



October 30, 2018 – Nottingham mobility team

Every October we celebrate our life changing work during and around Guide Dogs Week, marking the anniversary of our very first working guide dog. This year has been a huge success, so thank you to everybody who donated their time, moved it for money and donned the ears!

News and service updates

We are pleased to report that we have successfully completed the training of another dual sensory dog within the Nottingham team. Based at our outreach mobility unit in Sheffield, Guide Dog Mobility Instructor, Ian Armstrong worked alongside our collaborative partner Support Dogs to complete the training. Support Dogs provides services throughout the UK to adults and children affected by epilepsy, disability and autism.

With the continued growth of our My Guide service, we have been busy recruiting more volunteers and developing specialist volunteer roles to support the service. We are delighted to announce the appointment of Elizabeth Bonser, as one of our new Partnership Support Volunteers. Elizabeth has been a My Guide since the beginning of 2018 and will be helping to nurture new partnerships. For more information on how you can get involved, please contact the Nottingham office.

Our new and improved Children's Services advice line is now available for Families who need support for a child or young person with sight loss. You can call free on 0800 781 1444 (Mondays to Fridays 9am-5pm, except bank holidays), or alternatively email cypservices@guidedogs.org.uk. Guide Dogs provides a range of services to help with education and family support, mobility and independence skills training, bespoke large-print books, technology, grants, and family events.

Campaign updates

It has been a busy month for our Engagement Officer Jo Talbot, who has met with MPs Lee Rowley and Ruth George, who both participated in blindfold walks within their constituencies. Jo was joined by local guide dog owners who shared their experiences and discussed our key campaigns. Well done to all our campaigners who participated and put their MPs forward. Thanks also to Habilitation Specialist, Gena Miernik and Guide Dog Mobility Instructor, Kevn Rowney who supported the technical aspect of the walks.

Events – Guide Dogs Week 2018

In addition to the many fundraising events that took place, the focus this year for Guide Dogs Week was to encourage people to donate an hour of their time, and join one of the hundreds of collections organised throughout the UK. We had a good number of sign ups in our region and have gained new volunteers as a result. A big thank you to all our fundraising groups who welcomed volunteers and supported the campaign. We know it has been an extremely busy time for you all and you never cease to amaze us!

An extra thank you goes out to guide dog owner and volunteer, Kim Jones who took part in the regional radio promotion. Congratulations also to David from the Bakewell fundraising group, who completed the Cloud Trail in Derbyshire, raising £752 for Guide Dogs.

Staff also played their part by joining collections and Moving it for Money. Head of Mobility Services, Sarah McNulty and My Guide Volunteer Manager, Elizabeth Felgate joined Engagement Officer Jo Talbot in an inter-team regional challenge. The team had to clock up as many miles as possible in a week, by walking or running outside. Not satisfied with this challenge, on October 21, Jo carefully guided by Elizabeth, went on to complete a blindfold walk along Derwent Edge with colleagues from the Midlands regional teams.

Thank you to everyone who made Guide Dogs week 2018 a success. You can read all about the fun and look at the many photographs, by visiting [the Guide Dogs Nottingham Mobility Team Facebook page](#).

Contacts

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Please note that the content of this email can also be heard via a recorded message on the following phone number 0118 337 3815

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