

# Helpline's 21st birthday



## A WEST Lancs charity has received a welcome cash boost as it celebrates its 21st birthday.

West Lancs Disability Helpline, based in Sandy Lane, has received a grand total of £9,780 from the Lloyds TSB Foundation, which will help to secure an information and publicity officer.

The helpline, which is led by disabled people for disabled people, provides a 24-hour freephone answer service and currently receives more than 300 enquiries per month.

It provides confidential information, advice and support to people with disabilities and their carers, which enables them to make informed choices about how they wish to live their lives.

Volunteers help callers on a huge range of subjects, such as representation and benefits (including form filling) equipment, mobility and travel and community care. A home visiting scheme is also available for clients who are unable to visit the charity's office.

Manager Tony Lewis said: "Our clients have various disabilities and different needs.

"The helpline offers high quality, free and confidential information and provides the support which enables them to make informed choices about how they wish to live their lives.

"I would like to thank the TSB Foundation for its kind donation. The grant will make a real difference to the helpline's volunteers and clients and help to raise our profile within the local community."

Julie Wilcox, branch manager of Lloyds TSB Skelmersdale said: "It's great news that we can offer our support to this charity which provides an excellent level of service to local people with disabilities and their carers and I hope this donation sees it going from strength to strength."

Anyone wishing to use the service can phone 0800 220676 free of charge.

**☐ Pictured above: MP Colin Pickthall celebrates Disability Helpline's 21st birthday with Patron, Lord Thomas of Macclesfield; Patrick Fenlon, Chairman of the District Council, Cllr Val Hopley and manager Tony Lewis. KD06623MS**