

Brighter Future Workshop

Winning with Integrity

Brighter Future Workshop (BFW) is a Social Enterprise, Charity and a Company Limited Guarantee which opened in 2005 in Skelmersdale, Lancashire. BFW has a clear vision for change by reducing or stopping the vast amount of mobility equipment that ends up in landfill sites, e.g. wheel-chairs, power chairs, scooters, rise and recline chairs, beds and more, by recycling it.

To address this problem, we have in operation an initiative, totally unique recycling operation, led by a dynamic forward thinking management team that has made great progress in reducing the carbon footprint. We source donated end of life mobility equipment from individuals, mobility shops and NHS equipment centres. In the last 4 years we have recycled and repaired over 3,800 pieces of mobility equipment that was destined for landfills, back into the disabled community for reuse. This is a substantial achievement for our small Charity Social Enterprise.

BFW also provides the means of recycling disabled people; we take young disadvantaged disabled who have e.g. physical, medical, learning or emotional problems, (who have been thrown on life's scrap heap) into our workshop, to assist our technicians to recycle the equipment.

Our project provides equality for people with various types of disabilities and those who have previously suffered from exclusion; we address these barriers to social integration by offering recycled equipment and training to otherwise isolated individuals. This holistic approach was born out of the need that identified mobility equipment going to landfill, and the amount of young unemployed deprived disabled who are socially and economically excluded.

BFW has established a widely-regarded reputation for improving the lives and opportunities of people in need and continues to be a model for achieving lasting change to more lives in the deprived areas. We now play an important role in building stronger and more inclusive communities both with our training and recycling of mobility equipment.

To ensure our continual improvement BFW must be innovative, continually improving the way we work and provide services by incorporating new ideas, information, methods and good business practice.

Our qualified engineers and safety manager ensure that the equipment we recycle is fit for purpose and safe for reuse. In the last four years we have recycled and repaired over 3,800 pieces of equipment with an estimated value of **£211,000** which would have ended up in a landfill site, to local needy disabled people to gain or regain their mobility, helping them play a fuller role in society.

We are very proud of the work we have achieved, to have helped over 3,800 people regain their mobility, in such a unique way. BFW have and should be recognised for the outstanding recycling we carry out.

West Lancashire has chosen us as "A Community Hero 2009"; we have been awarded "Best Community Enterprise for Recycling 2009" by Global Renewals. We have been nominated as finalists in two categories of Lancashire Green Awards 2009 run by Lancashire Evening Post - 'The Green Community Award' and 'The Best Recycling Project'; the results to be announced at a Gala Dinner on 19th November 2009. We also won "Positive Action Award 2008" by North West Regional Development Agency.

I am proud to say I have been invested by HRH the Queen with an MBE 2008 for my work with BFW.

Kind Regards

Peter Cousins

Peter Cousins MBE