

WEST BERKSHIRE DISABILITY ALLIANCE (WBDA) NEWSLETTER

Dec 2007, Edition 12

Website: www.wbda.org

Charity No. 1108112

Eligibility Criteria for Social Care

Congratulations to West Berkshire Council (WBC) for listening to local disabled people's organisations regarding their concerns over the council's policy of only providing services and support for disabled people who are deemed as 'critical' set out in their eligibility criteria. In October WBC issued a press release to let the public know that a review will be taking place. The Healthier Communities and Older People's Policy Development Commission, chaired by WBC Councillor Pamela Bale and Supported by Jan Evans Head of Older People's Services, will be undertaking this review which will look at the current process of assessment to ensure that the Council's social care services maintains a high quality service to the increasing number of people who require services now and in the future.

WBDA Comment – the WBC Disability Equality Scheme (DES) Scrutiny Board will be requesting a seat on the review board.



Low Rider Buses

After a significant investment by Newbury Buses they now have a near 100% fleet of low rider vehicles to enable wheelchair users and people with ambulant problems to access their services providing they can pull into a properly designed bus stop.

WBDA Comment – all we need now is a 100% cover of Kassel (specially designed high) kerbs at local bus stops to ensure this investment is not wasted. This wish however maybe some way off and in the meantime WBDA will be pressing local bus companies to provide more info on bus stops for journey planning

The WBC DES Scrutiny Board

Now has a contact email and dedicated answer phone. If you have any issues of concern that you would like the Board to raise with West Berkshire Council email info@wbscrutinyboard.org.uk or call 01635 503060 and a member of the Board will get back to you. For further information about the Board visit:

www.westberks.gov.uk/desscrutinyboard

West Berkshire Vision

A draft strategy entitled 'A Breath of Fresh Air' sets out a vision for West Berkshire for the period up to 2025. A short video can be viewed at www.westberks.gov.uk

residents are asked to comment by 24/12/08.

Seasons Greetings

WBDA would like to take this opportunity to wish its members and supporters merry Christmas and a prosperous 2008.

Foot care

Age Concern are running a campaign called 'feet for purpose' which sets out to encourage local Health Overview & Scrutiny Committees to examine how Primary Care Trusts are meeting older people's foot health needs. Age Concern claims that one in three people over 65 in England can not cut their own toenails and many those who can not afford to pay for private care are often forced to go without any help. For more information go to: www.ageconcern.org.uk/feetforpurpose or call Age Concern on 020 8765 7200.

WBDA Diary - 2008

Monday, 18th Feb 2008
WBDA Open Meeting
14.00 – 16.00hrs
United Reform Church
Room, Newbury

Monday, 28th April 2008
WBDA Open Meeting
18.45 hrs – 20.45hrs
Calcot/Theale area
Venue TBA

Monday, 21st July 2008
WBDA AGM
19.00hrs – 20.30hrs
Venue TBA

The Wheelyboat Trust

Provides wheelchair accessible small boats in a variety of locations across the UK and Ireland, for such activities as fishing, pleasure cruising and nature watching. The principal assets of these boats is a bow door which lowers to form a ramp enabling roll on, roll off access plus a level and open deck allowing users complete freedom on board, including helming the boat if they desire. For a complete list of the locations where wheelyboats are available and for more information on the Trust and its activities go to www.wheelyboats.org or phone 01798 342 222

WBDA contact details

Website: www.wbda.org
Email: info@wbda.org
Tel: 01635 31912

Require Information?

Then go to the locally run website www.diwb.org for info on benefits, respite, care, direct payments, the blue badge scheme, and a whole raft of other info.

Secretary Required

WBDA is seeking a Secretary. This is a voluntary position with a commitment of 2-3 hrs per week on average. The attributes needed are; good people skills; ability to work as part of a team; have access to a computer and the internet and be computer literate, having a good understanding of emails, word and excel. The duties include; assisting in the organising of: meetings, events, projects, and an annual AGM; taking and producing meeting minutes/notes; source funding streams and prepare grant applications alongside other WBDA officers. For further details regarding this post email mick.hutchins@wbda.org or phone 01635 31912.

This newsletter has a distribution list of 1200+. If you or your organisation would like to sponsor an edition of this newsletter, please contact Mick Hutchins at the WBDA.