



Taking Part

Report

2012-2013

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Annual Report 2012-2013





Changing Times;
Changing Lives

An Independent Service for people with
learning difficulties



Shrewsbury Office

Taking Part

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Advocacy



Escape



Information



Signposting



Partnership Working



Project Work



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With rights come responsibilities;
with responsibilities come consequences



www.takingpart.co.uk

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A Message from the Trustees

Introduction

As Trustees, we are very pleased that Taking Part has been able to continue to do all their good work and still provide services throughout 2012. Getting money to do the work Taking Part does is very important. With all the cuts that have been taking place we are glad that our funding continued.

Meeting the Challenge of 2012 Information Sharing

The Taking Part teams in Telford and Shropshire have continued to go to lots of meetings to share information and experiences. Self-Advocates have been involved in some of the meetings as well. Taking Part is working much more closely with other voluntary sector services across the county who all have the same aim of helping vulnerable people.

Taking Part has been very involved working with CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups). They will be looking after primary care services from 1st April 2013. Taking Part has also been working with Health and Wellbeing Boards. They will be looking at all health and social care needs of our changing communities.





Taking Part tells these groups and boards about the needs of people with learning difficulties in Shropshire.

Fact Finding

Taking Part has been helping to find out about what people think about the services they receive from the Local Authorities in Shropshire and Telford. What people told us will help the councils look at their services to see if they could be changed and improved in anyway.



Advocacy

Taking Part is all about supporting people to have their voices heard, be listened to, included and treated equally. This is done through all types of advocacy and also by giving people the right information and guidance to make informed decisions.



Taking Part has also done some training in 2012 to help people keep safe. We also learned how to use our skills as self-advocates to help other people.



Projects

During 2012 Taking Part have been involved in lots of different types of work and have done a lot of project work around different issues. There will be more about this project work in this Annual Report.





Conclusion

Throughout 2012 Taking Part has been able to change itself to fit in with all the changes that are being made to social care, health and benefits systems. Staff members have been able to keep up to date with their skills and learning. This means they can better support people to deal with and find out about all these changes.



Taking Part has made new contacts with other agencies and increased their networks. They have been able to find areas that need attention, and used training and support to get results.

Taking Part help a lot of people to:

- stay safe
- put a stop to being in crisis
- try new things
- be more responsible for themselves



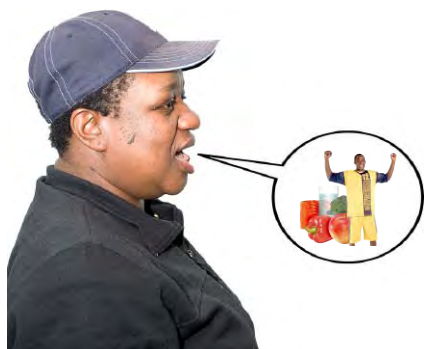
Throughout it all, Taking Part has kept the finances under control knowing that the future for everyone involved depends on funding.



Through the skills of the team and their hard work we have had another successful year. We continue to be very well respected across the whole of Shropshire.

Health

Health Workshops



Every year Local Authorities and Health Services have to tell the Department of Health how well their health services for people with learning disabilities are doing.

From July to September 2012 Taking Part ran 4 workshops across the whole of Shropshire to talk to people about what they thought about their health services. These include:

- Doctors
- Hospitals
- Emergency services
- Dentists
- Chiropodists - people who look after our feet
- Chemists



We did 4 workshops. We talked to people at:

- Lorne Street in Oswestry
- Hartleys in Shrewsbury
- The Community Hall in Ditton Priors
- Civic Offices in Telford



In total we spoke to over 100 people.
We found out that:



- Some services were better depending on which part of Shropshire you lived.
- Not many people had received an Annual Health Check or even knew what one was.
- Often basic information about health needs is not recorded properly. It is not known about or shared with the people it needs to be, when it needs to be.
- Not many GP practices made 'reasonable adjustment' to help us get an appointment, get into the surgery or book in.
- Sometimes doctors talked to carers and not the person who was visiting them.
- Most people who took medication knew what they took it for and had regular medication reviews.

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All of the information we found out was put into the Health Self Assessment Framework paperwork and sent to the Department of Health and Reviewing Team to look at. In December the Reviewing Teams came to talk to us some more about what we had put in our reports.



The Reviewing Teams sent their comments back in early 2013. There is some work that Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire have to do to make things better. There are now Action Plans that Partnership Boards will have to look after and review. Taking Part will be helping with these Action Plans. We may come back to talk to you again in 2013.

