



In memory of Bob Teagle

We are very sad to announce that our friend, colleague and longest serving member of staff Bob Teagle passed away on Monday 14th February 2022 after a short illness.

Bob joined Gateway Family Services in July 2009 as POWS (Pregnancy Outreach Workers Service) Administrator and, along with the POWS Managers, attempted to keep the POWs in order.

Over time, like many Gateway staff, Bob moved around roles and teams to meet changes in terms of work and funding. In 2013 he moved to the Lighten Up Service where he joined colleagues Ralph, Sue and Aaminah – with whom he has worked ever since. It was around this time that he also volunteered to be a first aider and fire steward.

In 2014, Bob was nominated by his colleagues for a Positive Social Impact award.

The nomination said, *“Bob took on the challenge of moving to a totally new way of working with enthusiasm and good humour and has even taken on responsibility for training new staff which he does with a similar level of enthusiasm and patience.”*



Bob is presented with a Positive Social Impact award at the 2014 Gateway Gala



Bob with the Solihull Integrated Lifestyle team in 2019

In 2016, with the decommissioning of Birmingham Lighten Up, the team's focus moved to Solihull and they became the Solihull Lighten Up Triage. Then, in 2019, the team became the Solihull Integrated Lifestyle Team and, in April 2020, Bob was appointed as Senior Triage Administrator, assisting Debbie with data gathering and reporting. He had already been doing a lot of the training of triage staff, but at this point this was formalised.

Although Bob was an integral part of the Gateway family for so long, we all knew his first loves were Birmingham City Football Club (his beloved Blues) and, of course, his daughter Jessica who – he told us proudly – had inherited his love of travel. Bob never missed a home game and went to away matches all over the world, and in the 2010-11 season, he was Supporter of the Year.

I've worked with Bob for 11 years but my main memory is how much Bob loved his paperwork. If you needed a copy of anything Bob would have it. His desk drawers were rammed full and his desk space surrounded in papers. You might remember seeing him carrying a plastic bag all the time... which also had paperwork in! The best was when we all met up town the one night for a colleague's birthday. Bob had been to the football, and when he arrived in the bar he was still carrying a plastic bag with football papers in. 😊

Bob was very good at his job and was a very reliable member of the team. Always giving a helping hand when needed, and supporting and training staff to use the database. He supported me a lot, too, in the many changes that had to be made to the database over the years, with services changing from 'Lighten Up' to 'SILS'. He was my go-to if I needed advice or a second opinion on anything relating to processes and recording data.

We worked very well together, and he will be missed dearly.

Debbie Hett, Bob's Manager

Bob was already an employee at Gateway when I arrived in 2009. We worked in different offices until we moved to The Chambers of Commerce and that's when I got to know Bob.

To be honest, he made me nervous at first, with his stern face and a grunt here and there, but when I did start speaking to him, it became evident that my first impression of Bob was completely wrong. Yes, he was quiet and quite shy, I think, but he had a wealth of knowledge and passion about his work at Gateway and was always eager to share it with you if ever you asked him for help. He spoke more at social events and that is when you would see more of his personality, a beer in his hand and a twinkle in his eye when he spoke about the 'Blues'.

It will seem strange not seeing Bob at Chambers when he has been a part of Gateway for so long. He will be deeply missed by many. Rest in Peace, Bob.

Glenn Rodgers



Bob trained me in May/June 2014, and was my first real close friend when I started at Gateway. He remained a very close friend ever since.

Sometimes, when we had a new starter, we would pretend we didn't really get on that well - which wasn't true, of course. He'd wink or nod at me, then say in an angry tone, "I suppose you're not a bad bloke for a Villa fan!" and I'd reply, "I suppose you're OK for a Blues fan!" We'd stare at each other, then get on with our work and have a little laugh about it later.

One thing that stood out about Bob was his concern for the team, indeed anyone in Gateway, if he knew they were struggling. Bob was often a man of few words, certainly not a man who'd say much about anything else apart from his beloved Birmingham City, football and work. However, if he was worried about anyone, he'd ask someone else to see if they were alright, or if they needed any help. He'd nearly always say "don't tell them I'm asking". That was exactly what he was like.

Once, a young colleague had been off work following a bereavement in her family and, on her return, it was clear she was struggling. One day, to my and everyone's amazement, Bob started recounting a time when he'd lost a relation. He talked about his experience, how he'd been about our colleague's age, and how he felt. He spoke for about ten minutes and we were all agog, especially the younger members of the team, as he wisely explained about grieving, how feeling low and crying was normal, and how time was a healer.

When we were on our way back into the city centre later, I was full of praise for his words. But Bob just looked me straight in the face and said, "don't be stupid, I've done nothing today. You, Debbie and the others have been helping her, not me with a few words. Don't be silly Ralph." That, indeed, was the end of it.

We will all miss Bob so much. A pure gent, a humble and caring man, and a great friend to me and so many others. I hope he is now resting in peace.

Ralph Pillingier

Bob was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer almost a year ago, but in the end his death was relatively sudden. Over the last year we understand he had been telling his friends to be aware of the symptoms of prostate cancer and to see their GP if they had any concerns - and we'd like to echo this sentiment. You can [find out more about prostate cancer on the NHS website](#).

Finally, one of Bob's friends has set up a fundraiser to [Help give Bob the send off he deserves](#). If there is any money left over, Jessica will donate it to prostate cancer research.

Katherine Hewitt