



Working for Choice, Independence + Lifestyle **Wiltshire Independent NEWSLETTER**



Issue 42

April 2017

Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living

info@wiltshirecil.org.uk

0300 1233 442

Missed anything? We publish a newsletter every month and you can find back issues on our website under Useful Resources.

Welcome to April's edition of our newsletter. We have been inspired this month by interesting work and interesting people. We love the work going on in America where nurseries are being hosted in residential homes for older people. The evidence for the positive benefits of intergenerational relationships included boosting health and self-esteem of older people and helping children with their language and development. This work shows two things: 1. How segregated we have become as communities; and 2. The huge importance relationships play in our lives. Wiltshire CIL's work centres on providing people with a life and not just a service, and how we define life is often down to our relationships; family, friends, work colleagues. Equality of relationships is so important for all of us. This leads us on to our new favourite quote: "[we need] to show people that we are linked and not ranked" (Gloria Steinem, writer). You can read both articles in full by following these links:

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2017/mar/04/gloria-steinem-what-makes-me-unhappy-seeing-anybody-rendered-invisible>

[https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/apr/01/american-care-model-young-old-soon-in-uk?](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/apr/01/american-care-model-young-old-soon-in-uk?CMP=share_btn_fb)

[CMP=share btn fb](#)



We were saddened to hear of the death of Enid Burnett. Her funeral was held on March 28th. Enid was a great person and helped a lot of others learn to speak up to give their views. She was the first vice-chair of Wiltshire and Swindon Users Network and later became a strong advocate of Direct Payments. She led many training and conference platform sessions, including outside of Wiltshire, and we all enjoyed her poetry.

We are delighted to be featured on the Ideas Hub website. Ideas Hub is showcasing and celebrating great things that are happening around health, community and wellbeing nationally. They wanted to feature our Make Someone Welcome campaign. As always, it is great to find allies in this work; others who are trying to make communities work for everyone! You can read the full article on their website:

<http://ideas-hub.org.uk/ideas-hub/interview-mary-reed-make-someone-welcome-part-2/>



Service User Survey 2017



PLEASE take the time to complete this year's survey and return it to us. We have enclosed a FREEPOST envelope for you—so you don't need to put a stamp on it.

Your feedback is very important to us.



THE 3RD SECTOR CARE AWARDS 2014 FINALIST



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www.wiltshirecil.org.uk

Disabled People and Poverty

A new report out by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission highlights the poverty disabled people face compared with the general population in areas such as work, access to health treatment etc. You can download the report at:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/disability-report-being-disabled-britain>

The report, which covers six key areas of life, finds that disabled people in Britain are experiencing disadvantages in all of them, and sets out vital areas for urgent improvement. Despite significant progress in the laws protecting disabled people's rights, they are still not being treated as equal citizens and continue to be denied the opportunities and outcomes non-disabled people take for granted. This includes: a lack of equal opportunities in education and employment; barriers to access, to transport, health services and housing; the persistent and widening disability pay gap; deteriorating access to justice; and welfare reforms significantly affecting the already low living standards of disabled people.

We want to know how you feel about poverty as disabled people in Wiltshire. In which areas does it affect you? Just let us know by contacting us by email: mary@wiltshirecil.org.uk, and we will pull together your responses later in the year.

We look forward to hearing from you.

POVERTY

Charging policy follow up

We were concerned to learn about your experiences as Wiltshire Council implement the new charging policy about which they consulted last year. Many people have told us how much their contributions have increased to make it difficult to cover the cost of the support they need. This had been made worse by not realising it was going to happen. Although there was a public consultation about the charging policy which we publicised, it was not made clear how seriously it would affect people. Wiltshire CIL were so concerned about the effects of implementing this policy that our CEO, Geraldine Bentley, has been raising the issue at the highest level in Wiltshire Council. They commissioned Healthwatch to carry out the consultation last year. A special meeting for those affected to meet a Wiltshire Council senior manager was arranged at The Corn Exchange, Devizes on Wednesday April 19th and Wiltshire CIL has written to the council to stress the importance of more coproduction with disabled people in producing consultation documents and designing consultation processes to try to get things right in the future. If you are waiting to be financially reassessed again, in line with the new policy, here is some advice from those who have: Give yourself plenty of time for the assessment meeting. Remember you can delay their suggestion of a next day assessment. Be sure beforehand to study the list of disability related expenses and collect the evidence in advance so that you get as much of your disability daily living costs as possible taken into account.

