



Newsletter Spring/ Summer 2010

This month we celebrate our first anniversary at Papworth Everard. We share offices with our colleagues at Disability Huntingdonshire (formerly DISH). It's been good to work together and share the challenges of doing more for less money. We've made savings whilst continuing to maintain our Adviceline on all disability-related issues and we've gained some volunteers in the South Cambridgeshire area into the bargain.

Disability Cambridgeshire Adviceline is 01480 839192

Disability Cambridgeshire at Addenbrooke's Hospital

The service at Addenbrooke's continues on Tuesdays and Fridays. Call us for an appointment. Thanks to our participation in Opportunities For Volunteering we've got some great volunteers working there fielding your calls on those days.



Gerri Bird reports that the Addenbrooke's free courtesy bus has wheelchair access.

The Cambridge Forum of Disabled People had a meeting with the Access team at Addenbrooke's about the problems that many disabled people have with the Addenbrooke's site. This is what we learned about the bus service.

- Free for all Patients
- Has flexible seating
- 8 walking passengers or 6 walking and a wheelchair
- Covered waiting facilities inside reception areas and at Main Hospital car park.
- Circular route (20-25 minutes round trip)
- Service 08.30 -17.00 Monday to Friday from Main Multi-storey car park.

New Chairman takes over

Back in October we had a very successful Annual General Meeting. Fran Williamson double medal winner in swimming at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games gave an inspiring and funny speech. We had lots of positive comments. Many thanks Fran and good luck in the future!

There are several new committee members to bring some fresh ideas to the organisation. Chris Lakin had to retire after three years as Chairman but fortunately has agreed to continue as Vice Chairman. Alex Smith is the new Chairman. Alex writes:

“Chris is a hard act to follow but I will endeavour to do my best for the charity which has been through some tough times of late. Thanks to Chris and the Management Committee’s hard work over the last year hopefully it is on a more even and positive keel now.

I hope that I can continue to promote a close working partnership between the Management Committee members, staff and volunteers, to lead the charity through a smooth year. The charity is a wonderful organisation which would not be the great enterprise it is without the hard work the staff and volunteers put in, especially Peter Wetherell, who has dealt with a great deal as ‘Acting Chief Exec’. He might even get a title of his own as a reward!

I would like to say a big thanks to all of our supporters who have stuck by us and fully expect the next Chair’s message to be as positive, for a charity now going from strength to strength.”

Go For It: the guide for young disabled people, 14 - 20



“It has been really well received, I may need more!”
“I...wanted to let you know how brilliant I think it is - pass that on to whoever was involved in creating it!”

These are just two of the comments we had following the launch of the second, revised edition of Go For It. Thanks to editor Jim Smith there has been a very enthusiastic response to this lively handbook. Call Disability Cambridgeshire for a copy.

FunderFinder©

Disability Cambridgeshire is one of over 1,000 licensees of FunderFinder software helping us to help you track down charitable trusts and foundations to find some funding.

What does this involve?

You call Disability Cambridgeshire on 01480 839192 and book a time for an adviser to ring you back and go through a series of guided questions. You need to allow about 20 – 30 minutes. People often ask why there are so many questions. This is what FunderFinder has to say:

“This is simply because trusts give grants for all sorts of reasons. Some trusts fund people because they live in a certain place, others because people once did a particular job. Some give grants to particular nationalities or religious groups...The key point is to consider whether you have a strong relationship with a particular group.”

What happens next?

After the search the adviser sends you a list of the trusts that the software has identified. You will probably have to apply for yourself but we are always ready to lend a hand if needed. You can be sure that all this information is kept confidentially in the same way that any information about people who consult Disability Cambridgeshire is kept securely.

You can find more information about FunderFinder from their website: www.funderfinder.org.uk

Hate Crime – Who’s problem?

- Each year the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Cambridgeshire prosecutes over 2 hate crimes per week, and the numbers are growing.
- Crime motivated by hate can have a devastating effect on the victim’s life. Hate can be based on race, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability.
- The way the CPS approaches hate crime prosecution has a major bearing on public confidence and the encouragement for new victims to report crimes against them.

The Cambridgeshire Hate Crime Panel is inviting you to an event to explain what it does and to give you a chance to give your views on this issue.

Date: Tuesday 8 June

Time: 18:30 for light refreshments, meeting 19:00 – 21:00

For further information contact Gerri Bird on 01480 839192,
email: gerri_directionsplus@yahoo.co.uk

Social Security Benefit Quirk

A quirk of the April 2010 Social Security benefit uprating regulations is that many age 25 plus recipients of the highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance and the Incapacity Benefit long term rate with the under 35 age addition will become eligible for some Income Support, with the consequential benefits of automatic exemption from health charges and entitlement to cold weather payments and Social Fund budgeting loans.

These are people who cannot claim the severe disability premium as part of their 'applicable amount' because a carer receives Carers Allowance for looking after them or they do not live alone.

From week commencing 12.4.10 the 'applicable amount' or minimum income entitlement for a person between the ages of 25 and 59 rises to £65.45 per week with additional premiums for disability and enhanced disability of £28 and £13.65 respectively, **providing the highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance is in payment.** These rates, along with other means tested benefits, have moved up in accordance with the Rossi index.

