



**Good news on our funding!** In March we had two lots of good news from funders that we have been working with for many years. Firstly we heard from Bromsgrove District Council who have agreed to continue to financially support the drop in whilst at the same time we were successful in a bid for funds to provide more Floating Support. This latter funding was important as two of our other funding streams for Floating Support come to an end in May. However, Worcestershire County Council whose contract we won 3 years ago to provide Floating Support across the county have confirmed a 2 year extension. So thanks to both WCC and BDC!



**Good luck Laura...**

In February we said "Goodbye & Good Luck" to Laura (left), who's been working at the Basement, and has been our representative at Axis in Kidderminster for the last 2 years, as she left us to progress her career...

**...and welcome back Amy!**

At the same time we welcome back Amy (right) after 12 months of maternity leave. Amy is returning on a part time basis to take over Laura's work at Axis in Kidderminster.



**And whilst on the subject of new members of staff...**

...meet Brian The Basement Bear, ably displayed by support worker, Kennedy. Brian has been adopted as our official mascot, after Ann Walters kindly donated him to us. Brian will be available to make personal appearances throughout the year



**Our thanks to The Homeless Foundation ...**

... as they've enabled many of our clients to purchase white goods & carpets when moving to new homes. We apply on behalf of clients who have to meet certain criteria and our support staff submit supporting statements.



**...and thanks to us from Waseley Hills School ...**



Waseley Hills High School

...after we delivered a day of workshops to year 9 pupils at Waseley Hills School, around subjects such as 'Coping with Me', 'Mental Health', 'Banking and Saving' and 'Street Safety'. Feedback from pupils indicates they found the sessions beneficial. Comments included "I learnt to respect people and their choices" and "It's ok to be yourself" whilst the staff were equally positive with comments like, "The students were really happy with the workshops and found them interactive and useful."



**Thanks also to local company, Gough Bailey Wright** who have been amazing supporters recently. An office sweepstake raised £28 for us and then the winner gave us the prize money! They followed this with a 'Guess the Baby' competition (another £33) and finally Sue Bailey, their MD, won the Easter Bunny raffle and donated the bunny to a client (the raffle overall raised £153, twice the 2017 total and Gough Bailey Wright bought more tickets than anyone else by a long way). Picture shows our client, Kim, who gave the bunny a good home!



**Keep informed and join the fun!**





## Workshop News...



We are very fortunate to have Worcestershire's 2018 Poet Laureate, Nina Lewis (left), agreeing to host some workshops for us on the subject of "Art & Words". One has already taken place just for clients in March with another one scheduled for clients and their children. For more information see Nina's own blog:

<https://worcestershirepoetlaureateninalewis.wordpress.com/2018/03/02/art-words-and-snow/>



There are several workshops planned over the next few months including "Art in the park" in Sanders Park (weather permitting). We are also planning activity days and another trip to Weston. More details on the website or call Barb (01527 832993 or 07940 854324) to book a place.



As usual we want to thank everyone who has supported us, including Ann Walters who yet again has donated Easter eggs, cuddly toys and other Easter treats for Basement clients; Dawn Rafferty-George, who recently celebrated her 70th

Birthday and at her party her grandson instigated a collection for us (Dawn and grandson pictured right); Inkberrow Design Centre (£113-50); Brook Court Race Night (£50); Bromsgrove Lions (£250) and donations received online through My Donate. We would also like to thank Broad Street DIY, who have supported us for 12 months as their "Charity of the Year" and although our year has ended they've agreed to continue to support us in the future.



## The Basement at the Job Fair!

We recently took part in Sajid Javid's job fair – but can you spot our stand in the photo on the right?



## Collection at ASDA in Bromsgrove

On April 6<sup>th</sup> we had a bucket collection at ASDA at which we raised £215.68. Thanks to the volunteers (including some supporters from Bromsgrove Lions and local NCS grads) and Cathryn at ASDA. It was a lovely day, the sun shone and people were kind and generous! (Pictures show Frank and Marilyn (left), and Steve, Holly, Fran and Amy (right))



**Breaking News:** We have applied to be classed as a "Disability Confident Employer" and have received a certificate to state that based on what we already do we have "passed the test"



**Drop In** is now open Wednesday evening from 5pm to 7pm to provide a service outside of normal opening hours to clients who may be working or unable to get to us in the day for any reason. We are also open on the first Saturday of every month from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

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