



Joint Planning Forums

Health and Social Care Update



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margaret.roberts@pavs.org.uk and I shall let you know when the next issue is available
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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services

Summer Joint Forums Event July 2004

This section of the newsletter contains information from the Forums Event held 23rd July 2004 at Withybush Conference Centre. This Event saw the Mental Health Forum (facilitated by West Wales Action for Mental Health) joining us for the first time – it is hoped that in future, links between Forums will be strengthened by this closer joint working.

Local Update:

Local Health Board Lay Member

Another first for the Summer Event was the new standing agenda item for Forum Events: Update from Local Health Board (LHB) Representatives. Mollie Roach (LHB Lay Member/ Representative) attended the morning session and provided an overview of the work of the Pembrokeshire Local Health Board and its development from the Local Health Group to the organisation that it now is. This has involved a great deal of change and new ways of working for local health services. Mollie highlighted that a significant change was the fact that the Voluntary Sector now has two representatives on the Local Health Board as well as the addition of the Carers Member/ representative to ensure the views of the Voluntary Sector and Carers are included in the work of the LHB. The Voluntary Sector representatives are: Chris Le Breton and Roger Rastall; Carol Mason is the Carer Representative. Keith Simcox, Health and Social Care Facilitator, PAVS supports the work of the representatives through the Welsh Assembly Governments 'Building Strong Bridges' initiative.

In summing up it was highlighted that from a Lay perspective the Voluntary Sector does not appear to work that

closely between the different organisations, Mollie suggested that a stronger approach to joint working with the statutory sector would be made if organisations within the voluntary sector would strengthen links and work together in a more cooperative way.

Local Update: Commission for Health Improvement (CHI)

Tony Morris, Chair of the Mental Health Forum gave a verbal update. It was reported that although the report from CHI in 2003 may have seemed critical many of the issues that were raised in the report were known and work has been ongoing to ensure improvement.

Local Update: Fairer Charging

Disability representatives from the Physical/ Sensory Impairment Forum and the Pembrokeshire Coalition met with Colin Cribb, Head of Community Care Commissioning, PCC, Mel Richards, Customer Liaison Officer, Social Care and Housing, PCC and Jane Ellis, Policy Planning and Change Manager, PCC regarding the Appeals Process. The following information provided an update of the current situation: A letter and Income assessment form were sent out for completion; a fact sheet with further explanation was sent out following this with further information; assessments were carried out; people were informed of their assessed levels; invoicing is due to go out, A fact sheet about the complaints procedure is also going out. An appeals panel is currently being established with an independent representative giving users view points.

The Coalition on Charging Cymru can be contacted at Disability Wales tel

no: 029 2088 7325, fax: 029 2088 8702,
e-mail: info@dwac.demon.co.uk

Local Update: Disability Parking – charging

In 2002, the council approved a parking charge policy designed to prevent abuse of the disabled badge system. The policy, which has yet to be implemented states that 'blue badge' holders will pay for parking and receive one hour's free parking for each paid ticket. A 50% reduction on season parking tickets will also be offered to disabled people. Under the new policy, each car park must provide an adequate number of disabled bays and wheelchair accessible parking meters. (source; Pembrokeshire Access Group secretary, Reg Owen article in Western Telegraph p.17, 18th July 2004)

Local Update: Disability Representation

Fiona Walder, Partnership Support Officer, PAVS talked about representation issues in relation to the Pembrokeshire Partnership Management Board (Objective 1) and the Pembrokeshire Community Plan. Matters such as constituency, channels for information etc need to be looked at along with current representative vacancies. It was agreed by Forum members at the Event that further information along with an opportunity for members of the disability Forums to meet to decide on representatives and mechanisms/ procedures for working should take place in September.

Local Update: Planning Process

The Pembrokeshire Coalition – Opportunities for Disabled People September Event on Friday 10th September has been widened to include consultation on the proposed new planning process for PSPB, JIG's and Forums. In addition to this there will decisions made in relation to disability representation

The day event will likely include:

Registration and Coffee
Welcome and Introduction
PSPB restructuring
Forum Group discussion
Facilitated by staff (Chairs of forums to feedback)
Open Forum (including feedback)
Representation on Key Strategic Partnership
Lunch
European Funding Update
The Way Forward - Inviting attendees to Training Programme Launch – Social enterprise the way forward.
Disability Discrimination Act
 The Law
 Local overview
Open Forum
Tea and Networking

This event provides an excellent opportunity for interested groups and individuals of the Forums as well as the Coalition to work collaboratively in the development of future ways if working. Many thanks to the Coalition for opening up their event to us!

I hope to see as many of the Forum regulars as possible, I hope you can make this event!

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE

Community
Legal Service



THE CLS is a government initiative to improve access to legal and advice services, particularly among those sections of society most in need of assistance. It is the statutory responsibility of the Legal Services Commission, sponsored by the Department for Constitutional Affairs – working in partnership with Local Authorities and other stakeholders.

Conceived in the context of policies on social inclusion and regeneration, the main focus of the CLS is on the sorts of problems that most impact on people's daily lives. Specifically, this means advice and help on

housing, debt, welfare benefits, employment, education, community care, immigration and mental health – sometimes referred to collectively as the 'social welfare categories of law'.

The CLS covers a broad spectrum of activity, ranging from the provision of information in leaflets right through to specialist advice and representation at court. Benefits take-up campaigns to raise the public's awareness of their entitlements also fall under the CLS rubrik.

Community
Legal Service



The LSC also fund **Community Legal Service Direct**: Log on at www.clsdirect.org.uk or telephone 0845 345 4 345 for

- ◆ Free telephone advice on Debt, Welfare Benefit, Housing and Education
- ◆ Free Information leaflets on a wide range of subject areas
- ◆ Obtain details of quality local legal advisors.

The Mark of Quality Advice Services

Ensuring access to quality assured advice services is the overriding aim for the CLS Partnership in Pembrokeshire. The Quality Mark is part of the framework which underpins the CLS and lays out a standard for service delivery. The CLS is the brand name on the high street for quality advice services and local partnerships are keen to expand access for the public particularly at the Levels of Information and General help.

If you provide information or advice on people's rights and would like to know more about the CLS Partnership in

Pembrokeshire or the Quality Mark, please contact:

Ian Cooling, Legal Services Commission. Tel: 029 2064 7134;

E mail ian.cooling@legalservices.gov.uk

Local Update: Supporting People – needs mapping

The Supporting People Teams throughout the Dyfed-Powys area, now all using the same Needs Mapping Forms in order to unify the process. The needs mapping process is ongoing. It is important that as full a picture as possible is gained. The Form is strictly anonymous and is designed to identify individual's support needs. 'By completing this form you will enable us to look at areas we can improve our services throughout the county'. Where individuals are currently cared for at

home by parent carers there is a potential future need for the individual clients, but the need that could be mapped at present would be the support that the parents may require to enable them to sustain their support. Working on the premise of prevention. For further information and copy of the form to complete contact Joanna Smith, Supporting People Planning Officer, Social Care and Housing, County Hall, Haverfordwest, SA61 1TP, telephone : 01437 786494, or e-mail: joanna.smith@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Forum Feedback

Older Persons Forum

Feedback to PSPB re: planning process and mechanisms for involvement.