Healthy Lives



We have been working with people at Downing House and Carwood residential homes in Telford.

The project has looked at how we can help people with a learning difficulty live a healthier life.



Residents and staff took part in having their health checked by a trained nurse. This information was then used to find out what help and support people needed.

Some of the activities we enjoyed were:

- Creative art - Making a memory box
- Cooking healthy food - on the food bus
- Sports and games sessions
- Dance session





- Feeling good and working with animals
- Visits from the rag doll cats and Rupert the horse
- Food tasting
- Training for staff.

We have learned why it is important to live a healthy life, and what we need to do to stay healthy.

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Health Focus Group



Early this year Taking Part helped to support 'Hats off to Humanity'; a project that aimed to work creatively around patient involvement.



Taking Part were invited by Karen Higgins (from the Patient Involvement Support team for Shropshire Health Services) to support three members of the leaders team to be part of a community group.



We started by drawing our emotions on paper, some emotions were easier to do than others. This was to build up our confidence and take us to the next stage when we used colours to show our feelings.



Next we thought about what question we needed to ask that would make a positive difference to each of us when we are having a health service, for example when being in hospital.



Each of us created the question as a painting; every canvas was very different. This is because we were asking our individual questions and we were people from different backgrounds who had different ways of looking at things.



At the last workshop we were videoed being asked our questions to make a film. It will be used to raise awareness about what it is like living with a difference and how staff can support us better.



The paintings will be used as an art display in Health Services.



It was a good thing to be a part of and important that Health Services listen to us in the community.



Employment / Education / Training

Employment Sub Group



Taking Part is a member of the Employment Sub-group of the Learning Disability Partnership Board. The group also has representatives from Shropshire Council, Enable, Job Centre Plus, Wave-length, Transition and Working4Me.

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The group has written a plan to achieve the aims set out in the Shropshire Employment Strategy for people with a learning disability. People with learning disabilities are saying they would like to work and not enough are getting the opportunity to get a job.



The Government has said more people with learning disabilities should have a job. The plan says we must ensure the support for people with learning disabilities going into employment continues to get better; making sure people get good information to become employed. The plan is also needed because some people think people with learning disabilities should not work.



Our priorities are raising employment with family carers, employers and promoting success stories especially in the area of personal budgets.



We want to find ways to help people understand more about the benefits system. We work as part of the Transformation agenda to support people to look at options outside day services.

Going forward, we want to:

- work more with Children's Services, schools and colleges
- share good practice
- have an event to showcase success stories
- promote independent and supported travel



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Education and College

Twice every year TCAT ask their learners to fill in a questionnaire about how they feel about the courses they chose and their college experience. Some people like to have support to understand the questions and have their voice heard.



An advocate from Taking Part spends two weeks working with learners to fill in the questionnaires. The learners talk about how they decided which course to do and if they enjoyed the experience.



About 60 students will talk about college, how they did and what supports them best.

Report



When the questionnaire has been filled in Taking Part looks at what people have said and writes a report. It has information about good experiences and things which could be improved. The report is sent to the Head of School.



Later the learners get to talk about the report in their sessions. Each learner has a copy of the questionnaire they filled in. They can bring it with them on future questionnaires to see what they have said before.



All this work helps TCAT to see how they are doing and how they can provide the best learning experience for everyone. It is also gives people chance to talk to Taking Part about any issues they might have.

Leadership Training



The Taking Part Leaders are a team of volunteers who are strong self-advocates. We are working to develop our skills so we can offer good support as peer advocates. In the last 12 months our group has grown.

We are different ages and have different skills. Some of us are from traditional day services and some of us have different experiences.



We want to support our peers through changes. This could be things like Personalisation, Transformation of services and Health services.



We made a list of all the training we felt we needed to do this. We needed practical training like being in meetings, computer and organising skills.

We had a great day with Lisa Darkin from Rural Community Council. Some young mentors helped us get emails and even got some of us Skyping!



But we also know we need to understand about confidentiality, our responsibilities and guidelines if we want to help people well. This included learning with Mary Johnson how to use tools like one-page-profiles. These can make sure people are listened to. We also learned about safeguarding:

- how to understand about abuse
- the different ways you can be abused
- what to do if you feel you are being abused.



Safeguarding – this is about keeping people safe from harm.





We enjoyed the training from Mary Johnson and Karen Littleford about safeguarding even though it's a difficult subject. They have agreed to train us around Mate Crime. We think this is very important and could affect lots of people like us.



Mate Crime – this is when someone who we think is our friend does very bad things to us.



