



Working for Choice, Independence + Lifestyle Wiltshire Independent NEWSLETTER



Issue 44

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Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living

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0300 1233 442

Wiltshire CIL Newsletter - How do you want to receive it?

We already send out the newsletter to nearly 700 people by email, and we would now like to make this our main distribution method. The newsletter will also be available on our website.

Send us your email address ...

Still want a paper copy? You will need to let us know ...



info@wiltshirecil.org.uk



0300 1233 442 (Option 2)



11 Couch Lane, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1EB

**Date for
your
diary**

**WILTSHIRE CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2017
10.00AM—12 NOON**



Have your say on our new Online Forum!

Wiltshire CIL has launched a new online forum, which along with our Facebook and Twitter accounts, gives you an extra way to share your views with other disabled people. You can write about anything you want. For example you might want to share your experiences on being a disabled parent, how you manage the benefits system, or just give a local coffee shop a recommendation. If there is a burning issue that you want action on, let us know and we can look into taking it forward.

It's your forum—so, over to you

You can access it here: <http://www.wiltshirecil.org.uk/forum/>

If you want some help contact: matt@wiltshirecil.org.uk



In a rapidly changing world, how do Young Disabled People (YDP) imagine their transitions into 'adult life'? Find out more about the ImaYDit ("I Made It") project inside....



THE 3RD SECTOR CARE AWARDS 2014 FINALIST



www.wiltshirecil.org.uk

The ImaYDiT ("I Made It") project is run by Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living in conjunction with University of the West of England and funded by DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning). Led by disabled people or people with long term health conditions aged 14-25, the project will explore how: **'In a rapidly changing world, Young Disabled People (YDP) imagine their transitions into 'adult life'?**

Researchers: We are now looking to recruit 5-10 user researchers who will attend a half day preparation event, deciding what questions to ask as part of the research project. They will then attend one or two 'knowledge cafes' to help ask the questions and record the results.

If you want to take part the benefits for you will include : Training and skills to add to your CV, £5 gift voucher for each meeting you attend, certificate from the University of West of England, influencing policy and practice in Wiltshire, opportunities for more involvement, meeting like-minded young people.



The 'knowledge cafes' will be relaxed, fun and run in a variety of ways to enable participation for all – these will be run in the New Year. We'd also like to hear from young people with disabilities aged 14-25 who would like to attend one of our cafes and help to shape the future! **If you are interested we would love to hear from you...**

**Contact: Nikki Cull, Project Coordinator email: nikkicull@wiltshirecil.org.uk
Telephone: 07403553462 <https://www.facebook.com/ImayditProject/>**

DLA to PIP—Personal experience and good advice from a local man

I am delighted after several months of worry to have been granted PIP transferred from DLA. I say worry in that there has been much controversy about the process. I was planning for up to 6 months ahead by:

- Reading the necessary information about PIP from the Dept of Work and Pensions: <http://www.gov.uk/pip> Here you can download copies of the application forms and notes on how to fill in. Also crucial are the Rules they govern by.
- Requesting written evidence from my GP and neurologist regarding my condition (M.S. secondary progressive) after I had looked at the DWP web advice as to when the Devizes post code area SN10 was targeted.

However, as the time got closer I realised I needed better evidence, not just about my disease, but "How it affected Me"! So, I spoke to many people in the same boat who had already gone through the process. Their advice was great as they showed me their documents in confidence where I could see for myself what was required.

I received good advice such as, downloads:

- Daily activity forms from Disability Rights UK : <http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org>
This is meant to give an idea of how you are affected by your disability through the day & weeks. Best also to discuss this with someone who knows you and how you struggle. We can take a lot for granted about our difficulties and not realise what effects it has on yourself or partner/friends.

Other activity forms are available from different organisations e.g.

- Citizens Advice bureau's. They also offer face to face advice as well as on line: <http://www.cabwiltshire.org.uk> Telephone 0344 4111 444.

- Check the "benefits and work" website for advice and downloadable information documents: <http://www.benefitsandwork.co.uk> Their advice on line was crucial, if not a bit taxing due to the large quantity of available reading.

Notes:

- Don't panic!
- If you haven't received the letter from DWP inviting your application yet then don't delay start your preparation asap. If when you receive the letter and you feel they haven't given you enough time before the deadline date, phone them and ask for an extension (my friends have all done this and been granted from 2 weeks to 4 weeks extra - but you can only request once)
- Having photocopied everything for my records and posted the form with the evidence off by recorded delivery, I waited about 6 weeks to hear whether I was going to be interviewed or whether I would get an award without an interview. I was granted my award without interview they said due to the weight of my evidence.
- Much of my evidence is because I persisted in nagging my GP, Neurologist, Neuro Nurse, Contenance nurse and physiotherapist etc.
- Do not be afraid to be a nuisance and ask...if you don't ask you won't succeed. Let your medical advocates know what you need affirming—How Your Disability Affects You.