- Each layer of consultation must have representation, up to and including the PSPB to ensure clear lines of communication throughout the process.
- More balanced representation needed at each level (including voluntary sector organisations, users, carers and statutory organisations) giving balanced representation throughout the process.
- Direct influence and involvement from the beginning of planning new initiatives, rather than consultation after the event.
- True commissioning (voluntary sector an integral provider – open tendering for all).

Feedback to JIG.

- Fairer Charging and other policies where organisations provide support should be given proper timely and accurate information about new and changing policies.

- Concern that expertise in voluntary sector should be properly utilised, recognised and funded.
- Concern was raised that the local authority are developing services without proven quality standards which can have a detrimental effect upon Voluntary Sector providers.

Learning Disability/ Parents & Carers Forum

- The forum thanked Paul Bee for reporting the progress of the Learning Disability Plan.
- The forum felt that: carers, voluntary sector providers and users should have input from the beginning of the process rather than only at the final consultation stage.
- It was highlighted that for involvement in the Audit of Learning Disability Services the Welsh Assembly expects Social Services Departments to make appropriate arrangements to consult with other stakeholders (including people with learning disabilities, their families and carers and local learning disability voluntary organisations) and as yet this does not appear to be

happening locally. The Forum welcomes information from Paul Bee regarding the undertaking of the audit and mechanisms that will be used for involvement and consultation.

Palliative Care Forum

The Palliative Care Forum did not take place because of lack of attendance.

Physical/Sensory Impairment Forum

Feedback to PSPB

- Joint agency meetings (JIGS) must ensure adequate time for discussion on matters concerning: the planning process its implementation, monitoring and evaluation of structures. Written updates/reports would be useful.
- Consultation requires time, with early involvement of the sector in the development of planning structures and other new or changing services.

Feedback to JIG

- Process for ensuring correspondence from service users entered on individual's file and acknowledgement of receipt of correspondence is essential – it would be useful if we could be informed if there is a process for this (not the complaints procedure)
- Where Occupational Therapy (OT) service is provided people would benefit from knowing what the role of an OT is. It would be useful for information to be provided on all the services OT's can provide.
- Terms of reference of JIG not clear concerning: commissioning, planning and consultation – clarity of the processes and the roles that the voluntary sector can play in developing services through joint agency planning is needed

- Information from Social Services, LHB and Trust on what is currently being commissioned
- There are cross JIG/ joint Forum issues (themes and areas of work such as advocacy, aids and equipment, respite care, continuing care, etc) which could form the basis of working groups to develop these services areas.
- The Forum is encouraged regarding both the appointment of OT and a social worker for PSI.
- The Forum is pleased that the new base for the PSI Team at Haverfordia House has extended its facilities for demonstrations and training.
- It was felt that having an independent representative included on the Home Care Services Panel is a positive step and good for joint working.

Mental Health Forum

- The Mental Health Forum thanked the Joint Forums for giving them the opportunity to share the day and hoped the 'alliance' would continue.
- The Mental Health Forum meeting was drafting a leaflet which would describe their work. This leaflet to be completed as soon as possible and made available to the general public and other interested parties.

Wanless Workshops

The forums completed an analysis of the 'strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) 'regarding the current and future work of the Voluntary Sector in the light of the Wanless Review of health and social care in Wales and the Local Action Plan.

The points that were identified through the workshops are noted below under the 'SWOT' themes that were used:

Strengths

The perception of the Voluntary Sector by people using services is that voluntary organisations are neutral and impartial, providing visionary ideas in a flexible way responding to user needs. It was highlighted that the sector is good at monitoring and evaluation and that services provided have more opportunity of being 'person-centred', due to the strong empathetic relationship with service users as well as perhaps due to the voluntary sector often seeing itself as having a 'moral obligation' to service users. It was felt that the sector has a close link with both individual service users and the community; 'voluntary organisations are ideally suited to providing and developing services in prevention and after care'. The Voluntary Sector is less restricted than the statutory providers in procedural matters ie, less rule bound. Finally with regard to the strengths of the voluntary sector it can often be better value for money, with the use of volunteers being an advantage.

Weaknesses

Some Voluntary Sector activities do not have 'hard outcomes' that can be easily quantified, especially in the areas of sport, recreation and the arts. There is a lack of funding for training volunteers as well as the lack of continued funding which leads to a lack of continuity of service and staffing. There is perhaps a lack of capacity within the sector to fulfil the potentially changing role as service providers (this requires training and information). It was suggested that apathy and disillusionment could be the result of 'too much talk and not enough action'. Some organisations can be isolated - a 'lone voice'.

There needs to be stronger networking and referrals between voluntary organisations and with the statutory sector. Other comments received regarding potential weaknesses:

- Carers and service users receive large amounts of information that is unclear.
- Lack of communication with LHB
- VS could be seen as cheap option
- Conflict in sector caused by funding regime
- Not enough collaborative working in the sector.

Opportunities

The possibility for long term funding under Service Level Agreements (SLA's)/Contracts would allow greater continuity and security for both service users and staff. The Wanless agenda gives more opportunity for user consultation and assessment of need as well as the opportunity to create more 'independent living' for service users. More opportunity for joint/partnership working as well as enhancing mechanisms for networking both within the sector and with statutory providers. The prioritising of prevention and working with the community emphasised by Wanless offers opportunities to experiment with new ways of funding and working. An opportunity to review service provision and the way services can be funded in the future along with an increased voice in prioritisation of service provision. The development of new and innovatory services with the opportunity for the Voluntary Sector services becoming an element of mainstream provision.

Threats

Voluntary organisations are often perceived as having a lack of credibility by statutory providers. The lack of funding for some organisations might mean they cease to exist with serious consequences for service users and statutory providers. Change of government policy could have detrimental consequences for the sector. There are natural anxieties for voluntary organisations due to The possibility of

loss of independence if become service providers under contractual framework. VS could simply be seen as 'cheap option' for service provision. A new funding framework and bidding process may increase competition rather than encourage co-operation.

Any future funding process may be detrimental to VS access to core funding. New processes may narrow priorities. VS organisations may simply become statutory providers.

Question and Answer session

Jon Skone, Director of Social Care and Housing and Cllr Peter Stock, Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector and Community, attended the final part of the Summer Event to gain feedback from the day and to answer questions.

Q.1. David Brockway (Arts Care); re: budget, increase council tax?

Jon Skone replied that for every 1% increase in council tax there would be an increase of ¼ million pounds.

Pembrokeshire is the second lowest spender however making the correlation between the amount spent and the quality of service is not linked to this. Pembrokeshire County Council averaged in the Joint Review, unless you get the basics right you just spend more in the wrong way. Education is a priority therefore naturally other areas are lower down on the scale of resources.