Where People Live

Kempsfield



As part of the 'Reach Out' programme, Shropshire Providers Consortium asked us to talk to the residents at Kemp'sfield. This was to make sure they were fully involved in the changes which will take place within Shropshire services.



The project was to find out from people who lived at Kemp'sfield about how they wanted to be involved and kept informed of any changes that may happen to the services they have at Kemp'sfield.



We ran six two-hour sessions. There were group sessions in the evening and day time visits as well as talking to people on a 1-to-1 basis. We made sure we spent time talking and listening to people to make sure they understood what we were doing.



Lots of the people we spoke to have high support needs, so we used pictures to make it easier to understand things. At the end of the project, we felt confident that every resident had the chance to speak up and have their say.



We had to do this work in a very short time. We were very pleased that we were able to fit in as many sessions as we did. It was hard work but very worthwhile.

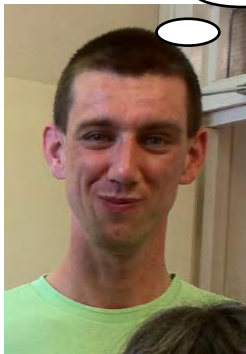


We produced an Easy Read Report and a long report at the end of the project. This was so that Shropshire Council knew what the residents of Kempfield told us. The Council said this was very good and very useful.

Respite and Moving On



Last year Telford and Wrekin Council decided that they did not want to use Lee Court for respite for people with a learning difficulty in Telford. Taking Part were asked to be part of looking at what else was available for respite. Andy and Rob took part in the process.



Rob used Lee Court for his respite but was not too worried about it closing. He was asked if he would like to find other places to go for respite. While he was looking at different respite options for himself and others, Rob began to think about moving on from living at home with his mum and dad. This was something that he had talked about for a while.



Rob began to work with his social worker, home service provider, family and Andy as his advocate. They were looking at what housing was available for him to be able to move into more independent living. In October 2012, Rob moved into a rented house in the Rock and he had support from A1 Supported Living. This was a huge step for Rob and his family but one that was a great achievement.

When the owner of the rented house in The Rock decided that they wanted to sell the house Rob had to move again. The team that supported Robert in his own home at the Rock knew that Lee Court was now empty. After some changes were made to Lee Court, Robert moved into to his new home where he once went for Respite.

Rob's Mum and Dad did not think he would ever move out. The team who support Rob now have noticed how Rob has grown in confidence in the short time he has lived in his own home. From being involved in a project looking at respite, Rob has been able to meet a long goal of living in his own home and being much more independent.

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Personalisation

Provider Review, Telford



We all know that the Government is cutting budgets and that councils are getting less and less money. This has affected Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire councils. This means that councils have to look at where they can save money in the services they provide for everyone.

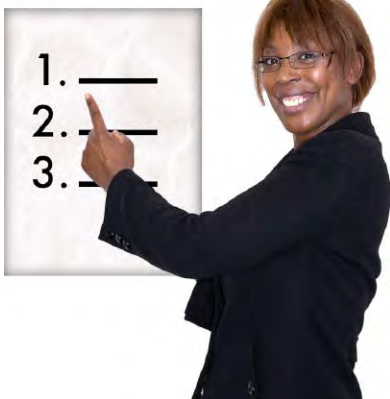


In November 2012, Taking Part were asked by Telford and Wrekin Council to help out with a review of their services for people with a learning disability – this was called 'Review of In-House Services'.



We worked very closely and quickly with the manager of this service to decide what we were going to ask people and to get a plan together.

We did this work from the end of November until the beginning of December.



We decided that it would be good to ask everyone the same questions:

- What works well?
- What do you feel does not work well?



- Is there anything you would like to change?
- What would these changes mean to you?

We talked to people who attended Day Opportunities at Unit T.E.N., Halesfield, Social Education Centre and The Severns. We spoke to people who live at the residential homes – Carwood and Downing House.

We talked to people who lived in Shared Lives scheme and people who got help from Community Support. In total we talked to 81 people.

What we found out was:

- Most people were happy with the services they were getting
- Some people wanted to try new things and others did not
- Some people had bus passes
- Some people would like Travel Training
- Not many people knew anything about personal budgets



Everything we found out was put into a big report by the Council together with information given from parents and carers and staff. This report has been shared with the Partnership Board and other people.



Meeting



The Council is now looking at what they can do to make sure they deliver the services people want and save money at the same time.

There will be more meetings during the rest of 2013 and Taking Part will be helping out again.

Transformation, Shropshire



People who use Day Services in Shropshire are having Transformation Reviews. This means that they can talk about their services now and about what they need from their services in the future.



