and private engineering companies. His skills and knowledge, including extensive Health and Safety knowledge, have helped to support and develop our Trading Arm, the Disability Trading Company, which has exceeded expectations since its' creation in 2011.

Dave explains one of the ways that he looks at volunteering 'It is like an insurance policy, I would much prefer to be paying in rather than having to make a claim because something has gone wrong. I'm just in a fortunate position that I can continue to pay in every year and have so far not needed to make a claim. I hope to continue volunteering for many years to support disabled people, their families and friends who because of no fault of their own need WDP's support and services.'



Nowadays, volunteering for WDP and DAD takes up all of Dave's spare time, as he believes in the work that we do. Whilst there are many worthwhile charities in Warrington, he feels that no other cover such a broad spectrum; reaching out to so many local people in need; irrelevant of their disability or situation. As a carer for his elderly parent, he has first-hand experiences of the need for the services that WDP provide. He also understands the importance to raise vital funds to continue and develop our work and enjoys the challenges that this brings. However, he jokes that he has learnt his lesson; never to speak to strangers on holiday again!

> 'Everytime I come here (to WDP), I feel happier as I am achieving things that I've been trying to do for years.....I can't thank you and the team enough' **Employment Team client.**

Over 80% of our staff members began their WDP journey as a volunteer.

'Within the last three weeks Nick has been able to turn a forgetful novice into someone who can now say he can use 'Microsoft Word' and use his own computer effectively. He is patient, caring, knowledgeable and delivers high quality training. He is a big man, who's already got a big place in my heart'

Learning Centre User.

In 2017, Disability Awareness Day has been held in 10 countries worldwide.



Development of WDP's trading arm -The Disability Trading Company

In April 2011, with the encouragement and support of local and national leaders from health & social care providers WDP established a trading arm 'the Disability Trading Company'. DTC's first retail service was launched from the Warrington Centre for Independent Living. In October 2011 WDP opened the Mobility & Independent Living Store (MILS) in the Golden Square Shopping Centre in Warrington Town Centre. This was achieved in a partnership with the shopping centres management team.

During 2012 Liverpool City Council and Liverpool Community NHS negotiated a contract that has led to DTC operating their independent living showrooms and a retail area at the Disabled Living Centre at the Lifehouse in Liverpool.

In early 2013 DTC opened a full scale Mobility Workshop & Service Centre which has seen rapid expansion in its customer base of individuals and businesses including Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, nursing homes and voluntary sector organisations including Shopmobility Schemes.

In late 2013 DTC launched 'Remobilise' a service aimed at recycling mobility equipment which is sold from WDP's Shopmobility service located in Warrington Town Centre.

In October 2016 WDP and DTC, in partnership with St Mark Universal Copts Care, launched 'the Phoenix Project', shipping wheelchairs and other mobility aids, that were previously scrapped, to countries including Egypt and Thailand. The service is supported by a number of leading equipment suppliers including NRS Healthcare and NHS home loans services in Warrington and Knowsley.

Over the last few years, the DTC team evaluated the mobility market and quickly realised that our sector only had a small number of specialist equipment suppliers. In our area there was only one company who stood out from the rest. WDPs Commercial Director started to talk to new suppliers and the necessary training was completed with Team Members.

DTC now prides itself on the bespoke, made to measure equipment that it can supply to meet needs of clients where many other mobility shops can't. DTC continues to develop relationships with NHS Trusts and Councils to supply tailormade seating, specialist wheelchairs and modular ramp systems. All these products are helping DTC stay ahead of the competition. We now have two assessors on hand to undertake home visits and talk to our customers about our specialist products and services.

What makes DTC unique?

- DTC has no private shareholders, 100% of its profits go to support the work of Warrington Disability Partnership, all staff receive a salary and not incentive bonuses,
- 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,
- Free impartial home and work assessments based on the philosophy of information, advice and guidance, not just
- Hundreds of volunteer hours contribute to reducing DTC overheads, which result in savings that are passed on to the customers.



2017 highlights

The year in pictures



WDP Team Member, Tommy Hammond took part in a sponsored 15,000 foot Tandem Sky Dive.



Over 1300 pieces of mobility equipment have been shipped to other countries in need (including Egypt, Thailand and Syria) during the first year of the Phoenix Project in partnership with St Mark Universal Copts Care charity.



Successful launch of the Scoota Safe Campaign in partnership with Network Warrington, Warrington Borough Council and the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner.



Successful Golf Day organised by Dave Owens, captain of Sutton Hall Golf Club, raising over £1800.