Inclusion and having a strengths based life: a fine balance

Following on from the last Newsletter: the second part of Matt and Mary's personal take on inclusion.

Matt: 'Mary, your boy goes to a mainstream primary school right? That is what inclusion is all about'

Mary: 'Yes, this was something I was adamant about from the start; he would attend his village primary school like his brother, being part of his local community. Something a brother of an autistic boy said at an 'In control' conference really struck a chord with me: 'you take one child who is different out of a mainstream school and you teach the rest of the class that disabled people have no place in their world - they take that lesson into adulthood'

Matt: 'How's that worked out for you?'

Mary: 'Ummmm - so my boy is leaving his school and moving to a complex needs unit attached to a mainstream school'

Matt: 'So has inclusion failed?'

Mary: 'Well yes you could say that. But I don't know - I still feel very conflicted about it all; but the plain truth is that my son is in a small, struggling to stay alive, village primary school, who have really tried, but ultimately can't get the right resources and expertise to fully support him. Is that right? No, but I need to be pragmatic and practical when I think about inclusion, it needs to be balanced with my son being given the best opportunities to learn. He has given so much to that school in terms of teaching the other children that we don't all come in the same size box, and truly the teachers and the kids have been amazing, so I really do hope that he will leave a legacy at that school, and the children he shared a class with won't be quick to judge when they encounter someone different.

Both: 'OK so what have we both learnt? That in life nothing is black and white – there are always lots of grey areas and inclusion is no different. We have both had to adjust our approach, and think about things differently rather than just follow an inclusion agenda blindly. It's like the message from the early disability rights movement: independent living doesn't mean disabled people doing everything for themselves; making sure disabled people are able to participate as equal members in every aspect of daily life doesn't mean that disabled people won't still have needs or need extra support. However, despite the compromises we sometimes have to make we still strongly believe that inclusion is a goal worth striving for, and it isn't just disabled people that benefit. Communities are better places when they proactively include all their members.'

2018 Accolades – Skills for Care – be proud of the great employer that you are! : Skills for Care are running 2018 Accolade Awards and one of the categories is for the 'Best individual who employ their own care and support staff'. If you want to be recognised for the great work that you do as an employer or if you are employed by a fantastic person who is committed to the learning and development of their staff (Personal Assistants) then please follow this link for more information and to enter/nominate www.skillsforcare.org.uk/accolades

FREE PA Training: Wiltshire CIL are delighted that they have been awarded funding from Skills for Care again this year so that they arrange Personal Assistant (PA) training. Please visit our website for full details: <http://www.wiltshirecil.org.uk/training-for-personal-assistants/>

Skills for Care - Money for Training for Individuals Employers and Personal Assistants (PAs) Now Open! : If you employ your own Personal Assistants (PAs) using a direct payment or your own money and you are unable to book your PA onto the courses arranged by Wiltshire CIL (or there isn't the one you require), you can apply for money for training for you and your staff from Skills for Care. To find out more: <http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Learning-development/Funding/Individual-employer-funding/Individual-employer-funding.aspx>

Delegation of Healthcare Tasks – Report : A recent study by NHS England was carried out in relation to the delegation of healthcare tasks to Personal Assistants. This is an interesting topic and one that hasn't yet had a definitive outcome. A lot of the ambiguity surrounds accountability. The study showed that a registered practitioner who delegates a task remains accountable for the decision to delegate and cannot delegate that accountability. However, provided the decision to delegate is made appropriately, they are not accountable for the decisions and actions of the PA to whom they delegate. The PA is accountable for accepting the delegated task as well as responsible for his/her actions in carrying it out. The full report can be found here <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/516-Delegation-of-healthcare-tasks-to-personal-assistants-S7.pdf>

Access to Work

A recent study of Personal Assistants (PAs) who support someone at work revealed that many people did not know about Access to Work funding and how to apply for it. Access to Work is funding that is available if you have a disability and want to start work, stay in work or move into self-employment or start a business (not to include business start-up costs). How much you get depends on your circumstances. The money doesn't have to be paid back and will not affect your other benefits. For more information and to apply for Access to Work funding please visit <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>

I Care... Ambassadors

Skills for Care have an initiative called 'I Care...Ambassadors'. This is someone who promotes care as a career. It would be beneficial to have Personal Assistants (PAs) to be I Care Ambassadors. To find out more please contact lucie@wiltshirecil.org.uk / 0300 1233 442 (Option 2).

Employing Personal Assistants Toolkit: <http://www.employingpersonalassistants.co.uk/>

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