Contributory benefits, such as Incapacity Benefit (including Incapacity Benefit in Youth) increase in line with the Retail Price Index except that regulations facilitating the introduction of Employment and Support Allowance, which will eventually replace Incapacity Benefit, provide for a **reduction** in Incapacity Benefit age- related additions from week commencing 12.4.10.

This has the apparently unintended consequence of bringing people in receipt of DLA highest care component and the long-term rate of Incapacity Benefit of £91.40 per week with the under age 35 age addition of £15 per week to a position where their National Insurance income is 70p per week less than their 'applicable amount'.

Income Support		Incapacity Benefit	
Personal allowance for age 25 -59	£65.45	Long-term rate	£91.40
Disability premium	£28.00	Age addition (under 35)	£15.00
Enhanced disability premium	£13.65	-----	-----
Total	£107.10	Total	£106.40

Disability Living Allowance is not treated as income but savings in excess of £6,000 generate an income of £1 per week for each £250, or part thereof. This means that savings of £6001 would give you the £1 of income that would exclude you from Income Support when added to your Incapacity Benefit.

If you think that you may now be eligible for some Income Support call your local Jobcentre Plus on 0845 6088603 or contact Disability Cambridgeshire 01480 839192 for further clarification.

Cambridge City Council and Housing Adaptations

On February 1st City resident Georgie Deards received a letter from Cambridge City Council to say that she would have to pay a service charge on her disability equipment which would have cost her £230.10 per year (or £4.43 per week) and this would happen from April 2010.

Georgie felt that this was an unfair tax on disabled people. After a lot of campaigning Georgie and Gerri Bird of Disability Cambridgeshire went to the Cambridge City Council Housing Management Board meeting on 23rd March 2010 to put the case forward. They said how unfair this was to disabled residents in the city and that the Cambridge City Council was discriminating against disabled people.

The outcome was that the council agreed to withdraw the charge on the existing adaptations, which was great news. The Committee will also be reviewing policy affecting new adaptations and tenants in the summer, but Georgie and Gerri will keep the fight going as they feel that this tax should never be charged.

Opportunities For Volunteering Project

Disability Cambridgeshire and Disability Huntingdonshire are currently working together on an exciting new Opportunity for Volunteering Project. Funded for three years by the NHS via Radar this project aims to deliver a six-month intensive training programme to volunteers.

Cheryn Rook, Volunteer Coordinator, explains:

“The programme will equip volunteers with the skills required to deliver advice, support and guidance on a myriad of disability information, such as the DDA, benefits and self-directed support.

As a former employee of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People I will also be delivering training on communication tactics with deaf and deafblind people. In addition, the volunteers will be offered the opportunity to undertake an NVQ level 2 in Advice and Guidance, with support from Huntingdon Regional College.

Our first group of volunteers are currently undergoing training and we are now looking for volunteers to start in the next group starting in the summer of 2010.

If you, or your organisation, know of people who may have a personal experience of disability and would be interested in taking part in the Opportunities for Volunteering Project, or if you would be interested in giving a placement to one of our trained volunteers to deliver advice within your organisation, please contact me.”

Cheryn Rook, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Disability Cambridgeshire and Disability Huntingdonshire 01480 830833, email cheryn@dish.org.uk.

Free benefit calls on mobiles



Did you know that six of the largest mobile phone companies no longer charge their customers for calls to the DWP 0800 benefit claim lines? The Department has agreed with 0², Orange, Tesco Mobile, T-Mobile, Virgin Mobile and Vodafone to end charges for these calls (Touchbase, DWP, Mar 2010). To call for a Disability Living Allowance or an Attendance Allowance claim form phone the Disability Benefits Helpline on 0800 882200

Disability Cambridgeshire Directory



If you have internet access remember you can find plenty of information in the Disability Cambridgeshire Directory – a searchable directory of local organisations, groups and websites www.disabilitycambridgeshire.org.uk
In the near future you will be able to access this from our website.

Books on Prescription



This is a community health initiative that started in Wales in 2003 and has now spread throughout the United Kingdom, including Cambridgeshire. Your GP can 'prescribe' a particular book to help you understand your condition. The scheme covers common physical and mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, blood pressure, diabetes and stopping smoking.

For more information:

Tel: 0345 045 5225

Minicom: 01480 376743

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/reference/health_information.htm

Contact us

On 25th March 2009 Disability Cambridgeshire (formerly Directions Plus) moved to:
Pendrill Court, Papworth Everard, Cambridgeshire CB23 3UY (Registered Office)

Disability Cambridgeshire Advice Line:



01480 839 192

E mail: **info@disability-cambridgeshire.org.uk**

Website: **www.disability-cambridgeshire.org.uk**



Disability Cambridgeshire website includes the Directory of organisations and services

President: Lord Fairhaven KStJ JP DL
Hon Life Vice President: Ruth Palmer
Principle funders: Cambridgeshire County Council and City Councils, Primary Care Trusts, Lloyds TSB Foundation
Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England and Wales: Number 04373745
Registered Charity Number: 1091855