Pennington Choices complete the Three Peaks Challenge raising over £4,000. The team was led by CEO of Pennington Choices and DTC board member, Mark Seaborn



Members of the WDP Team were invited to a cheque presentation at Warrington Town Hall by former Mayor of Warrington, Faisal Rashid who raised £10,000 for WDP during his Mayoral year.



The team at Royal Mail raised over £3,000 through a variety of events.





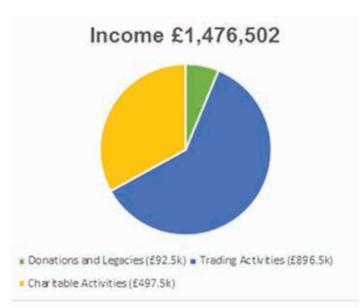
Successful Launch of our new 'Monday Club' for the under 55's. Thanks to the West Area Board for funding some of the activities.



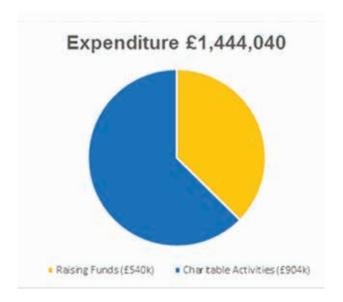


WDP Chairman, John Gartside is awarded the Warrington Guardian 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Awards. Ellen Houghton was awarded 'Teenager of the Year'.

WDP Financial Position 2016-17



The above information has been taken from the audited consolidated accounts for the financial period 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017, as reported by the Charities Commission.



The figures relate to the consolidated accounts for Warrington Disability Partnership and its Subsidiary Company (The Disability Trading Company). The cost of raising funds includes the purchase of stock for resale.

Events Calendar 2018

February

WDP Quiz Night - 2nd February

Sponsored Swim

April

WDP Quiz Night - 6th April

May

Walk in the Park • Scoota Safe Event

June

WDP Quiz Night - 1st June

Launch of Disability Awareness Week - 30th June

July

DAD Week Events
DAD BBQ in the Park – 13th July

Disability Awareness Day 2018 - 15th July

August

WDP Quiz Night - 3rd August

September

Scoota Safe Event

October

WDP Quiz Night - 5th October

WDP Charity Dinner • Scuba Challenge

WDP Quiz Night - 7th December Santa Experience

For further details, or to sign up for any of these events, please contact the WDP Fundraising Team on

01925 240064



WDP provides a payroll service for over 350 Direct Payments users to support them to employ over 500 employees.

During the past 12 months, 40 young people have gained valuable Work Experience placements within WDP

During the past 12 months, over 17,000 people have visited our Equipment Showrooms.

Over 65,000 calls have been received through our Disability Helpline during the past 12 months

Our teams have engaged with over 220,000 people during the last 12 months.

Our team has presented Disability Awareness talks to over 5,000 local children and young people during the past 12 months.



Disability Awareness Day 2017

DAD 26 - Sunday, 16th July, 2017

Over 24,000 people attended this years' annual Disability Awareness Day (DAD26) recognised internationally as the largest annual voluntary-led, pan-disability Independent Living Exhibition in the world. The event, held at Walton Gardens attracted over 250 exhibitors showcasing a wide range of equipment, mobility products, transport solutions, employment support, education, health and social care, leisure activities, plus over 100 support groups. The aim of the event, as always, was to promote all aspects of independent living through the promotion of what disabled people "can

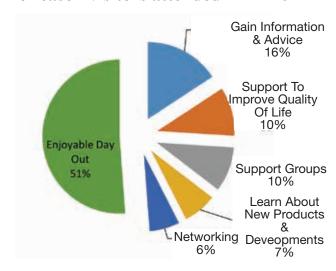
DAD26 engaged a wide range of the community, with a further 5,000 people involved in activities starting the week prior to the big day. These included:

- •Promotional event in Warrington Town Centre.
- Positive Action Disability Awareness Event attended by over 120 students from local schools and colleges.
- Frogtastic Party for people who have a Learning Disability.
- •Health & Well-Being for Mental Health Service Users event.
- •Ella Summertime Special.
- •Tea-dance in a Tent.
- •Party in the Park for disabled children and young disabled people.

Most of this year's exhibitors were housed in a huge tented village of marquees, supported by a 'have-a-go' sports zone, a Centre Arena, a huge Performing Arts Marquee and a children's play area.



The reason visitors attended DAD 2017



'DAD offers lots of support to help people stay well mentally. Things that can help our confidence, distract us from things that make us unwell (Anxiety, depression, loneliness) and help us find positive things to do with our lives."

