

## **NEWS UPDATE**

### **GOOD NEWS BARNWOOD HOUSE TRUST HAVE AGREED TO FUND THE GDF FOR TWO YEARS - a big thank you Barnwood House Trust!**

#### **APOLOGIES:**

David Drew MP for Stroud

Colin Parry Wheatridge Court

Kathryn Rudd Star College

#### **DISCUSSION ISSUES:**

Delegates at the meeting discussed three current issues and the following questions & statements arose

#### **Personalisation Agenda**

Various people expressed concerns about this new move to give people the money to take control of their own care needs. Here are some of them:

Confusion about what is being said

Closure of day services - what choice will there be still a lack of accessible venues?

What will happen about quality, safety & insurance?

All disabilities have different needs

Confusion about Access to Work being merged with all other benefits/care packages

Driven by finance not people's needs

Disabled people need security

Direct payments will have to be paid up front

The reason Direct payment not taken up was that the number allowed to receive Direct Payments was capped by SSD

Can you opt out?

Putting things back 100 years for disabled people

#### **Choice Based Letting**

How will people know when places are available?

What procedures in place to ensure equality?

What is the assessment process & who does the assessment?

Would Brokerage work?

#### **Disability Facility Grant**

What happens if the person moves before the die? Is the grant claimed back when they move?

Who is the charge against? The owner of the property or the person needing the equipment/adaptation?

Depreciation on adaptations - which equipment is included?

The effect of the equipment on the price of the property? Negative?

Does this have to be in the deeds of the property?

"Gloucestershire Lifestyles (GLS) prepares and issues notes of the Gloucestershire Disability Forum (GDF) with due care, but cannot accept responsibilities for any reporting errors. Views reported are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect those of either GLS or GDF."

GDF is kindly funded by Gloucestershire Association Disability

What about private rented property or Housing Associations?

Is this Discrimination?

NB: Over the next few meetings GDF will try to get speakers to address these issues.

#### **INFORMATION EXCHANGE:**

- Rollo told us about the Kemble Disability Road Show in June **Free Entry**
- Andy Berry told us that Gloucester Shop Mobility were looking for more "Friends" to join them anyone interested should contact him at the Shop Mobility office.
- Jean - Blue badge parking is being removed from Southgate Street & further talks regarding Kings Square
- George also raised the issue of Blue Badge parking in Southgate Street. His newly formed Gloucester Access Group GAG had twenty people attend and they have a website [www.access4all@blueyonder.co.uk](http://www.access4all@blueyonder.co.uk)

#### **GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY ASSEMBLY BOARD**

The Assembly Team would therefore like to hear:

1. What you are doing already to support people and communities in the recession
2. Any ideas for other ways for supporting people and communities in the recession

You can tell us this by either

1. contacting Lorraine Kapp Email: [LorraineK@glosassembly.org.uk](mailto:LorraineK@glosassembly.org.uk) with your response. Tel: 01452 522 600

Several of us attended a presentation about Putting People First and the Personalised Agenda. It is important to watch progress as it will affect ALL people with a disability and the way they receive not only personal care but social care.

#### ***GLOUCESTERSHIRE SERVICE USERS FORUM***

Several of our members have been involved in the County Council budget consultation. Service Users attended the Cheltenham and Gloucester meetings.

The consultations were held throughout the County and involved a wide range of people giving their views on how they felt the budget should be spent.

Our involvement with training Social Work Students at Gloucestershire University has continued this year.

We have had a couple of meetings with the Putting People First team from the County Council. The aim is to Transform Social Care. Service Users were asked how they thought things should change and give ideas about which things need to be done differently. It is about people being given more choice and control to be able to live the life they want as part of the community. It is something the Forum needs involved with now and in the future.

Nadia is doing an excellent job preparing for the year ahead and taking the Service Users Forum forward.

Anyone wishing to be involved please contact John Print 01452 541556

#### **SOUTH WEST DISABILITIES EQUALITIES NETWORK**

Jinny Uppington **Equality South West** Tel: 01823 250832 E-mail:

[Jinny.Uppington@equalitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:Jinny.Uppington@equalitysouthwest.org.uk) **ESW Summer 2008 Newsletter** is now available on their website: [www.equalitysouthwest.org.uk](http://www.equalitysouthwest.org.uk)

#### **GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

At the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February the guest speakers was from Network Rail. I ask what progress has been made on the footway under the Gloucester Railway Station. I have received a reply which

included " **Short Term Renovation scheme to improve lighting, drainage, decoration & security due early 2009 Hit snag as Network Rail asking for security against disruption of services due to the work of £500K per day to cover the period of construction. We have not been able to get insurance cover so switching construction to Summer 2009 when shorter construction period possible. Long Term Modern subway is still stated intention as and when funding is available**"  
Full reply is available on request

## ITEMS OF INTEREST RECEIVED

The new **GAVCA** training brochure is available now with lots of essential and interesting courses available from January to March 2009. Check out the information at [www.gavca.org.uk/training](http://www.gavca.org.uk/training) or phone for a brochure to 01452 332424

**Gloucestershire Community Foundation** has recently revised its grant giving programmes, in light of its management of the Grassroots small grants programme.