Cllr Stock added that it costs 300 million to run this county, it is impossible to get absolutely everything right. Additional difficulties have been in place since the reorganisation of local government and the Preseli Pembrokeshire and South Pembrokeshire Councils came together. In regards the Audit Commission Report Pembrokeshire has been in the top 3 counties for the past 5 years, and top in education. There is a need to improve certain aspects of social services; £1.2 million extra has been put towards Social Services this year. Leisure facilities are lagging behind many other services provided by the local authority. With the more recent reorganisation of local

government it is likely that it will be another 5 years or so before things are running more smoothly. Cllr Stock concluded that meaningful partnership working and 'team spirit' for Pembrokeshire will help us to become the premier county in Wales.

Q.2. Anne Berry (PCO); what is the total social care budget and how much goes into the different client groups?

Jon Skone stated that the total budget was around the £30 million (net), £40 million (gross). Of this the bulk is spent on older people, approximately £6.5-7 million is spent on children and young people, learning disability has a spend of about £5 million with physical and sensory impairment, mental health etc receiving significantly less. The ideal is to get the budget cycle dependent on needs and not resources, there would need to be some movement of resources. The reality is there's not going to be big investments in local government with the Welsh Assembly's current focus on health.

Q.3. Martin Goodall, user involvement and meaningful consultation

Jon Skone reiterated the importance of involving users of services and carers in service planning and development adding that while it has not been possible yet to draw data together regarding statistics in relation to people with physical/ sensory impairment however he hopes that this will be addressed in the future.

Q.4. John Woodham; flexibility in and information about respite care services

Jon Skone responded that there is still some way to go as conceptually it's a difficult nut to crack. The first step is to ensure staff are willing to understand the issue, the second step, Jon added, should be relatively easy.

Local Health/ Social Care Voluntary Groups

Spotlight Feature

This item is to become a new regular feature in the Health and Social Care Update. Information from the AGM/ annual report is used to give a picture of the services that local voluntary organisations are providing. If you would like your organisation featured please send copy of annual report/ article for inclusion.

Paul Sartori Foundation – hospice home care for Pembrokeshire

Hospice: The array of services provided by the Paul Sartori Foundation has remained similar since the Hospice unit was opened in October 2002. There has been a steady occupancy of the two beds at Langton. Occupancy has remained at 98%.

Community Care: Referrals for community care have decreased however they have actually input more of hours of care to a smaller number of patients.

Bereavement Support service: Referrals to the support service have gained momentum.

Lymphoedema service: There has been a significant increase in the number of Lymphoedema patients. 80 new referrals were received taking the number of patients currently receiving help to 150 patients.

Physiotherapy services: The physiotherapy service continues to receive a large number of referrals.

There were 51 new referrals, with provision of 288 direct treatment episodes.

Equipment loan: The numbers of equipment loans have decreased.

Day facility: The day facility at Haven Road is being utilised more regularly for clinics and the Breast cancer support group, over the next year it is planned to increase usage of this facility further still.

Referrals: the number of new referrals 2003 – 2004 was 408 compared with 217 referrals in the previous year. Ongoing patients saw a decrease from the previous years 153 to 36, with the total people cared for being 444. Total hours of care provided were 42267.15 (2003-2004), a substantial increase on the previous years 29384 hours of care provided.

For further information about the Paul Sartori Foundation contact: Paul Sartori Foundation, 31 Haven Road, Haverfordwest, Pembs, SA61 1DU, Telephone: 01437 763223, fax: 01437 765755

P.I.P.P.A.

The Physically Impaired People of Pembrokeshire Association

P.I.P.P.A. held their AGM on 2nd July 2004. The organisation currently has a membership of 600 and provides a range of services.

The Information Centre at the Meadow Park office is open 5 days a week. There is still a great demand for help with

completing benefit forms. Referrals are from across the county; GP surgeries, health centres, hospitals, as well other organisations and word of mouth. The Stroke Association has vacated their part of the Bungalow and Headway has moved in.

Outreach Programme: this focuses on individuals who cannot get to the office. Budget is currently limited to information visits within a 10-mile radius of Haverfordwest. Additionally, members are involved with many other organisations across the County and Wales.

The Coach House is contracted by P.C.C. to issue Blue Badges. Last year 2078 badges were issued to the disabled people of Pembrokeshire.

Mobile Unit: equipment is delivered all over the county.

P.I.P.P.A. Post: This is the organisations newsletter which is produced regularly and distributed to members.

H.O.T.T. Directory: funding is still being sought to produce a new version of the H.O.T.T. Directory. In the meantime local groups are working together with PAVS to produce a directory of equipment that will be published on the internet.

Junior Volunteers: the organisation has hosted a work experience student from Sir Thomas Picton School as well as gaining invaluable help during school holidays and at the County Show from junior volunteers.

Annual Statistics 2003-2004: enquiries
Telephone: 3261, Letter: 2075, Visitor: 5844 (including county show visitors)
For further information about P.I.P.P.A.: visit or write to the

P.I.P.P.A. Office, Meadow Park, Stokes Ave., Haverfordwest, Pembs, SA61 2RB, or telephone 01437 760665

CONNECT Disability Rights Advice

Connect DRA held their AGM on July 2nd 2004. The Chair's report highlighted the achievements of the last ten years outlining the following:

Clients: over 700 clients have been supported, also benefiting their friends, families and carers

Shop/ Resource Centre: a charity shop with a drop resource centre ran for 2 years.

Accreditation: CONNECT are accredited training course providers with the law society and the Institute of Legal Executives

Action Information Days: two action information days were held with over 60 participants.

Training: CONNECT run various training courses, covering an overview of benefits to a complex two-day course on Community Care Legislation.

Contracts: there has been a Service Level Agreement with the Local Authority for 6 years to provide 250 hours of advocacy per year.

Networking: the organisation works with DIAL UK, CAIT, SCOPE, the Local Authority, DIG, Disability Wales and many more organisations.

Campaigns: CONNECT has been carrying out a campaign raising the issue of BAMS doctors for a number of years, and through the DIAL UK management committee has been involved in the House of Commons launch of the 'bitter pill' campaign. Additionally there is involvement with the DWP and the

medical services provider Schlumberger Sema.

Advocacy: in addition to provision of ten years of advocacy CONNECT has been carrying out and advocacy needs analysis within Pembrokeshire

Employers: CONNECT employs someone 12 hours a week at the moment, they were employing for 48 hours a week at one point, and plan to get there again.

Advice: CONNECT have had various cases on many different levels up to complex legal challenges in court.

Networking: local forums, national organisations, tribunal users groups, campaigns, etc.

For further information about CONNECT DRA.: write to CONNECT DRA, Lynden Lea, Goodwick Hill, Goodwick, Pembrokeshire, SA64 0EX, Telephone: 01438 873884, E-mail: CONNECT_DRA@hotmail.com

Cartrefi Cymru seeks new Trustees

Cartrefi Cymru is a leading provider of support to people with learning disabilities in Wales. They are currently looking for new Trustees to join their Board. Charity Trustees set policy and oversee the strategic direction of the charity. They are also legally responsible for good performance and legal compliance. Maintaining regular contact with the Chief Executive Officer and other senior managers, you will ideally have some expertise in one of the following: finance, HR, IT or strategic planning. The Board meets once a month.