DAD 2017 Visitor

On the day, visitors were able to "have a go" at sports activities including archery, shooting, basketball, fencing, football, rugby, boxing, karate, tennis and scuba diving in the on-site pool. For those looking for a more relaxed day, there was a fantastic line-up of talent in the Arts Marquee with some of the UK's leading disabled artists and a Main Arena featuring Dog Display Teams, Birds of Prey and a Samba Band.

Once again, DAD26 continued the international theme: the MESSAGE Institute based in Jaipur India ran their 9th Annual Disability Awareness Day on the 16th July, and 'Closing the Gap', based in Cameroon and the Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation in Uganda also held their own versions of DAD. The Step1 - Step 2 Charity in Thailand also made celebratory DAD bunting at a party held for severely disabled youngsters.

On behalf of the DAD Management Team, we would like to thank everyone who supported this year's event; sponsors, supporters, DAD Stewards, exhibitors and visitors. In particular, our joint principal sponsors St George Healthcare Group and St Mark Universal Copts Care.

Next years' event will be held on Sunday 15th July, 2018

Continuing the legacy::

Laura Atkinson

During 2016, our 25th Anniversary year, WDP launched our Legacy Appeal to provide supported employment opportunities for young, disabled people. Over £70,000 was raised through a combined effort of local businesses, organisations and individuals. Our latest recruit, Laura Atkinson has recently started an apprenticeship in Social Media and Communications, joining our Fundraising and Community Engagement Teams.

When Laura first started high school in 2010 she was diagnosed with Dyslexia and was told she would have to work harder than everyone. At first, Laura found this difficult to come to terms with. Two years later she was diagnosed with Dyspraxia and visual stress. During this time, her classmates began to make negative comments. Laura began to doubt herself and felt her confidence levels dropping. She began to struggle with her mental health, using music and art as an outlet.

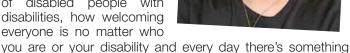
In 2015, a week before her GCSE exams she was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder. At this time, Laura felt that things began to change in a more positive way. However, Laura explained that she felt that there were still a number of questions left unanswered "I saw a quote that's stuck with me that said 'ADD/ADHD is like having a Ferrari engine brain with bicycle brakes' and it felt like everything was starting to make sense'". In 2016, halfway through her photography course at college, Laura was also diagnosed with Autistic spectrum disorder.

Around this time Laura first began volunteering with WDP. She really enjoyed her initial experience, as she felt that WDP showed her that her disabilities don't have to hold her back and she's just as capable as everyone else with some extra support. Since then, she has been a regular volunteer

at a variety of events, as well as supporting the Administration Team with a variety of projects, following the completion of her photography course in June 2017.

'I wanted to join Team WDP because of how understanding they are of disabled people with disabilities, how welcoming everyone is no matter who

new and interesting happening.



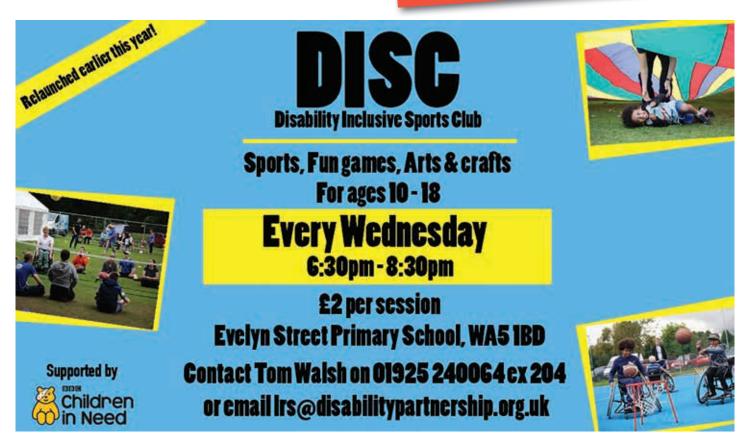
Through doing this apprenticeship I've done things I never thought I'd be able to do, met lots of new people, answer phones, talk in front of people at meetings, be more vocal and speak up. I really enjoy it and feel part of the team. I feel like I get all the support I need here and if I have any problems I feel like you can talk openly. I am able to be creative and still do what I love as well as learn new skills and face new challenges. I feel like I'm beginning to feel more confident in myself and my ability here. I feel like since August I've already learnt a lot and I'm looking forward to 2018 with WDP.'

