

NEWS UPDATE

9th August 2008

APOLOGIES:

Jan Mayo

Mr Clifton-Brown MP

Councillor Robin MacDonald

Lynette Sayce Supported Housing Coordinator GHA

Hannah Drew, Community Disability Development Officer Stroud District Council

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Mary Mulrenan Senior Specialist Screening Nurse & Sylvia Boyle Gloucestershire Bowel Cancer Screening Centre

16,000 People die each year from bowel cancer which is very treatable if caught early. The recovery rate is 90%. Polyps are an early sign of bowel cancer and if removed will stop any further progress.

The Screening Programme, which is part of a national programme has been operating since Feb 2007 and now want to reach people with a disability.

By 2009 they will have contacted all people aged 60 to 65 and by 2010 up to 70 for the whole of the country.

A letter is sent inviting people to participate in the test, the home testing kit is sent out and people have to complete the test & send it to the central testing lab. If the test is negative that is the last you will hear for 2 years when a further test will be offered. If positive you are invited to a hospital check.

Out of 1000 tests only 20 need a follow up check and of those 20 only 2 will have bowel cancer.

Long term the tests will be for 55 to 74 yr olds. There is only a 60% take up of the offer.

A very interesting discussion took place on the ways that people with a disability could be enabled to participate in the test and both Mary & Sylvia will be raising some of the issues raised when they report back to the national project.

There was a question raised about colonoscopy and MRSA. Mary assured us that there was not possibility of catching MRSA. It was also suggested that LINKs may wish to get involved. Anyone interested in further information contact Mary on 08454 222845

INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

Rollo told the forum he had been threatened with court action over his complaint about "timely" medication in hospital. He also has concerns about the new benefits changes which are coming into force.

Steve told the forum that he was finding it very difficult to find jobs under 16 hours per week which he felt was the most he could manage.

Gerald told us of the new Equalities Forum being held on 22nd September 5-30 at Nth Warehouse and a large exhibition being staged by the PCT & Care Directorate at the Glos Rugby Club

"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

REPORT BACK:

GLoucestershire County Assembly Board

Funding has now been agreed to set up the Equalities Group and there has been an advert for a short term post to support that work.

GLoucestershire Service Users Forum - report from John Print

SOUTH WEST DISABILITIES EQUALITIES NETWORK I was elected to the SWDEN board at the event on 3rd June at Taunton. I hope that this will enable me to keep GDF up to date with new developments in the region and carry forward the views of GDF on county issues.

South West Racial Equality Councils Network Event - 18th September 08 for more info Contact: Jinny Uppington **Equality South West Tel:** 01823 250832 **E-mail:**

Jinny.Uppington@equalitysouthwest.org.uk

ESW Summer 2008 Newsletter is now available on their website: www.equalitysouthwest.org.uk

GLoucestershire Local Access Forum

Our new co-ordinator Nadia has been arranging Training and consultations due to start in September following the summer holiday season.

Once again our members will be involved with first year students as they begin their Social work course. This is a good experience for them to meet people they will be working with when qualified. We will also be involved with second year students giving them experience of meeting service users as if on their first visit and introducing themselves.

Our members will also be involved with students in the interview process.

Service users are to be involved in discussing how they would like to be able to spend their direct payments. Rather than spending them on time at a day centre, they are considering giving people the choice to use their direct payments to pursue activities of their choice. This should be interesting if it happens.

Anyone wishing to be involved please contact John Print 01452 541556.

ITEMS OF INTEREST RECEIVED

Gloucestershire LINK event - 16th September at Churchdown Community Centre, 10:00am

Malcolm R Tarling Gloucestershire Service Development Librarian retires in December. Malcolm has been a good contact in the library service to get information out to the public - we wish him well in his retirement.

Westminster Briefing Third Sector Conference - A Thriving and Independent Third Sector: New Opportunities and New Challenges" which will be hosted by *The House Magazine* on 20th November 2008 in Westminster.

Gloshub Bulletin Produced on behalf of the **Gloucestershire Assembly for the Voluntary and Community Sector** www.gloshub.org.uk very useful website & weekly bulletins.

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

Training at Gloucestershire Enterprise are offering a range of courses during August and September, all based at their training centre at Chargrove House, Main Road, Shurdington, Cheltenham GL51 4GA. Courses include:

§ Introduction to employment law, 15 August

§ Managing absence, 19 August

§ Job Evaluation and Setting Pay Structures, 11 September

More information website on <http://www.glosterprise.co.uk/index.asp#> or ring 01242 864137.

Community Bulletin - August 2008 If you would like to find out more about community support in Cheltenham, why not visit our community website pages at www.cheltenham.gov.uk/communityservices

RADAR

Please find attached a press release and information pack about a new **Leadership Development Programme** run by Radar for disabled people and those with long-term health conditions. The programme is funded by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, and is particularly targeting people with disabilities who are from black and minority ethnic communities.

The programme includes two Leadership Development Days, on 12th and 13th November, in Glasgow and Birmingham respectively, for which we are now inviting applications (closing date 5th September). The application form is included in the information pack, and will also be available at www.radar.org. People with disabilities who are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds will be able to apply for one of the reserved places set aside for these under-represented groups.

RADAR have recently launched a blog, which contains regularly updated comment and analysis of disability-related political events and news stories. We would be very grateful if any members who have their own websites could place a link to our blog on them: <http://radarnetwork.blogspot.com>. We are also in the process of updating and improving our main website, please let us know what you think.

We are also currently inviting people to join our Facebook group. You are most welcome to sign up and become a friend of RADAR at www.facebook.com - just search for "RADAR Campaigns".

HOW TO FUNDRAISE A new fundraising Website was suggested to me recently <http://www.how2fundraise.org/>