

# **GLOUCESTERSHIRE DISABILITY FORUM**

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## **NEWS UPDATE**

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

### **APOLOGIES:**

CcIr Jacky Fletcher

### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Gerald Tween** advised the forum he & his wife were invited onto the Board of Trustees of Gloucestershire Association for Disability (GAD) He told us that GAD were offering a number of bursaries to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organisation. Up to £5k to study, for special software, travel or books.

Over recent months GAD have expanded the number of trustees to encompass Sight & Hearing impairment.

### **REPORT BACK:**

**LINKs** The contracts have now been let and GRCC won the contract. Further information should begin to emerge over the next few months.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY ASSEMBLY BOARD** Have looked at trying to make it clearer the role of the P & P group and it has been decided to rename them the Gloucestershire Assembly Team. There are two important events coming up.

**The Annual Assembly Event 'Financial Sustainability - from dependence to independence'**  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2008 9:30 - 4pm**

The University of Gloucestershire's Park campus in Cheltenham.

This event is open to all VCS groups in Gloucestershire, which includes you!

**The fee for the event will be £20.** Bursaries are available at the discretion of the Assembly Team.

If you would like to attend, an outline programme and booking form is attached. Please contact Roisin Harte on 01452 522600 or email [RoisinH@glosassembly.org.uk](mailto:RoisinH@glosassembly.org.uk) for more information.

With the move from grant funding to commissioning, voluntary and community organisations have to look for different sources of funding. In addition to a number of inspiring speakers, the event will provide a range of bite-sized training opportunities on topics including raising income through trading, writing successful funding bids, and developing a Social Enterprise.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE SERVICE USERS FORUM** - The New co-ordinator for the Forum is Nadia Novali. She started her new position on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Nadia has many years experience working with people with disabilities and has recently worked at the Star College. Our members will be attending the Employability Plus event at the Star College on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Some member have previously been involved in research by Bournemouth University, funded by Skills for Care, on how well universities in the South West are involving service users and carers in

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GDF is kindly funded by Gloucestershire Association Disability

the delivery of their Social Degree Courses. The next stage of this event is planned to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> May in Taunton and our members have been invited to attend as they have been working with this group before. Nadia will be organising more consultations & training at the University for our Members Involvement. I look forward to working with Nadia & continuing with the good work of the Forum.

Anyone wishing to be involved with GSUF please contact John Pring 01452 541556

**SOUTH WEST DISABILITIES EQUALITIES NETWORK** I Attended a meeting of the Disability Regional Equality Network followed by the SW Regional Equality Board and have since been invited onto the SWDEN board to represent Gloucestershire. Our next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12 August in Taunton and I will report back to the following GDF

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM** Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb -at Cirencester Agricultural College. Issues around the damage caused by flooding. £1/2m have been given by Severn Trent to undertake repairs and have to be spent by 31.3.09. I asked that where possible/suitable disability access was considered. Next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June @ Arlingham

#### **INFORMATION SHARING:**

Kate Fenwick asked if a **Register of people with visual impairment** was kept by SSD. Gerald explained that New cases are advised to SSD and they should call within 5 days to offer a visit. Existing people who have a visual impairment have to ring SSD Rehabilitation Officer if they have a problem. No one is kept as a case.

Kate also mentioned the issue about the **new bus pass** which, if it is one that covers a carer, it only applies in the county of issue. If you travel out of county the carer is charged

#### **ITEMS OF INTEREST RECEIVED**

**BBC OUCH! Magazine** [www.bbc.co.uk/ouch](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch) For interesting views around disability - take a look!

**GAVCA Training:** The new Summer 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)

**Gloucestershire Enterprise Ltd** in partnership with GAVCA are offering an even wide range of training Contact [info@gloenterprise.co.uk](mailto:info@gloenterprise.co.uk) for more information

#### **RADAR**

Why not share this edition of Membership Matters with colleagues and encourage them to join RADAR or support our vital work with a donation? For Membership contact Mya Stevens (Tel: 020 7566 0117 or email [mya.stevens@radar.org.uk](mailto:mya.stevens@radar.org.uk) ) and for donations contact Leif Moestue (email [leif.moestue@radar.org.uk](mailto:leif.moestue@radar.org.uk))

Last week the Government published its Independent Living Strategy, the product of an eighteen month review led by the Office of Disability Issues. RADAR have a briefing which provides an essential guide to key points of the strategy, analysis of its likely impact on our lives and suggests how everyone can be part of influencing what happens next. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact our Parliamentary Officer, Beth Capper on 020 7566 0126 or email [Beth.Capper@radar.org.uk](mailto:Beth.Capper@radar.org.uk)

**Leanne's Chair Workout** my new fitness DVD, Leanne's Chair Workout, which is designed to offer a solution to people with physical disabilities or limited mobility.

I lost my leg to cancer in 2002 but was determined not to let it hold me back, which is why I decided to make this DVD when I found nothing else on the market to help me keep in shape due to my limited mobility contact [danielg@ilcmedia.com](mailto:danielg@ilcmedia.com) for more information.

**DISABILITY SOUTH WEST** Introduces their new free **WEBZINE** for disabled people in the South West. It's an interactive site that we hope will be both **informative** and **entertaining**. We will act as editor and administrators **BUT** we hope that the **community** will take part in deciding the content. For it to succeed we need to let people know about us.

- You can **help** by telling your friends and colleagues or forwarding on this email. Alan Dawe Editor [www.disabledsouthwest.co.uk](http://www.disabledsouthwest.co.uk) **The South West Disability Show – Friday 6 and Saturday 7 June – to read further please see: [www.southwestdisabilityshow.co.uk](http://www.southwestdisabilityshow.co.uk)**

**NEXT MEETING : 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**