



October 30, 2018 – Birmingham mobility team

Hello everyone,

Things continue to gather momentum regarding our exciting new strategy “By My Side” and I was delighted to share these plans with our Volunteer Voices groups during September. I have been so impressed this year with the progress of the Birmingham team and we remain on plan to deliver all our objectives where our services are concerned.

My thanks to you all for your hard work which is making such a tremendous difference. I hope you all enjoyed the wonderful summer we had.

Colin Vince – Regional Head of Operations (Midlands)

Important information

- Since our last newsletter, we have had several staff changes here at the team. My Guide Volunteering Manager Harriet Lewis, Business Support Coordinator Natalie Chiswell and Access Assistant Tim Bushell have left the team. We wish them all good luck in the future!

News

Guide Dogs Tea Party 2018 – On Sunday 30 September, we were joined by service users and volunteers from across the region at our Annual Tea Party at Worcester Warriors Rugby Stadium. A big thank you to everyone who joined us, to Worcester Warriors for hosting us and to everyone who kindly donated prizes for the raffle.

Service updates

Guide Dog service – So far, 32 new guide dog partnerships have qualified this year. Congratulations to everyone who has qualified!

My Guide – We currently have 62 active My Guide partnerships across Birmingham and the Three Counties.

Children and Young People’s services – Our new and improved Children’s Services Advice Line is now live! The Advice Line is a centralised information, advice and guidance service for families of children with a vision impairment

and professionals working with those children. The Advice Line number is 0800 781 1444 and the email address is cypservices@guidedogs.org.uk.

Campaign updates

In August, our Campaigns Team delivered an open letter, backed by 20 organisations and 17,231 campaigners to Downing Street, calling for action to be taken on pavement parking. If you'd like to find out more about our campaign to prevent pavement parking, [click here](#).

Events

- Christmas Party at the Black Country Living Museum - We are delighted to invite children with a vision impairment and their families to our special Christmas party on 8 December at 10am. The day will include a visit to the museum, tactile and audio described activities, a fish and chip lunch with dessert, visit from Father Christmas and much more. Children with a vision impairment plus one parent/guardian are free. Immediate family members £7.50. If you would like to book a place, contact Sally/ Cat on 0118 983 8318/0118 983 8499 or email familyevents@guidedogs.org.uk.
- Guide Dogs Christmas Wishes Concert – This year Guide Dogs will be holding their first ever Christmas Concert on 17 December at Coventry Cathedral. Doors open at 6:30pm, and the evening finishes at 9pm. The concert will be hosted by Aled Jones and will feature a packed programme of special guests. Tickets start from £10 (plus booking fee) and are available through Ticketmaster: <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F005509C3BA65B2>.

Contacts

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