

Thank you to Adam Walker and family

Jeanette Dodd, a trustee of DIAL West Cheshire has been raising money for the charity thanks to her friend and fellow Liverpool FC supporter Adam Walker, who sadly passed away at the end of September 2013 aged just 31.

Adam was born in Southport, Merseyside, and was a passionate LFC supporter all his life. He refused to let either cerebral palsy or cystic fibrosis prevent him from living his life on his own terms, or indeed from following his beloved reds.

His love of Liverpool Football Club, and football in general led to Adam accumulating one of the most extraordinary collections of sports memorabilia. DIAL West Cheshire were lucky enough to acquire a few items, which were auctioned to raise some much needed funds for the charity. Jeanette said, "Adam always thought of others and he would have been delighted that DIAL was able to benefit in this way".

Adam was a real character it seems. Jeanette said, "From the moment he could talk Adam began campaigning for better services and facilities for disabled people". When he was nine years old, Adam joined a young people's group at his school and gave advice on ways to make improvements and offer choice to disabled children. One of his early campaigns, aged 10, was for his human right to stay up until midnight - not surprisingly, this campaign proved to be unsuccessful!

As a teenager, Adam used his support of Liverpool FC to contribute to research about growing up with complex health needs, saying: "I try to think of different ways to do things. When I'm most relaxed with myself... is when I'm watching football, because then I'm not any different, it's 45,000 people all in red..."

In 2003, when Liverpool FC had the idea to set up the Liverpool Disabled Supporters Association, Adam was a founder committee member. Jeanette said, "I first met Adam in 2004 and immediately saw how he used his unique experience, combined with a wicked sense of humour, to campaign for others".

Professionally, from 1998 Adam worked for *Triangle*, an organisation working to enable disabled children's communication. Here he trained more than 5,000 professionals (including doctors, social workers, police officers, care workers, teachers and lawyers) to communicate better with disabled children and where he also influenced many others through the films he was involved in.

With the sale of some of his football memorabilia, he continues to make a difference to the lives of disabled people today. DIAL West Cheshire would like to say a huge thank you to Adam and his family.