GCF's **Main Grant** can support local voluntary organisations that address local disadvantage with a grant of up to **£10,000**, whilst our **Small Grant** programme is now being restricted to organisations that are not eligible to apply for a Grassroots grant and that require grant aid of between **£250 and £1000**.

Important dates:

June meeting - **Application deadline: 22 May 2009.**

October meeting - **Application deadline: 18 September 2009.**

Grant Making Policy and Guidelines 2009, plus application forms, are available from Jane Jarman, Grants Development Manager at the Community Foundation: [jane.jarman@british-energy.com](mailto:jane.jarman@british-energy.com)

### **It's your Community Awards**

Awards of up to £1,000 are available to local groups and individuals for anything that can be shown to benefit the community. The awards are independently judged and administered by **The Conservation Foundation** on behalf of O2. The four categories that have been supported recently are: Rebuild and Restore, Cultural, Active and Green and Clean.

Your idea needs to: Bring together and benefit your community; Have long lasting effects - that will keep going once the money has been spent; Have real, tangible results that you can see; Demonstrate fresh, bold thinking, which is innovative enough to inspire others.

All applications will be judged within a month. Full details are on the Website:

<http://www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk>

If you are using **ASPARTAME** (NutraSweet, Equal, Spoonful, etc) and you suffer from fibromyalgia symptoms, spasms, shooting, pains, numbness in your legs, cramps, vertigo, dizziness, headaches, tinnitus, joint pain, unexplainable depression, anxiety attacks, slurred speech, blurred vision, or memory loss you probably have **ASPARTAME** poisoning! - I have the complete e-mail available in the office if you would like more details.

**Disabled Facilities Grant.** Recent changes by the government have given powers to local authorities to place limited charges on properties they adapt through a Disabled Facilities Grant. A number of Gloucestershire district councils are taking up the option to do this I would like to gather views on this matter.

### **VCS Equality and Diversity Advisory Group Update**

The Equality and Diversity Advisory Group will be meeting for the second time on 21 January. At their first meeting in December, the group agreed that their second meeting should be used to

establish links with other county structures, and to agree representation on the Assembly Board and the County Equalities Network.

The group will also be making specific recommendations to the Assembly Board about increasing engagement with *all* voluntary and community groups in the county, and some members of the group will be participating in the Assembly Board Development Day which is being held next week.

For more information about the Equality and Diversity Advisory Group, please contact Roisin Harte on 01452 522600 or email [roisinh@glosassembly.org.uk](mailto:roisinh@glosassembly.org.uk).

**The latest Activities Club for Everybody (ACE)** is now available & for more information about ACE or Disability Development please contact:- 01453 754508 / 07500 806079 or

[Hannah.drew@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.drew@stroud.gov.uk)

#### **Gloucestershire LINKs**

**Gloshub Bulletin** is produced on behalf of the **Gloucestershire Assembly for the Voluntary and Community Sector** [www.gloshub.org.uk](http://www.gloshub.org.uk) very useful website & weekly bulletins.

**GAVCA Training:** The new Spring training is available on their website. <http://www.gavca.org.uk>

There is a range of new and very useful subjects on offer. Contact Chrissie Fellows on 01452 332424 or e-mail [training@gavca.org.uk](mailto:training@gavca.org.uk)

The report of the **Gloucestershire Conference Stakeholder Event held on 10 July 2008**. Can be obtained from Karen Robinson or found via the following link

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=20122a>

**Oliver Giles Transport** offers accessible transport in the Stroud Area - Travel tokens & guide dogs welcome Carbon offset by Climatecare Tel: **07792 65 66 85** or **01453 75 70 10** email: [oligiles@hotmail.com](mailto:oligiles@hotmail.com) [www.tiny.cc/xbeu0](http://www.tiny.cc/xbeu0) Flexible we're committed to taking you where you want to go our vehicles are fitted with tail lifts for your convenience Affordable & competitive to meet your budget, special discounts and offers available just ask! Specialist in meeting your small group & accessible transport needs in Stroud and the surrounding area

**COTSWOLDS YPN GROUP** Rollo Alderwick & Sue Duckworth have started this new group for people with Parkinson's disease (And Carers) who are under retirement age because they have lot of different needs to those who are retired, some of the problems like help what will happen to me work!-wife!- family- mortgage! Relationship!- marriage and so on, We are running under the wing of the PDS Cheltenham Branch but we will be covering Gloucestershire. For More information contact Rollo at : [alderwickshroud@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alderwickshroud@tiscali.co.uk)