It is important that people feel confident and well supported in their reviews. They need to make decisions about their future and we have to make sure that people who are helping them are really listening.



There were some training and awareness days put on by Shropshire Council. Mary Johnson and self-advocate Clair Challenor from Shropshire Training, the Transformation Team and Natalie Hawkins from Enable were part of the training.



These days were to help people understand about Personal Budgets and what would happen in a Transformation Review.



It was also to look at useful tools to help people get their views across. Taking Part staff and peer-advocate volunteers supported people throughout each day. This was to make sure they could ask important questions and start to understand how they can take more control in shaping their future services.

So far, we have supported 5 Workshops. They have been:

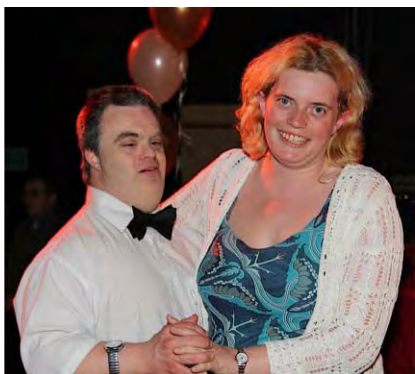


- 2 in Shrewsbury for the Central Services,
- Ditton Priors and Craven Arms for the South Services
- Market Drayton for the North Services
- Oswestry Services day will be in June.



Social Activities

Escape



Taking Part's Escape social nights are still very popular. Our membership continues to grow and we see new faces at each event. People from all over Shropshire come to our Escape nights.



However, there are challenges ahead. Costs for organising events can be very expensive and we have no extra money.



Taking Part will be asking people who attend Escape social nights what they would like more of and if there are any changes they would like to see. This will help us look at the cost of Escape nights, hopefully raise some money to support the evenings and make them even better.

Moving and Grooving

Moving and Grooving is a project run by Taking Part as part of the 'All In' Short Breaks activities across Shropshire.



'All In' Short Breaks is about providing after school, weekend and school holiday events and activities for children and young people with a disability or additional needs living in Shropshire.



The children and young people need support to join in with these types of activities.

The Moving and Grooving Team is a specialist team of project workers. They support children to go to leisure centres, feel included and join in sports activities like all other children.



Taking Part staff have been supporting at The Sports Village Shrewsbury, The Quarry Swimming Centre and Much Wenlock Leisure Centre.



We have successfully held an Olympic Picnic Event in July to celebrate the 2012 Olympics. This was a family event and children were able to take part in different sports. They could also have fun making cakes, doing arts and crafts and make their own Olympic medal.

Our Annual Christmas Party was also a great success with Santa making an appearance and all children receiving a gift.



What the Parents say about Moving and Grooving.

Just being able to talk to Moving & Grooving staff, about problems I may have had in the week helps...talking to parents of other children who understand the problems you face as a parent with a child with a disability

I come because it was something I could bring my child to who has Autism and his siblings... he won't go anywhere on his own so it was accessible to us as a family...a nice safe place...and there was plenty of space for him

Moving and Grooving makes my son feel 'involved' and not pushed out like many scenarios in his life. Being able to socialise is effortless here without the worry of offending people.

What the Children say about Moving and Grooving.

I come because I find it difficult to join in and understand what to do in clubs and activities. The group was small (I don't like busy places or lots of noise) and my mum, dad and little sister could come and join in too. This made me feel safe.

Accepted

I love being able to try sports and activities that I would normally avoid because it would be too stressful.

It makes me feel happy and good about myself

I come because I find it hard to be accepted by children without a disability, and I don't get bullied.

Art Start and Art Cart

Sessions have continued once a month on a Saturday morning in 3 different places.

Long standing members have continued to take part on a regular basis. One of the members have become an excellent peer support.

In Shrewsbury, we have been using a new building. Everyone says it is much better, facilities and accessibility are good, and the building is much warmer.



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We are hoping this will help to bring in new members.

After moving to our new building, we are getting new members and it is proving to be a success.



We have opened it up to younger people and we are allowing brothers and sisters to come along to the sessions. This has helped us to attract new members.

Parent carers are very grateful for the respite they receive and are happy with the support their young people have whilst attending Art Start/Cart.



Some of the young people have created some lovely pieces of art. They have also developed their social skills, gained respect for each other and made friends.



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Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts to the trustees of Taking part On the Accounts for the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act), as amended by s.28 of the Charities Act 2006 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act, as amended,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, as amended, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of our examination, no matter has come to our attention, which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act, have not been met.

