

# Disability Forum *NEWS*

ISSUE 1 JULY 2006



Westlea Housing

*Welcome*

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Disability Forum. The Disability Forum is open to all Westlea residents and is aimed at people with disabilities and anyone with an interest in disability issues.

The first forum was held in October 2005 and agreed to meet four times a year. There is a steering group of tenants who plan the meetings. We carry out regular surveys to make sure that the subjects we talk about are relevant to you.

Not everyone can or wants to attend meetings so this newsletter is one way to keep people up to date. We hope you find it interesting.

Julie Bielby, Neighbourhood Development Advisor

## Forum explains adaptation options



The forum held at Cricklade Town Hall in April 2006 attracted nearly 80 people. The forum was about adaptations – making changes in your home to make moving around easier.

The feedback we received from those who attended the meeting was very positive and 84% said that they had learned something new.

**Here are the main points made by the speakers and some of the questions they answered:**

- The District Council, Occupational Therapy Service and Westlea all contribute to providing adaptations and communicate with each other throughout the process.

What assistance does an occupational therapist give?

- Advises you on practical solutions to meet your individual needs.
- Works with other agencies to supply equipment and services.
- Can support you in making an application for a Disabled Facilities Grant.

What is a Disabled Facilities Grant?

This is a local council (in this area North Wiltshire District Council) grant to help towards the cost of adapting your home to enable you to continue to live there. Here are some examples of work the grant is used for.

- Stairlifts.
- Level access shower.
- Access ramping to property. ►

*You are invited to the next Westlea Disability Forum...*

## Disability Forum *August 2006*

To book your place please fill out the separate booking slip – postage paid

**Tuesday 8 August 2006**

Kington Langley Village Hall  
(near Chippenham)

10am–1pm

Buffet lunch at 1pm

Transport provided

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- • Provision of heating where there is none.
- Specialised kitchen facilities.

Contact the district council to find out if you are eligible for this grant.

What can Westlea do?

- We have an annual budget of £50,000 for small adaptations. This can be used to top up a disabled adaptations grant. (The type of work carried out includes grab rails and hand rails, door widening, ramps and small access improvements.)
- Day to day disability upgrades when replacing equipment.
- We are creating a database of homes with adaptations and a register of people's needs.
- We are offering 'over bath showers' to all tenants within the next five years. This is being done by area but you can apply to have a shower put in earlier if you have a special need. Contact us on 01249 466061.
- We have been investing £30,000 a year to provide drop kerbs for tenants who wish to create an area of hard standing for parking.

## Contacts

For information about adaptations:

**Westlea Housing Asset Management Team**  
01249 466061

For information about the Disability Forum:

**Julie Bielby**  
01249 466054

**North Wiltshire District Council**  
01249 706666

**Wiltshire County Council**  
Community Care Information Point  
(for assessment by Occupational Therapist)  
0845 6031570

**Social Services Departments**  
Children's Disability & Aftercare Team 01225 709777  
Hearing & Vision Team 01380 725201  
Learning Difficulties Team 01249 659197

Also, **Independent Living Centre** in Semington gives independent assessments and unbiased advice 01380 871007.



## FREE internet access

Westlea, with other local partners, is providing free internet access at these sites:

### eChippenham

- Waste Not Want Not, Hungerdown Lane.
- Town Hall, High Street.
- Parklands, Malmesbury Road (appointment only).

### eCalne

- Coleman's Farm Learning and Community Centre, Angell Close.
- James House, Broken Cross (appointment only).
- Youth Drop in Centre.

### eCorsham

- Potley & Pockeridge Community Centre.
- Corsham Community Centre, Beechfield Road (starting soon).

Basic training and support is available. Please call Julie Bielby on 01249 466054 for details.

## For Specialised support

**Disabled On Line** – the Trowbridge internet café for disabled people.

A resource for disabled people in Wiltshire to learn computing skills and to have access to the internet within a social environment. Training is available and people can study to obtain a recognised qualification.

Tel: 01225 777630

Email: [info@disabledonline.org.uk](mailto:info@disabledonline.org.uk)

[www.disabledonline.org.uk](http://www.disabledonline.org.uk)

Address: Court Mills Centre, Polebarn Road, Trowbridge, BA14 7EG.

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday (10am–4pm). Session for young people every Thursday (5pm–7pm).

If you would like to have any part of this document explained or translated, or in a different format such as larger print or on audio tape, please contact Westlea on 01249 465465 to discuss your needs.