



October 30, 2018 – Manchester Mobility Team

Welcome to the e-newsletter from the Manchester Mobility Team covering Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria and the Isle of Man.

Important information

- We have some staff changes to tell you about, firstly Frank Ainsbury, Orientation and Mobility Specialist has moved to Liverpool Mobility Team and Nina Daly, Dog Care & Welfare Assistant has changed role and is now training to become a Guide Dog Trainer. We also would like to welcome Erin Laithwaite to the team as Nina's replacement and say congratulations to Jennifer Ashworth who is now a fully qualified Guide Dog Mobility Instructor.
- We have also been very busy recruiting and training more volunteer boarders to help us look after our training dogs. A big thank you to all our boarders new and old for all your hard work and support.

News

An exciting opportunity has arisen for new Volunteer Voices Representatives to join our group in 2019. You could be part of a dedicated team of existing volunteers who meet 3 times a year. They provide a communication route between volunteers and staff, ensuring volunteers' views are well represented and giving volunteers the opportunity to give feedback on specific national and local topics that affect them.

"As a group we appreciate the fact that Guide Dogs seeks the views and opinions of Volunteer Voices members, and acts upon them. We discuss a wide range of topics that are suggested by management and ideas and topics that are brought to us by our members and other volunteers". Quote from Elizabeth – Volunteer Voices Volunteer.

For more information and a copy of the role description please contact Janet Harper janet.harper@guidedogs.org.uk 07780 958873. Expressions of interest by Friday 30th November, interviews will be held in December.

Service updates

As Guide Dogs continues to improve services for our customers, we will start working more closely together with other regional teams in the organisation taking on a new regional approach for the North West. We will give further updates in future e-newsletters.

Campaign updates

Engagement Officer Zoe along with National Campaigns Manager James White met with Altrincham and Sale MP Sir Graham Brady to tell him about the work we do as an organisation and the obstacles our service users face. Guide Dog Trainers Sara and Joy with training dog Keighley demonstrated how a dog navigates parked cars and overhanging bushes and facilitated a blindfold walk with Sir Graham. Sir Graham pledged his support for our campaigns to both end pavement parking and also to ensure all local authorities provide disability awareness training for taxi drivers.

Engagement Officers Emma and Zoe went to Blackpool to meet Ian Large from the Highways Department with guide dog owners Lisa and Amanda to highlight the lack of controlled crossings planned for the tram line extension within the Talbot Road area of Blackpool. Emma gave Ian the opportunity to undertake a blindfold walk with team dog Forgan and highlighted the difficulties of using a courtesy crossing, which relies on eye contact with the vehicle driver when you have little or no sight and potentially hearing loss. The visit was also supported by Tracy Elliot, Rehab Officer for Blackpool, Maria Kirkland, Service Manager at NVision and Charlotte Maden, Guide Dog Mobility Instructor.

Contacts

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