Laura Atkinson –WDP Social Media and Communications Apprentice

Laura is the 5th young disabled person to benefit from the WDP Legacy Appeal. To support the Appeal during 2018 and beyond, please contact the team on 01925 240064.

85% of Team WDP have a Disability or Long-Term Heath Condition. Research shows that 'Disabled people are in the best position to provide information to other disabled people'

(Barnes and Mercer 2006)



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
- NHS Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group
- St Mark Universal Copts Care
- St George Healthcare Group
- NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group
- Golden Gates Housing Trust
- Liverpool City Council
- BBC Children in Need
- The Holroyd Foundation
- North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Livewire Warrington
- University of Chester -Warrington Campus
- Gladstone Brookes
- Culture Warrington
- BAS (NW) Ltd
- NRS Healthcare
- United Utilities
- BT
- Active Cheshire
- Warrington & Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust



The Mayor, Les Morgan, is pictured lighting the the fire, and right with Jamie Boyd, MD of Today Team.

- Warrington & Vale Royal College
- Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- Francois & Cynthia Sallutys
- Barclays Bank PLC
- Network Warrington
- University of Chester -Warrington Campus
- People Plus
- Cheshire Police and Crime Commisser
- Voisey & Co
- Warrington & Co
- Lymm Rotary Club
- Royal Mail
- Stockton Heath Primary School
- Ravenbank School
- Enterprise Foundation Trust
- Warrington Running Club
- Chapelford Farm

- Golden Square Shopping Centre
- Round Table
- Shiptons Jewellers
- Ikea Warrington
- Sainsburys Chapelford
- Warrington Retail Market
- The Northern Dive Show
- Lions Clubs International
- Styles & Co
- Warrington Worldwide
- Flextronics
- Sutton Hall Golf Club
- Today Team
- Pennington Choices
- Liverpool Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- Protive
- Cheshire Scuba Academy
- Thorn Marine
- Barn Owl Inn
- Warrington Guardian

Dave and the team in 2015 it was inspiring to see all the amazing work they do in the local community and beyond. It's great for me and the team to be able to help support such a good cause.'

'After meeting

- Jamie Boyd, Managing Director, Today Team
- MKM Building Supplies
- Warrington Sea Cadets TS Obdurate
- Skillzone Ltd
- Leonard Cheshire
- Warrington Youth Club
- Oculus Studios
- Warrington Wolves Foundation
- Fairview Windows
- Anthony Green
- Norman Spencer
- Lillian Smith
- Tommy Hammond
- St Oswald's Club
- In memory of Mary Sephton
- In memory of John Michael Shields
- Mr Holland
- Mayor of Warrington
- Helen Black's Family

WDP Trustees & DTC Directors:

WDP Trustee Board:

John Gartside
OBE DL JP – Chair
Pat Kitto – Vice Chair

Dave Williams - Secretary

Graeme Hindley – Treasurer Jan Pritchard

Cynthia Salluyts

Gary Skentelbery Mike Dawbarn

Eileen McDonald

Latham Parry
Maureen McLaughlin

Nick Richardson (co-opted)

Dave Kelsall (co-opted)

Sue Bentley MBE – retired August 2017

Mark Wilson OBE – retired December 2017

Adrian Derbyshire - retired December 2017

DTC Directors:

David Jones – Chair Mark Seaborn Jamie Boyd Bill Bradley Pat Kitto

Dave Williams

WDP Honorary President:

Pam Thompson

WDP Honorary Vice Presidents:

Terry Wadsworth Karen Beaton

WDP Patrons:

Prof Steven Broomhead Dr Sarah Baker Kathy Cowell OBE DL Liz Smith Lord Doug Hoyle
Dr Naser Fouad
Hala Fouad
Pete Pinnington
Peter Ives
Mike Hannon
Ryan Atkinson

WDP is probably the most actively engaged charity in Warrington, attending over 150 events during the past 12 months.

"Pennington Choices are delighted to continue our support for WDP this year. Every single one of us knows someone living with some sort of disability, physical or not. We are proud to be able to collaborate with WDP and thrilled that the money we raised this year has gone towards their 25 year Legacy Appeal."

Mark Seaborn, Managing Director, Pennington Choices

Help us to help others

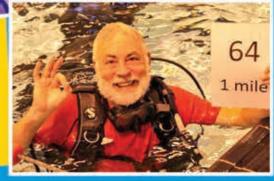






- Make a donation
- Join Team WDP
- Take on a new challenge
- Attend our events
- Organise your own event
- Leave a Legacy
- Join our sponsored events (swim, scuba, walks)







Supporting Independence Throughout Life and Work



@disabilitypartnership