Phillips Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Kingsland House
Stafford Court
Stafford Park 1
Telford
TF3 3BD



Date: 30/11/12

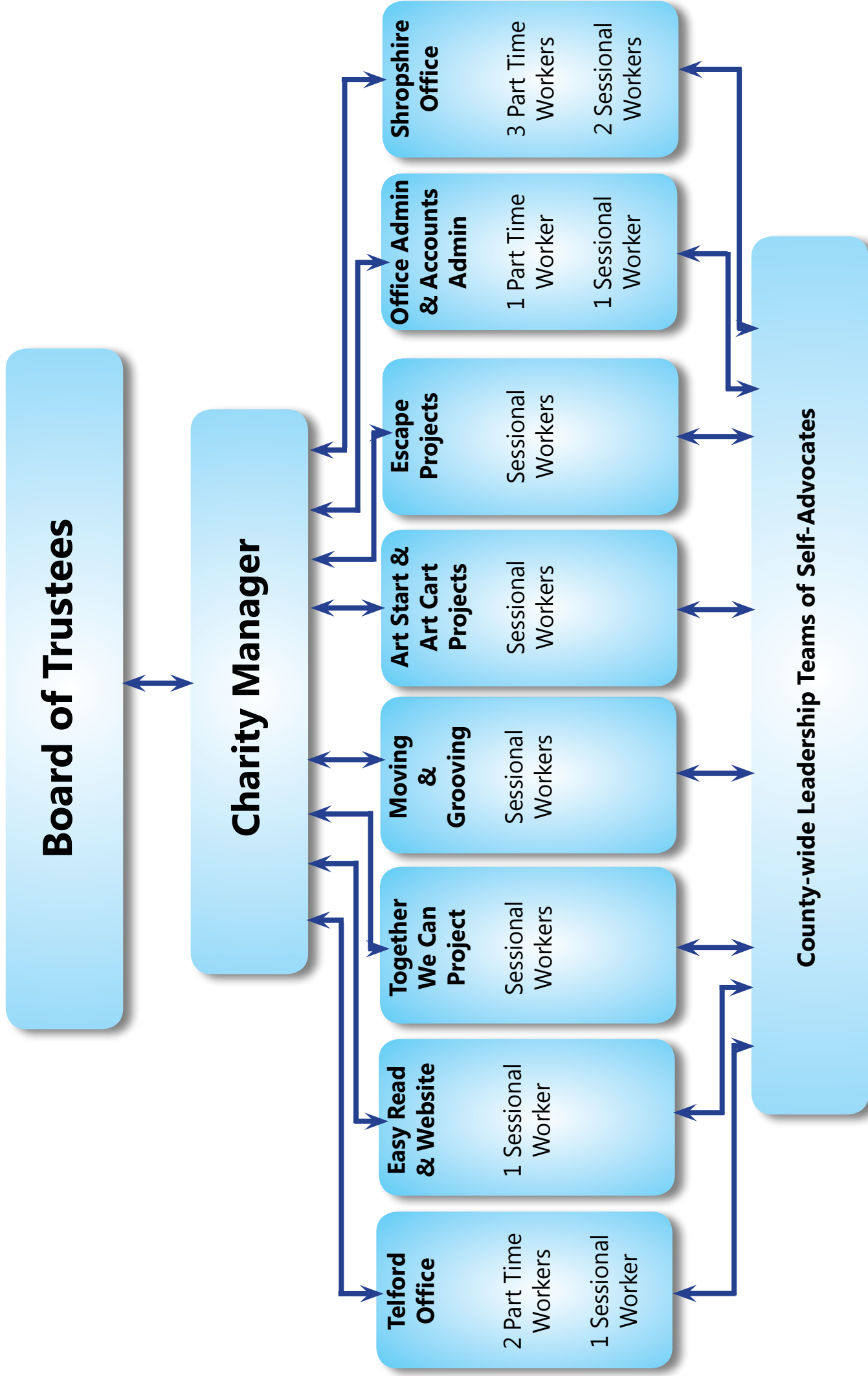
Accounts

Taking Part
Statement of Financial Activities
for the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012

	Unrestricted Money £	Restricted Money £	2012 £	2011 £
Money from charitable activities	257,212	-	257,212	370,528
Grants and Contracts				
Money Spent				
Charitable Activities	261,100	-	261,100	358,173
Total Money Spent	261,100	-	261,100	358,173
Money Left Over	(3,888)	-	(3,888)	12,355



Organisation Chart





Changing Times; Changing Lives

Taking Part:

Independent services for people with learning difficulties

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