For more information contact Adrian Roper, Chief Executive Officer, or Liz Fitzgerald on 02920 642250

‘Prime – Cymru’ an initiative for mature enterprise

Terry Mills is the local client advisor for this organisation. For further information about the organisation, or if you are over 50 and have a business idea contact Terry on: Tel: 01646 690425, mobile: 07977 480 242, or e-mail: terrymills@aol.com

SNAP Cymru enables families (parents, carers, children and young people) to have their voices heard within the decision making process of special educational needs, and supports them to influence policy and practice in the delivery of services.

We are a registered charity giving free independent support and information to families (parents, carers, children and young people with special educational needs) so they can be effective partners in the planning and decision making process.

Special educational needs covers a wide spectrum of learning difficulties which include physical and learning disabilities, sensory impairment, communication and language difficulties, specific learning difficulties and emotional and behavioural difficulties. This also includes children excluded or at risk of exclusion.

We endeavour to ensure that all families of children who have special needs have access to all the organisations and bodies involved in the decision making process relevant to their particular needs.

If you have unresolved ‘issues’, feel overwhelmed or intimidated by all the bureaucracy, or just need information, all are welcome to visit our stand at the Pembrokeshire County Show on

17th, 18th & 19th August and find out how we can help you.

Our office is at Withybush Showground (except during the county show) -
C/o Show Office, County Showground, Withybush, Haverfordwest SA62 4BW

Tel. 01437 768097, fax 01437 769301, email

Pembrokeshire@snapcymru.org

website www.snapcymru.org
SNAP Cymru will be attending this year's Pembrokeshire County Show on 17th, 18th, 19th August 2004

Training and Information

BUILDING ON YOUR SKILLS

Training is definitely an investment for the future success of any organisation but training also means an investment of resources - time, money and effort. And, you really cannot afford to waste those resources, which are usually in short supply.

The best approach is to work out exactly what skills are needed for your organisation to achieve its objectives; what skills you have at the moment and identify what gaps there are between the two. Then draw up a learning plan to meet those needs, implement and evaluate the training.

Through the new *Learning in the Voluntary Sector* training project, PAVS is able to help with this process by facilitating training needs workshops. These workshops are designed to be participative, encouraging people to really get involved in the design of their training programme. Depending on the size of the group, the workshop can be fitted into a scheduled meeting, or run as a separate workshop ranging from 2 - 4 hours in length.

If you are a voluntary group in Pembrokeshire then PAVS can facilitate a Build on your Skills workshop completely FREE of charge. Give us a call now to register your interest in this service or for some more information. Telephone Louise on 01437 769422 or email training@pavs.org.uk

Circles Network; Person Centred Planning and Life Coaching

Circles Network is holding training around person centred planning and life coaching on the following dates in Pembrokeshire: 27th & 28th September 2004
27th & 28th October 2004
29th & 30th November 2004

The cost is £75 per day or £450 for 6 days. For further information contact Caroline Drew, Circles Network Hub, Potford's Dam Farm, Coventry Road, Cawston, Rugby, CV23 9JP. Tel: 01788 816671, Fax: 01788 816672. e-mail: information.circles@btconnect.com



Dementia Care Conference

Thursday 23 September 2004

School of Care Sciences
University of Glamorgan
Pontypridd CF37 1DL
South Wales

The purpose of the conference:

To share innovative ideas in the care of the older person with dementia, present work in progress and show case innovations that has made improved outcome for old people who use mental health services

Conference fee: £30

Special concessions for informal carers and voluntary workers (fee £10)

For further information please contact aattard @glam.ac.uk or ring 01443 483011 Alexia Attard, Conference Co-ordinator.

Rheumatology Today
“Rheumatology and Osteoporosis Conference”
Conference 20th September 2004

Registration Fee: Free

For further information please contact aattard @glam.ac.uk or ring 01443 483011 Alexia Attard, Conference Co-ordinator.

Information and News

Local Update: Direct Payments

What's happened and what's not?

An increase in numbers on DP has happened! There are now 42 people in Pembrokeshire on Direct Payments: 14 with physical disabilities, 13 with learning difficulties, 8 children with disabilities, 3 adults who have sustained head injuries, 3 elderly with disabilities and 1 adult with a sensory impairment. Of the 13 people with learning difficulties, 3 receive a Direct Payment to fund respite alone and 2 receive a Direct Payment to employ a personal assistant and to fund respite.

An increase in the hourly rate has occurred! It has risen from £8.70 per hour to £8.92 per hour. It is going to be backdated to April 2004.

Direct Payment customers are exploring the opportunity of applying for Objective One money via the Social Risk Fund, with the help of Ingela Mann of the Welsh Council of Voluntary Associations. This will give them the means to pay for training for themselves, their carers and their Personal Assistant's. It can pay for all sorts of training: aromatherapy, reflexology, I.T. skills, massage, yoga for carers, managing stress, communication skills and this list is not exhaustive! It can also pay for travelling /accommodation / food/ expenses as well as paying for a person to keep the books and generally support the administration.

Pembrokeshire may also be getting a volunteer to work with Direct Payment customers supplied through Community Service Volunteers (CSV). The volunteer would work for 40 hours per week and could provide flexible support throughout the County. He/She could work with people whilst their regular P.A. is on holiday or sick or if recruitment has been difficult due to particular circumstances (e.g. needing support for a few hours in the evening or through living in a very rural area). The volunteer would be with us between 4 and 12 months. All going well, one would arrive as the other leaves!

There still seems to be a lot of confusion over how a Direct Payment can be used. The Rowan Team has been working with the Direct Payment Support Groups to compile a list of what is possible. Contact me if you would like to receive this list.

The Local Authority recently had Welsh Assembly Government money to provide an opportunity to discuss issues of concern and to share best practice in all aspects of the management, administration and delivery of Direct Payments to the broad range of client groups. The first of three meetings was attended by budget managers and heads of service from the five Welsh Counties of Bridgend, Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire; the second by voluntary organisations, advocacy services and support schemes; the third by Direct Payment customers from the same Counties.

The local authority also has another £4,000 of funding to use for an information day for Direct Payments. This will further advertise/promote the scheme and include a workshop for voluntary and private service providers and advocacy groups.

In May this year, the Local Authority approached John Wright to develop a commissioning strategy to enable the smooth transition, to implement the introduction of mandatory Direct Payments, and to review the roles and responsibilities of the Social Care and Housing Directorate with respect to the managing of Direct Payments from 1st November 2004. This report has been finalised and was presented to the Senior Management Team on 20th July 2004. It pressed home many issues raised through consultation with professionals and customers working with Direct Payments and has enabled staff guidelines, customer guidelines and Direct Payment processes to be agreed in readiness for the launch of mandatory Direct Payments at the beginning of November 2004.