Join Wiltshire CIL's Co-production Group

Do you feel you want to contribute to getting disabled people's voices heard? Do you feel your expertise and knowledge as a disabled person is not being used as much as it could be? Then you need to consider joining our coproduction group of disabled people who use CIL services and meet every few weeks to discuss issues important to us. These can be wide ranging and vary from looking at the effects of people having to change from DLA to PIP, the effects of the new charging policy, improving information about services and accessible venues for days out! When possible we try to see how we can work with others to change things for the better or give support to other disabled people. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 25th April** in Potterne. If you would like to join us do contact mary@wiltshirecil.org.uk or telephone Mary on **0300 1233 442**.



New Contract—New Services

The Banking and Payroll Services, which for the last 4 years have been ably provided by Independent Numbers, have now been brought in-house and are all under the same roof as the other Wiltshire CIL teams in Devizes.

However, the staff providing the services are not all new. Junko Woodley, whom many of you know through Support Planning and the agency side of the Banking Service, is now in the process of heading up the Finance Team and has assumed responsibility for all of the banking side. She is being supported in this by Nina Croker who has just joined us. Connie Willoughby, who has been on the payroll side at Independent Numbers for the last 2 years, has come to join us at Wiltshire CIL. We are also delighted to welcome back Elaine Barker whom many of you will remember worked on the Wiltshire CIL payroll for two years up to 2015.

We would like to thank Jenny Budgell, and her staff at Independent Numbers, particularly Lisa Ritchens and Magdalena Makasow, for the service they have provided over the last 4 years and for ensuring a smooth handover.

Contact details:

payroll@wiltshirecil.org.uk banking@wiltshirecil.org.uk

The phone number remains the same – **0300 1233 442**

Option 1 is for the Payroll hours answering service

Option 2 is for all other Wiltshire CIL services



Connie Junko Elaine Nina

#MakeSomeoneWelcome – Let's Dance!



Calling all disabled and older people...

We need you to come and dance with us!

Wiltshire CIL and Show Off Dance are working together to create a unique dance event celebrating and promoting the contribution disabled people play in our communities. We are looking for people, who are willing to come to Tidworth Leisure Centre for a one day workshop from 10.30—3.30 on Sunday 16th July with a fantastic opportunity to perform at Tidworth festival alongside ShowOffDance. *You don't need to be a dancer you just need to be open to having some fun, making new friends and learning something new.* **Interested?** We would love to hear from you..... email matt@wiltshirecil.org.uk or phone **0300 1233 442**

National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates from 1st April 2017

For those 25 years old and over = £7.50 per hour / 21—24 years old = £7.05 per hour
18-20 years old = £5.60 per hour / 16-17 years old = £4.05 per hour
£3.50 for apprentices under 19 or 19 or over who are in the first year of apprenticeship



Do we have your current email address?

If not, please send us your new email address and we can update our records
Email: admindp@wiltshirecil.org.uk



Matt's Story



Hi, my name is Matt. As most of you know I work for Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living. Not only that, I like to live life to the full by keeping relatively busy with activities such as scuba diving and I've just started going to the gym with my PA, who is also a personal trainer. I also love spending time with my friends and wife, who I live independently with.

I'm a very sociable person that loves going to gigs, where I'll be sat right at the front, and going to watch my football team Ipswich Town, (not that I enjoy that at the moment as we are doing rubbish in the league).

So.... what does a good life mean to me? - Being able to live my life like any other person. I have a DP that enables me to employ my own members of staff. The way I look at my support is that my PA's are my arms and without them I'd be stuck. They support me with everything from day to day activities, to supporting me to go and watch football or getting me to a gig on time! Although I get on with them, I have to have a level of professionalism, with a side platter of fun sometimes. The last thing I'd like to add is I refuse to let my disability define me.

Important new research on Personal Assistant work – volunteers needed

Personal Assistants are a small but growing part of the social care workforce in England but we know little about them. Why do people decide to work as PAs? What are the rewards and frustrations of the job? What backgrounds do PAs have? Do they see their work as a stop-gap between other forms of employment, an interesting job, or a stepping stone to a career in social care?

The truth is, at the present time, we don't really have much evidence to enable us to answer these or other questions. However, research that's being carried out at the Social Care Workforce Research Unit at King's College London aims to change this. John Woolham, who works there as a Senior Research Fellow, is leading a study that aims to describe the characteristics of the PA workforce – the backgrounds and motivations of PAs, what their role involves, the terms and conditions of their employment, their perceptions and experiences of their job and the links they may have (or not have) with the wider social care, or health, workforce.

We want to interview 100 PAs across England – in person or by phone. We can offer a High St Voucher for £20 as a 'thank you' for people's time and trouble. Interviews are confidential.

If you employ a Personal Assistant, please pass this information on to them so they can get in touch with John if they'd like to take part. Alternatively, if you work as a Personal Assistant and think this study is worth doing and might be interested in taking part, please email John directly at

john.woolham@kcl.ac.uk . He can also be reached by phone on **0207 848 8599** – but it's usually best to email in the first instance because he works from home quite a lot.



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