

Getting Safe Soulmate off to a great start!

Introduction



Safe Soulmate is a new social enterprise run by volunteers which helps diversely able adults meet new people, socialise and create friendships and/or relationships in a safe and supportive way. Everyone is interviewed face to face before being invited to take part in a chaperoned event. In addition, regular workshops are run in collaboration with Dhiverse, a sexual health education charity, on topics such as understanding relationships and staying safe online.

Safe Soulmate is a new social enterprise run by volunteers which helps diversely able adults meet new people, socialise and create friendships and/or relationships in a safe and supportive way. Everyone is interviewed face to face before being invited to

The need

Although the founders Vicky and Christine are hugely experienced in working with people with disabilities, autism or anxiety they were new to setting up a charitable enterprise and turned to CCVS for training and support.

Setting up a new organisation can be difficult and confusing, and they were looking for support to enable them to develop a successful, safe and well run organisation.



The Safe Soulmate launch party

What was done

Vicky and Christine have attended a range of CCVS training which they were able to access free as CCVS members. They have also accessed one to one support on funding using our critical friend service.

Help has been given in many areas including governance, policies and procedures and fundraising. They have also been able to meet other organisations who have been able to refer people to them.

The Impact/change

Cambridgeshire now has a successful and vibrant new organisation offering much needed services to diversely able adults. Safe Soulmate have organised a series of events and have been able to build links with a number of other local charities and organisations.

In particular the volunteers that run Safe Soulmate have

- Developed confidence to build on their ideas. By accessing training and 1-2-1 support they have been able to ensure they are putting the correct policies in place to grow a successful organisation.
- Gained access to an invaluable bank of resources. As well as training and support they have been able to make use of templates and tools to make setting up much easier.

- Extended their network which may lead to future collaborations with other organisations. The networks and learning that other organisations can offer are essential to any organisation old or new. Collaboration improves services to people and strengthens organisations.

Testimony

“The training is very relaxed and very clear we never feel like we cannot ask questions. I did not feel intimidated by us being new and having little knowledge of topics. Everyone is so supportive!”

“The feedback CCVS gave us on the bids we have put together has been absolutely brilliant and we will be acting on their suggestions.”

“A huge thank you for your help and your positivity”



“Invaluable to us as a new organisation! On top of the excellent training, it’s been so important for networking and also to have one place to come for advice (or at least know where to signpost us) Thank you”