What's not happened?

All of the existing eligible customer groups in Pembrokeshire have yet to be covered. It has not yet become mandatory for the local authority to offer Direct Payments to eligible user groups. This will now happen in November 2004.

- From 1st November 2004, all people with a disability and their carers including disabled children and parent/guardians who have parental responsibility.
- From March 2005, older non-disabled people and their carers
- To be decided, all other adult groups

Although the above have yet to happen, it will happen. When it does be sure that you are in a position to make Direct Payments happen for you! Call Elaine Nicholas for information now on 01646 636984.

Local Update: Unified Assessment Process

The Unified Assessment Group has not met since March 2004. The following gives a summary of the March meeting. It is hoped that further information will reach us soon regarding feedback about the eligibility criteria and consultation the Forums were involved in December 2003.

Assessment tools came up as an important point for moving forward. FACE needs signing off officially and a decision needs to be made regarding what assessment tools we decide to use. This issue is complicated by the Welsh Assembly Government indicating that they may wish to prescribe the forms for certain levels of assessment.

Pilot Project

Training now completed. A number of issues came up including fairer charging, a reluctance to move onto the stage of care planning and reviewing services and the role for District Nurses in care planning.

Information sharing

Caroline Oakley said that the bulk of the core documentation was ready to be emailed for consideration of the steering group however awaiting information from WAG rather than duplicating work.

Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria has been adopted by the county council and is now policy. It was approved by Cabinet on the 15th of March. Training and documentation will be available soon. A generic letter to be sent to everyone who gave some input into the process.

Training needs

Eligibility training needs to be completed. Small groups using different members of staff was thought to be the best way to do this.

Local Update: Physical/ Sensory Impairment Team

Janet Price, Customer Services Manager Physical and Sensory Impairment, P.C.C. forwarded the following information. The Team is currently in the process of moving to Haverfordia House so it is all rather hectic with trying to shred, pack and continue the service provision.

The Haverfordia House move will enable community care teams to work together with some of our health colleagues and will hopefully provide a more joined up service for our customers.

For the Physical and Sensory Disabilities service we will have new facilities for assessment, including bathing, moving and handling re: w.c. and bed/transfers to and from, and kitchen assessments and rehab training. The move should be completed by the time this is circulated; contact telephone numbers will remain the same.

The New Tenby Cottage Hospital

Update from the Local Implementation Group August 2004

The Local Implementation group for the re-provision of services currently provided at Tenby Cottage hospital met again on Friday 6th August. This meeting was particularly well attended when the group met at the new venue of St John's Church Hall. Mansel Thomas, chairing the meeting extended a warm welcome to members of the group and in particular to Ashley Warlow of the Pembrokeshire Community Health Council and to Margaret Roberts representing Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS).

Mansel also welcomed David Jenkins, Security Officer from Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust and Max Bevan from Tenby Police Station. These gentlemen gave an interesting presentation to the group and advised on security measures for the new building at Butt's Field. This advice will be incorporated into the operational plans for the new development

All member of the group were excited that the plans for the new hospital, to be built at Butt's Field have been granted planning approval, and that the scheme can now forge

ahead. Local groups will now be involved in the detail design of each room within the new Minor Injury Unit, Out Patients department and Day Care Centre. They will work with NHS professionals to ensure that all rooms are well equipped to provide a high quality service to patients. The Architects have already produced a computer-generated picture of the exterior of the new building and the group discussed on Friday how the internal appearance could be enhanced by artwork. A sub-group will be set up to look specifically how local organisations can become involved in contributing to the appearance of the new Tenby Cottage Hospital.

Members of the group noted that the decision to keep the name Tenby Cottage Hospital has led to some criticism as the new hospital building at Butt's Field will not have in-patient beds on site. All members however agreed that as Tenby Cottage Hospital is such a well loved name, it is appropriate that the new facilities should retain this name even though the In-patient beds will be at another site. This will help to retain the continuity and faith in the quality of services currently provided. The exact location of the new In-patient beds is not yet known, but independent organisations will invited to tender for the provision of these beds within a 3 mile radius of Tenby. It is therefore anticipated that the location of the new In-patient beds will be made known within the near future.

A Publicity campaign is now planned for September and will continue throughout the next year. The intention is to inform as many people as possible about the development and the services to be provided. Detailed plans will be on show throughout the locality and it is planned to meet as many people as possible in order to gain people's points of view. The Trust is eager to work with the Voluntary Sector to take services forward in Pembrokeshire.

The next meeting will take place on September 10th at St John's Church Hall Tenby, at 2.30 pm. All meetings are public, and local people are very welcome to attend. For further information contact: Jenny Bowen (Project Director) tel: 01437 774010, fax: 01437 774114, e-mail: jenny.bowen@pdt-tr.wales.nhs.uk

Changes to Out of Hours Primary Care medical cover in Pembrokeshire

Due to changes brought about under the new GMS contract, GP Practices no longer have to provide cover outside of normal working hours, which includes being able to opt out of running surgeries on a Saturday morning. Responsibility for out of hours cover for primary care medical problems has now transferred to Local Health Boards. Each LHB in Wales has to ensure that arrangements are in place for out of hours cover, and this will vary in each area according to local circumstances. In line with this, the Welsh Assembly Government has made available a ring-fenced amount of funding to each LHB for use in securing out of hours services.

▪ **Pembrokeshire Doctors on Call to become "Care on Call Pembrokeshire" from 1st September**

In Pembrokeshire there has been a very effective GP-led out of hours service in existence for some time. *Pembrokeshire Doctors on Call* has been managed and funded through a GP co-op arrangement for seven years. After considering the options available, the LHB felt that it was important to build on the strong foundations laid by this service model. As a result, Pembrokeshire Doctors on Call will become directly managed by the LHB. GPs will still be involved in the new organisation, which will be called *Care on Call*

Pembrokeshire, on an individual basis via a contract with the LHB. However, they won't have responsibility for managing it or funding it in the same way.

Work has been taking place since April to implement these changes and the LHB is planning to go "live" with *Care on Call Pembrokeshire* from the 1st September 2004. The service will be accessible through a new number - 08708 509508 - between 6.30pm and 8am Mondays to Fridays, and the whole of Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

▪ **Changes to Surgery opening times**

The main change that patients and the public will notice is no longer having access to their own GP on a Saturday morning, for routine enquiries. The *Care on Call Pembrokeshire Service* will only be able to provide cover for urgent and serious medical problems that can't wait until the GP surgery is open on Monday morning.

▪ **Information Leaflet**

A special leaflet has been produced by the LHB to inform and reassure the public about the coming changes ahead of 1st September, and raise awareness about the range of support that is available on an out of hours basis. The leaflet will be available widely in GP Surgeries; Community Pharmacists; Optometrists and Dentists from early August. A copy of the leaflet will go out in the *Western Telegraph* at the end of the August. There will also be a series of local press and radio releases throughout the month.

