

NEWS UPDATE

GDF MEETING 20th August 2005
Old Richians Rugby Football Club

APOLOGIES

Alan Finney - Gloucestershire Lifestyles Chairman

George Ridgeon - Access issues Gloucester

Malcolm Dunn - Glos Dial a Ride

Anne Siddurds-Moss - Glos City Cclr

Merce Rebaty - SDCVS

Audry Pound - Parkinson Society

Christine Wisdom - GCAB

Halina Gillam - Supporting People

David Drew - Stroud MP

Sarah Harper-Little from Canine Partners, the guest speaker, explained that Canine Partners, a registered charity, trains assistance dogs for people with a disability. The dogs learn 105 different commands and can assist with a wide range of tasks including shopping, opening doors, switching on lights, calling lifts and using the cash point! The human partner needs to input the password though.

Puppy's stay with puppy parents from the age of 8 weeks to 1 yr, they attend general training once a week. After that they receive specialized training using the clicker method. Once they have received their intensive training they are introduced to their partner. At an information day the dog chooses the partner when 6 dogs meet 6 disabled people in a room. Home assessments follow and the home is checked for being dog proof and that there is an area for the dog to be toileted. A two-week residential course follows and at the end of the two weeks the dog returns home with its partner. They have recently achieved their 100th partnership. The dog is always owned by Canine Partners and is rented for £1.

Questions followed:

How long does a partnership last? - about 10 years

How much does it cost? - £500-600 for a puppy, £9k for training and £20k for the working lifetime.

Does the dog get time off? - Yes a morning or afternoon each day.

Would Direct Payment help cover some of the costs? Yes up to £1k

For more information contact details for Sarah Harper-Little Tel: 01452 810793 E-mail: info@caninepartners.co.uk

ITEMS OF INTEREST RECEIVED

- Cheltenham Borough Councils Local Plan Second Review: Proposed Modifications are available and statutory consultation will take place between 15th August & 22nd September. Report available on www.cheltenham.gov.uk
- **SOUTH WEST DISABILITY EQUALITY** last meeting cancelled so nothing to report
- **GLOS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY** Draft Plan is now available for comments by 31st December available on www.gloucestershire.gov.uk environment section then public rights of way - **Sue McClung**
- **Council Tax Discounts & Exemptions** Forest of Dean District Council have been publicizing the fact that many people are not aware of the discounts available. Council tax is made up 50% for the property & 50% for the number of occupiers, based on 2 or more over 18. Eg. Property+ One = 75%. Other discounts for people with Severe Mental Impairment, Carers (of people over 18) & Students. Full report available on request from GLS Office 01452-530184 or email Bharti@gloslifestyles.co.uk
- **Debt Advice Helpline** is being piloted in Gloucestershire from Oct 2005 for 6 months. Contact Helen Pritlove Helen@moneyadvice.org
- **Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust AGM** is on 6th September at the Guildhall Eastgate St Gloucester 2-30pm presentation on Application for Foundation Trust status 5-30 onwards the AGM
- **Gloucestershire Social Services** Living an Ordinary Life Day Services Strategy Consultation was sent to us dated 1 June and requiring comments by 8th July. Copies from rhiana.whitfield@glostershire.gov.uk
- **Two new Door to Door Bus Services** have been launched, Stroud North Area, Forest of Dean further details from Rachel Shingler 01452-425614 rachel.shingler@gloucestershire.gov.uk
- **COUNTY ASSEMBLY FOR VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR** - **Sue McClung** A COMPACT update was distributed with the last News Update
- **Physical Disabilities Local Implementation Team run by the West Glos PCT** Sue McClung Work progressing. We have identified key issues that are now having action plans drawn up. I will be involved with Access
- New training time table now available from FOLDA (Federation of Local Development Agencies) Held in various parts of the county Tel: 01452-332424 or e-mail www.gloucestercvs.org.uk/training
- **MYGUIDE Pilot** Gloucester is one of five sites in the country to increase the number of older people and people with a disability using the Internet. The next meeting about this is on 15th September at the Ramada Bowden Hall, Upton St Leonards Gloucester 12 till 4pm e-mail Kathy Clarke; clarkeka@ace.org.uk if you would like to attend
- Meeting with Halcrow Group and Gloucestershire County Council re the subway from the front of the station to Gt Western Road. Further meeting on 6th July with the Train Station management to try to persuade them to make the access to the station

better at the same time. Write to: Tim Sansum Senior Building Surveyor (Acting)
Network Rail 125 House 1 Gloucester Street Swindon SN1 1GW with your comments
on the access to the station. They are refusing to install a lift or make any major
changes to Platform 4 or the approach to the station

- Speaking with Impact training session up on by Creating Excellence on 4th October
- Advocacy Seminar at the National Star Centre on 4th October
- RADAR National Conference - Choices, Independence, Respect in London on 7th October
- Leaflets available from Glos Partnership Trust, We can help and We're here to help. Mental Health related advice and support in Gloucestershire
- Speakout group Website being built as part of the NHS Trust for users to have their views heard. Website address: myweb.tiscali.co.uk/speakout
- Stroud Community Transport charges going up to 0-40p per mile

Next Meeting - 12th Nov

STOP PRESS!!!!

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SERVICE USERS FORUM (GSUF) REPRESENTATIVES

GLS has been asked to facilitate the Physical Disability representatives on the Gloucestershire Service Users Forum. It is your opportunity to make sure that people are involved in the selection and training of social care staff and asked about the services they receive from Gloucestershire Social Services.

You would need to be prepared to receive some training to improve your skills to enable you to undertake this work. You will be required to attend 6 meetings per year and attend other sessions as and when required but to fit in with your availability. ***All transport is provided.***

The funding available will allow us to provide transport to any event which is held and we are keen to include people from all over the county – not just Gloucester or Cheltenham. If you have a physical disability and would like to be involved please contact John Print the GSUF Facilitator on 01452 541556 or e-mail him at john@gloslifestyles.co.uk