

Disability Forum *news*

ISSUE 2 OCTOBER 2006



Welcome

Summer is gone, autumn, the season of mellow fruitfulness is upon us. The purpose of the Disability Forum and this newsletter is to keep you informed and find out what matters to you. The forum goes from strength to strength and it is hoped that the future programme will sustain that growth. Speaking of the future programme, what would you like to hear about or discuss? It is, after all, your forum, so let us have your ideas; use the booking form or contact Julie Bielby on 01249 466054.

E. C. Peckham
Forum member

Thank you to everyone who came to the last forum; 67 people attended and we had some good comments about the event and the speakers.

June Chatfield, an occupational therapist at the Independent Living Centre, was the first speaker. She demonstrated a selection of aids to help with everyday things like getting dressed, cooking, gardening, picking up things and closing windows.

The centre can also:

- help people choose larger equipment (such as wheelchairs) and give advice about how to use it; and
- help with filling in forms and give advice about benefits people may be able to claim.

The Independent Living Centre can be contacted at: St Georges Road, Semington, Wiltshire, BA14 6JQ. Telephone 01380 871007.

Visit by appointment Monday to Thursday or drop in without an appointment on Fridays between 9.30am and 11.30am.

Richard Cripps, from Lackham, gave an interesting talk on garden design. We had a lot of requests to have a talk on gardening again but specifically for

people with disabilities. Thank you for your suggestions – we will aim to do another item on gardening next year.

The final speaker was Terri Yewkins, from Westlea's Neighbourhood Development Team. Terri is hoping to set up a 'Resident Services Organisation' to offer DIY services at reasonable costs. Terri asked people what kind of service they would find helpful. Read more about this idea over the page.



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

Disability Forum *November 2006*

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

Wednesday 15 November 2006

Hullavington Village Hall

10.30am–1.30pm

Lunch provided

Transport provided

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Services provided for residents, by residents

At the last Disability Forum we wanted to find out the level of interest in a painting and decorating 'Resident Services Organisation' (RSO). This is where local people provide and deliver a service in their neighbourhood. The services that could be offered are: painting, decorating and DIY; small repairs; sheltered accommodation handy-help; and environmental estate improvements. The RSO could offer these services at a reasonable rate to residents. Initially the services would be offered to elderly, disabled and vulnerable residents.

At the forum we had a fantastic response rate and below are the results of the questionnaire. A full report is available on request.

- 71% would like help with preparation and painting**
- 41% would like help decorating**
- 98% would like help with small DIY jobs**
- 43% would like their kitchen decorated**
- 41% would like their lounge decorated**
- 15% would consider someone with a criminal record to provide the service**
- 51% would consider someone aged 16–21 to provide the service**
- 56% would consider someone aged over 65 to provide the service**

People at the forum also recommended that the service should:

- talk to the customer first;
- provide quotes;
- provide identification for workers;
- inspect work when finished;
- provide a central telephone number to a co-ordinator; and
- use an appointment system.

Westlea is now looking into how an RSO could be developed.

Meanwhile, because we are committed to improving our services beyond the standard requirements we are setting up a pilot project for a 'handy-help person'. Watch this space (and the next issue of HOME magazine) for more information.

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.



In the United Kingdom an estimated one in eight adults care for a member of their family or a friend.

Every day another six thousand people take on caring responsibilities.

Carers save the economy millions of pounds per year.

Carers Support North Wilts aims to identify and help as many carers as possible within North Wiltshire. The organisation provides free advice, support and information and opportunities to adult carers who look after a relative, friend or neighbour, regardless of the disability, illness or age of the person being cared for.

**For more information please contact:
Carers Support North Wilts, 41 New Road,
Chippenham. Telephone: 01249 444110
Monday to Friday mornings.**

Disability Forum *Programme for 2007*

Tuesday, 27 February, 2007
Corsham Community Centre

Thursday, 21 June, 2007
Cricklade Town Hall

October, 2007
Venue and date to be arranged

We will send booking forms out before each event with the newsletter. For information about the Disability Forum contact **Julie Bielby 01249 466054**.