▪ **Looking to the future**

The LHB and its partners are planning to build upon this initial work by looking at the whole spectrum of "unscheduled" (unplanned/emergency) care with local providers. This future work will look at the possibility of tying together all aspects of "on call" care into one model or "pathway", in order to streamline delivery and optimise service capacity in this area.

If you would like any further information about this, or any other aspect of this article please contact Sarah Williams, Director of Service Innovation at the LHB on 01437 771239 or e-mail sarah.williams@pembrokeshirelhb.wales.nhs.uk

National Assembly's Learning Disability Implementation Advisory Group

Brian Williams, Parent Carer on the Implementation Advisory Group, has recently circulated information regarding the audit of services that all Local Authorities are requested to undertake in relation to learning disability services. In his letter Brian highlights, '...the National Assembly is going to advise Local Authorities to include parents and carers and service users, in undertaking the audit, and in devising Local Authority grant applications made to them. What is decided now in your area will shape learning disability services for the next 10-20 years....In the past a lack of

involvement has left some areas of Wales with poor services and this must not happen again!' further information can be gained from the All Wales Forum of parents and carers, telephone: 02920 915027

Ask Mencap launched **www.askmencap.info**

A new information website for people with learning disabilities was launched in May. Ask Mencap provides a range of accessible information about learning disability issues for use by people with learning disabilities, parents and carers, professionals and the general public. It also includes live discussion and provides details of local and national organisations.

Help the Aged are seeking your views on pension credit.

The Government's recent announcement that it had met its latest target for take-up of pension credit clearly suggests that many individuals have benefited from it. However, targets for take-up of the benefits are still modest. At present, probably a shade under 60 per cent of those entitled to pension credit are receiving it. The pension service has been reformed. It now works largely over the telephone with claimants and has striven to simplify the application forms and processes.

In order to help with the development of Help the Aged policy position on pension credit, they want to hear your views on it. Information is welcomed about the application process and the administration of pension credit, along with general views about the value of pension credit to you or the problems you have faced with it.

Help the Aged has taken an apparently contradictory position, urging people on the one hand to claim the benefit while being critical of the structure of the policy as a whole. This may be a cerebral position. However they are now seeking to capture views from people who have had first hand experience of trying to understand the new systems and use it, and the extent to which it has worked to their benefit.

Please feed your views (positive and negative) to Pension Credit Consultation, Policy Department, Help the Aged, 207-221, Pentonville Road, London, N1 9UZ
(source: David Sinclair, in Help the Aged Policy Update, June 2004)

me2 Award

'me2' is Mencap's new kitemark award scheme for the inclusion of disabled children into play, leisure and out of

school clubs. Each setting will be supported in developing the tools and resources to become more accessible and inclusive. It is hoped that the me2 award will act as a clear guide for disabled children and young people, empowering them to make their own decisions and choices. For further details please contact: Jo-Anne Bourne tel: 01926 3360002, or email: JoAnn.Bourne@mencap.org.uk (source: Healthcare Alliance Public Health News August 2004)

All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers of people with learning disabilities

The All Wales Forum is seeking to get every local Learning Disability group and parent carer in Wales on its database by Christmas 2004. This includes informal groups and individuals involved in Special Schools, Day Services, Employment Initiatives, and other settings. The purpose is to strengthen and improve the database that has been produced over the last six months, and to increase communication links for future campaigning.

For further information about registering on the database call 02920 915027 or Email:
enquiries@charityfutures.com

Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline (0808 80 10 800)

This newly launched national free-phone, confidential and non-judgemental helpline run by Welsh Women's Aid, provides a confidential information and support service to those experiencing domestic abuse or anyone ringing on their behalf (including agencies) in Wales.

The Helpline provides:

- A central point of contact for information related to supporting clients experiencing domestic abuse
- Contact information and service details for agencies designed to help those experiencing domestic abuse.
- Information on refuge services for women and children across the UK including where there are spaces in refuges
- Information on outreach services, drop in centres and local 24 hour helplines for women and children experiencing domestic abuse
- Information on a range of other services that may be able to support those experiencing abuse with specific needs
- Information on services available to male survivors of abuse
- Information on Perpetrator Programmes
- Guidelines for best practice in supporting those experiencing domestic abuse
- Free and confidential support and information service for members of staff experiencing domestic abuse.

Lines are open everyday of the year during the following hours: 8am-2pm and 8pm-2am. The helpline number is 0808 80 10 800, the address is: PO Box 82, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL54 6ZH.

New Developments in Learning Disability

The University of Glamorgan have established a Unit for Development in Intellectual Disabilities (a term used worldwide in place of what we call Learning Disabilities). The Unit (UDID), run by Professor Ruth Northway, will be undertaking research related to the practical improvement of policies and practices in Wales. The Unit has a

steering group that involves parents and carers. If you are interested in the work of the Unit contact them on 01443 483192. (source: All Wales Forum newsletter June 2004)

Voluntary Organisations and Local Authorities should become allies

The director of public policy at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations Campbell Robb made a plea to local authorities to examine carefully their procurement policies to ensure they did not disadvantage voluntary organisations. At a fringe meeting regarding the sector's involvement in the delivery of public services Campbell also stated that it was time to 'move away from the destructive relationship' of the past in order to move forward. (source: Community Care 15-21 July 2004)

Victory for low paid worker (Llais update, June 2004, SCOVO)

A worker with learning disabilities who received just 29p and hour for stacking shelves has won £5,000 compensation.

A store in Leicester offered him 29p an hour for his first few weeks in the job. The man took the work because the employer said his wage would increase 'once he had shown what he could do'. His wage did increase to just 96p and hour. The minimum wage is supposed to be £4.50 and hour. The man worked at the store for 6 months before he took action. A local Minimum Wage Project and trade union KFAT used minimum wage legislation to take the company to an employment tribunal where it was ordered to pay £5,000 in compensation and legal costs.

The Wales Disability Reference Group – ‘bringing in the votes of disabled people’

The Disability Reference Group is a coalition of Wales-based disability umbrella organisations supported by the Assembly’s All Party Disability group. In April they launched the leaflet ‘bringing in the votes of disabled people’ which explains to political party workers and candidates how to ensure that the 400,000 disabled people living in Wales play a full part in the electoral process.

As well as ensuring that poll stations are accessible the Reference group are calling on the parties and candidates to produce their own campaign literature using good clear print and in plain English (and Welsh). (source: *Llais Update*, SCOVO, June 2004)

Minister announces three-year extension to RNIB Cymru's Accessible Housing Project

It has recently been announced that funding for RNIB Cymru's Accessible Housing Project will be extended for a further three years. The extra funding of £224,604 is to build on the already successful project undertaken in the past two years. This will ensure people with sight loss in Wales have their homes adapted appropriately, help local authorities deliver an equitable service and promote national standards so all relevant professionals have the same knowledge and skills. Source: <http://www.wales.gov.uk> (news-press releases). For further information about the work contact Linda.Rees@rnib.org.uk

Bird Watching for Disabled People

In the spring issue of ‘Birds’, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

(RSPB) magazine, there was a small article ‘Barrier free access’. This was introducing a relatively new organisation – the Disabled Bird Watchers Association (DBA) – which is trying to improve the access for disabled people on bird reserves. While there are some reserves which possibly will never be completely accessible because of the natural terrain, there are many others where the access could quite easily be improved with some help and advice and possibly at not too great a cost.

