

Headway Monthly Bulletin



Issue 57

March 2014

Leicestershire Leicester and Rutland Headway
Providing support for people with brain injuries

Back to the Workshop

by Joe

Before my brain injury, I was an above-average college student, attending Countesthorpe College. I passed my GCSEs and started my A Levels where throughout my 3 years attending, I specifically studied Resistant Materials (which mainly concentrates on: wood, metal and plastic). During my first 2 years I was able to plan, design and finally make my

proudest achievement, a chess table with a drawer. I still use the table to this day as a storage unit.

Before my operation I was left-handed and typically my stroke affected my entire left side, and I have had to re-teach myself to operate single handed. On the whole this has been a tremendous challenge.

Since coming to Headway, I have



been encouraged with so much support, from the staff and volunteers and as a result have improved in leaps and bounds. Consequently, I am now able to do many new and complicated actions compared to before.

Feel the fear and do it anyway!

A sky dive was a challenge I had set for myself a long time ago but just haven't got round to fulfilling it. The Headway Trustees were a little reticent about their Services' Director throwing herself out of a plane but I reassured them I would be wearing a parachute and a qualified skydiver!

I was a bit miffed that having left it so long, and now being the wrong side of 40 I have to be cleared for takeoff by my GP! Ben will be taking the plunge with me, and I'll be glad to have the company and someone to dig my nails into on the way up! Apparently he doesn't need a doctor's note (just a letter from his mum!). We're already a third of the way towards our target, so please give us plenty of encouragement (and stop us wimping out) by sponsoring us at: <http://www.justgiving.com/>



Welcome to Headway's Student Social Worker

My name is Ali, and I am a Social Work student from the University of Leicester. I will be working at Headway as part of my course

I am currently studying the Social Work masters, which is a two-year course that involves two practice placements totalling 200 days. I also have quite a lot of written work that I have to complete, to evidence what I have learnt. Headway is my final placement, so when I finish in July, I will hopefully be a qualified Social

Worker.

Before starting the course I worked for Leicester City Council, in the Adult Social Care department for around 5 years. This is where I hope to go back to when I finish the course.

As part of my role at Headway, I will be spending the majority of my time in the day service. I will also become some of the member's key worker. I am really looking forward to getting to know, and working with, all of the members, staff



and volunteers at Headway. I hope that my time here will increase my knowledge of brain injury and the different ways that it can have an impact on people's lives. I will then be able to use everything that I have learnt when I am a qualified Social Worker.

ACTION FOR BRAIN INJURY WEEK

With cuts to local authority and NHS budgets continuing to impact on people's lives, Headway UK aims to be the voice of brain injury survivors across the country by using ABI Week 2014 to say 'Don't cut me out!'.

The campaign will aim to increase awareness of those affected by brain injury whose access to vital support services is being reduced as a result of funding cuts and welfare reforms.

"Funding cuts and welfare reforms are making it harder for brain injury survivors to access the help and support they need. In addition, Headway groups and branches are under increasing pressure to continue to maintain or develop their vital services. Restricting access to these services hampers the ability of brain injury survivors to lead

independent lives and increases the likelihood of them requiring additional state support in the future." said Luke Griggs, Communications Manager at Headway UK.

Complete their survey

To help put across their message, Headway UK has launched a survey of people directly affected by brain injury to demonstrate the effect cuts to their benefits and access to services are having on their lives. **If you are living with the long-term effects of brain injury, you can help them by completing their short survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fundingcutsbraininjury>

The deadline for completed surveys has been set at **31 March 2014**. For further information on the campaign, visit www.abiweek.org



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The Law Society

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