Bird watching is a hobby which the disabled and less mobile people can enjoy, either on their own or in a group. It can be done just from a car or sitting on a bench on the sea front, but to get the most out of bird watching it is important that disabled birdwatchers can visit reserves to see birds in their natural habitat, and where, so often, rare species can be seen. Unfortunately there are ‘barriers’ which prevent disabled people to get the most out of a visit to a reserve. To find wheelchair accessible paths on a reserve leading to hides with steps at the entrance is not disabled helpful.

The DBA are working towards improving the access to reserves, they produce a newsletter and organise holidays suitable for birdwatchers who are disabled and less mobile. If you are a birdwatcher with a disability you could help by passing on information about non-accessible reserves.

To contact the Disabled Birdwatchers Association log onto their website: www.disabledbirderassociation.org.uk or contact Bo Beonlens: bo@fatbirder.com for further details. Bo also has another interesting website with lots of information about bird watching and with links to many other sites, so why not also visit that at – www.fatbirder.com

Getting On With Cancer - free copies available

Getting On With Cancer is a book designed to support people with a learning difficulty through a cancer diagnosis. The book is based on a story by Veronica Donaghey, a woman with Down's Syndrome who had lymphoma. Each picture explains the sequence of events from going to the GP to having chemotherapy, through to recovery. The book is published by St Georges Hospital Medical School and Gaskell, and Council had a representative on the advisory panel. The recommended retail price for these books is £10 per copy. **Council has a number of copies to distribute free to interested parties (£1 postage charge).** Please contact Vicky Kington by email at v.kington@hospice-spc-council.org.uk or by phone on 020 7520 8294.

Library promotes health issues

The Health Promotion Library is the national library in Wales for information on health promotion and public health. They provide library and information services free to anyone in Wales, including health professionals, teachers, students, parents and children. Anyone interested can become a member, simply by filling in a membership form. This can be in print or via the Promoting Health and Well Being in Wales website at:

www.healththewales.org.uk

You can use the Library by telephone, post, fax, e-mail, the internet or in person.

Services provided:

- Searching for health promotion and public health information, using the library catalogue, and a range of electronic databases, and the Internet. They offer monthly training courses

- You can borrow up to 4 items from the library at any one time – with a FREEPOST address for returning items. If you cannot visit the library they can send items by post
- Enquiry services to help you to find the information you need. They produce reading lists of the information they have in the library, so you can choose the resources you need
- Visit the library to use the resources – you can do this as an individual, or as part of a group. The library is open Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm, and Wed 9am-8pm
- A number of publications to keep you up to date. Bulletins on latest research on health promotion topics (e.g. nutrition)
- A library update '*Library News*' to let people know what they are doing, and a '*New Books Bulletin*' with details of all the resources as we add them to the library.
- The library is part of the World Health Organisation European Information Network

If you are interested in finding out more contact the library on **029 2068 1239**, **web:** www.healththewales.org.uk, **address:** Health Promotion Library, National Assembly for Wales, Ffynnon-las, Ty Glas Avenue, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5EZ

Enjoy the summer safely

Heading into the hottest summer months Age Concern Cymru is urging older people to enjoy the season safely.

Older people, especially those on medication, can be particularly vulnerable to the heat. The ageing process means that the body copes less well to fluctuations in weather conditions.

Heat stroke is especially dangerous for older people and sufferers will require

urgent medical attention. Following a few simple steps will help older people protect themselves from heat-related illnesses. For example:

- Drink more fluids such as tea, fruit juice and water
- Keep homes as cool as possible – use a fan if necessary
- With the summer weather being a perfect breeding ground for bacteria, extra care should be taken in the preparation and storage of food

For more information on keeping safe this summer contact NHS Direct Wales on 08454647.

Challenges ahead for mental health services in Wales

A new report published by the Mental Health Act Commission will provide some great challenges for Wales. The report *Expression of Choice* focuses on the communication needs of patients detained in Wales under the Mental Health Act 1983. The Welsh Assembly Government asked the Commission to undertake the study in 2003. A summary of the document can be found at http://www.mhac.trent.nhs.uk/Expression_ofchoice%20Summary.pdf

Public health practice will benefit from new HDA collaborating centres

Nine new collaborating centres have been launched across England and Wales by the Health Development Agency. They will help strengthen public health infrastructure by creating a network of organisations and institutions working together to further develop HDA evidence and promote good practice.

The collaborating centre in Wales is situated in the University of Wales College of Medicine. Source: HDA Press Office 12 July 2004

Improving local well-being

A new report from the Audit Commission entitled 'People, places and prosperity', provides some telling conclusions about how the drive to improve local well-being is hampered by the many central government initiatives and the complex funding that underpins them.

<http://list.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/t/133/125102/49/17/>

Consultations

Health Social Care and Well Being Strategy – Pembrokeshire

This strategy remains open for consultation and welcomes feedback/ response before the end of September. For copy of the document please contact Pembrokeshire Local Health Board on 01437 771220 or 771221, or call in for a copy at Unit 5, Merlin's Court, Winch Lane, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA61 1SB

Planning Process

Please refer to page 5 of this publication 'Local Update: Planning Process'

Websites:

www.pavs.org.uk

www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk

www.pembrokeshirelhb.wales.nhs.uk

The Wales Rural Observatory

<http://www.walesruralobservatory.org.uk/>

NHS Gateway has been designed to make finding health information on the Internet, quicker and easier. It will provide you with the answers to the most frequently asked questions about the NHS and general health issues, bringing together access to a wide range of health related websites <http://www.nhs.uk/>

Travel Health Abroad

<http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/misc/ht.asp?ID=34>

British Nutrition Foundation

<http://www.nutrition.org.uk/>

The internet's unique guide to care and the rights of older people

<http://www.caredirections.co.uk/>

Funding Opportunities

The GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT awards in association with the King's Fund

www.kingsfund.org.uk/grants for copies of the application form and details of previous winners (these will be available from the 1st July)

If you are a registered charity setting an outstanding example in a health related field in the UK then you could be eligible for an award of up to £30,000 of unrestricted funding along with high recognition for your work.

Open to registered charities that are at least three years old with an annual budget of under £750,000. Ten winners will receive £20,000 and the overall winner will receive an additional £10,000, a further ten highly commended organisations will receive £5,000.

These awards are designed to recognize the success and achievements of existing work and YOU decide how you spend the money.

Closing dates for applications are:-
Friday 22nd October 2004

Applications packs are available by sending an A4 self-addressed envelope (no stamp required on the one that they

send back to you) – GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Awards, Grants Department, The King's Fund, 11-13 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0AN

Adapt Trust

The Adapt Trust has the sole purpose of encouraging and assisting arts and heritage venues to create better standards of access for disabled people. Two grant schemes are available, offering grants of between £500 and £3,000 for capital and long-term improvements for disabled and sensory impaired people. Arts and heritage venues in the UK are eligible to apply. These include publicly or privately owned arts centres, cinemas, concert halls, theatres, art galleries and museums.

The closing date for applications is the 30 September 2004. Details from the Adapt Trust, tel: 0141 556 2233, email: adapt.trust@virgin.net or visit www.adapttrust.co.uk

WDA Grant available for taking on your first employee

With voluntary organisations having to become increasingly commercial in their outlook, Business in Focus has found it is working more and more with the third sector. Our traditional business support activities mainly involve helping with business plans, working with clients to develop their marketing and sales strategies and finding ways of raising finance. One of the most practical ways we can help third sector organisations is with a grant of £250 for taking on your first employee.

Business in Focus delivers the scheme on behalf of the Welsh Development Agency. The scheme is simple to understand and there is very little paper work. It's called the Sole Trader Initiative because it was originally aimed at encouraging small business people to take the leap and take on their first employee.

Here's the rules. There's not too many because the WDA want to promote job creation and a vibrant economy in Wales.

1. you should not have employed anyone for at least 12 months before applying
2. your employee must be full-time and permanent. Under the scheme, this means working at least 30 hours per week, be paying either PAYE or National Insurance or both and been employed for at least 4 weeks before applying for the grant

Your employee does not have to have been previously unemployed, so anyone is eligible. If you are already employing people, you might still be eligible if you have not taken on anyone new in the last 12 months. Just ask a Business in Focus advisor and they will let you know if you are eligible

There are 2 forms to fill out – but don't worry, a Business in Focus advisor will do that for you! The forms are then signed by the employer and the employee.

It's as simple as that! Probably the easiest £250 your organisation could earn!

If you are interested, call Business in Focus on 0870 950 90 90 (calls charged at local rates) and ask to speak to an advisor about the WDA Sole Trader Initiative.

Orange Community Futures Award 2004

Orange wants to support local projects around the country that are working to make a difference to people with sensory disabilities. Through the provision of awards, it seeks to recognise and reward innovative community projects that use communication creatively for the benefit of those with sensory disabilities. Orange is particularly encouraging applications which focus on music, film, literature, sport, information technology (solutions to communication issues for people with sensory disabilities). The closing date for application is 31 August 2004. contact Orange Futures, telephone: 0845 070 0112, e-mail: communityfutures@orange.co.uk website: www.orange.co.uk/cfa

Community Fund

Welsh groups are encouraged to apply for the Community Fund. Application numbers to the Community Fund in Wales are at their lowest ever. The Fund still has nearly £10 million to invest in the voluntary sector in Wales during this financial year. If you want to talk an idea through, find out if you're eligible, or if you have a question about their form and procedures, give them a call on 01686 611700.

Foundation for Sports and Arts

The Foundation will support activities that increase access to arts and sports, particularly for young people in disadvantage communities.

Grants are available for a wide range of activities, including equipment for play areas, drama groups, museums and arts projects or sports clubs.

Details available from: Foundation for Sports and Arts, PO Box 20, Liverpool L13 1HB. Telephone: 0151 259 5505, website: www.thefsa.net. (WCVA April 2004)

The “Transforming Lives” Programme

Administered by The Camelot Foundation makes grants to voluntary organisations working with their target groups: Young parents or those at risk of becoming young parents; young asylum seekers; young people with mental health issues and young disabled people.

The next two deadline for application are is 11th October. For further information contact Julie Gilson, Grants Manager by sending an A4SAE (33p) stamp to Camelot Foundation, University House, 11 – 13 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EX Tel: 020 7828 6085 Fax: 020 7828 6087 Email: info@camelotfoundation.org.uk or download from www.camelotfoundation.org.uk

Social Justice and Regeneration Grants

The Welsh Assembly Government has recently issued ‘*A Guide to the Welsh Assembly’s Social Justice and Regeneration Grants*’ which provides information on all their voluntary sector grants, with appropriate contact details. An electronic copy is available from the WCVA’s helpdesk: phone: 0870 607 1666, or e-mail: help@wcva.org.uk

NetSolutions Wales

NetSolution Wales is offering voluntary and community organisations IT grants of £5,000. The funds can be used for IT capital items, training and website development. To be eligible, organisation’s free reserves must be less than one year’s income. Grants are available for organizations across the UK. To find out more about this, and other funds, please call NetSolutions on Telephone: 01446 400287 or visit www.netsolutionswales.co.uk

The Tudor Trust 2004

The Tudor Trust is an independent grant-making charitable trust, which exists to enhance people’s quality of life. Grants focus on urban, rural and coastal areas, where there is significant deprivation. The trustees recognize that today’s society has significant, unmet needs and address their root causes. Promoting people’s well-being and enabling them to make positive choices about their future, is central to the Trusts current work. For further information telephone: 020 7727 8522, or visit: www.tudortrust.org.uk

GiveNow.org

GiveNow.org celebrated its second anniversary on July 1st. Since its launch two years ago, the website has gone from strength to strength, helping to raise thousands of pounds for good causes. As well as enabling charities to receive secure donations online donations, GiveNow.org helps them to promote their cause to millions of potential new supporters by enabling them to post regular news stories about their work and activities. For further information visit: www.givenow.org

Awards for All Wales is a grants programme set up to help small groups. It is supported by the Big Lottery Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The main aim of Awards for All Wales is to fund projects which involve people in their local community, bringing them together to take part in and enjoy a wide range of heritage, charitable, health, educational, environmental and other community activities.

If you are a local group and you need between £500 and £5,000, Awards for All Wales may be able to help you.

Sometimes quite small sums of money can have a big impact. We hope these awards will make a real difference to smaller groups and will strengthen community activity.

- You can apply at any time
- The application form is simple
- You hear the result quickly

For further information call:

0845 600 20 40

The Walter Guinness Charitable Trust

The Trusts priorities are children, communities/ community, culture, disability, ecology, elderly, housing, marine, medical, mental health, overseas, prisoners, research and youth. Grants are usually in the range of £1000 to £5000. further details are available from:

Walter Guinness Charitable Trust
Biddesden House
Andover
Hampshire
SP11 9DN
Tel: 01582 399505

Diary Dates

10th September 2004: Pembrokeshire Coalition – Opportunities for Disabled People September Event; including consultation on the restructuring of the planning process and disability representation on Objective 1 Pembrokeshire Partnership Management Board. (Further information is being mailed to all Forum members with full details, unavailable at going to print)

Thursday 21st October 2004, 10.30 - 4pm
AUTUMN JOINT VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUMS EVENT
Haverfordwest Rugby Club

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Send us your news!

Fax it!

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E-mail it!

margaret.roberts@pavs.org.uk

or Post it!

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