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### NEWS FROM OUR OFFICE

We are moving! From October 29<sup>th</sup> 2007 we will be located at our new address :-

**Lavinia House  
Dukes Square, Denne Road  
Horsham  
West Sussex  
RH12 1GZ**

Our telephone number will remain the same **01403 255277**.

Although our e-mail address is likely to change at some point in the future, it will remain the same until further notice [hacvs@btinternet.com](mailto:hacvs@btinternet.com)

We will of course let you all know immediately of any further changes.

The actual move will take place during the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007, it will of course be business as usual with disruption kept to a minimum. However, we are sure you will understand we will be very busy re-locating so response to telephone calls and e-mails etc may be slightly delayed.

Please see back page for further information.

The eighth annual **Carers Rights Day** will take place on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007**. The aim of Carers Rights Day are to :

- increase the take up of benefits available to carers and their families
- ensure that carers access their rights
- raise awareness of the needs of carers
- help people recognise themselves as carers
- ensure carers are aware of and take up their new right to request flexible working

This year's theme is Caring Costs and the focus is on carers and work and the other costs of caring.

For further information and to register :

[www.carersuk.org/newsandcampaigns/carersrightsday/register2007](http://www.carersuk.org/newsandcampaigns/carersrightsday/register2007)

Or contact Robert Ancil, Carers Rights Day Administrator, 020 7566 7623.

### **Sussex Partnership NHS Trust Foundation Trust Application**

Sussex Partnership NHS Trust provides mental health, learning disability and substance misuse services to the people of Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex.

Erica James, Trust Administrator writes :-

By becoming a foundation trust, we believe it will bring closer links with local people and help develop these important services.

We would like the chance to meet and talk with as many local groups as possible to share information and to explain the background to our foundation trust application.

If you are interested in having someone come to one of your meetings or would like further information, please contact Erica James on 01903 843030, or email [ft@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:ft@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)

## The Support Finder

The Support Finder is a new online searchable database which helps third sector organisations in England find support to improve their performance. Many organisations value in-depth or face-to-face support to improve their performance. However, some don't know where to go to find that support. The Support Finder is a totally free service that puts them in touch with organisations able to provide support. HACVS is now registered and our services listed on The Support Finder which can be found on the Performance Hub website. The Performance Hub is funded by Capacitybuilders through the Changeup programme. [www.performancehub.org.uk/supportfinder](http://www.performancehub.org.uk/supportfinder)

## MENCAP

*Understanding learning disability*

Please note that the Mencap office at Maidstone has now closed. All future correspondence relating to Surrey, East Sussex (including Brighton and Hove) and West Sussex which was previously sent to the Maidstone office should now be addressed to :

Annabel Forbes, Community Development Officer  
PO Box 4652  
Worthing  
West Sussex  
BN11 9FF

Other more general correspondence, for the attention of Community Support at Royal Mencap, should be addressed to the Worcester Office :

Suite 2  
Malvern Gate  
Bromwich Road  
Worcester  
WR2 4BN

If you have any queries regarding the above, please telephone 01905 740500.

## **Crawley and Horsham Mind**

Crawley and Horsham Mind Services are in need of a working photocopier and A4 scanner. It doesn't matter if these are separate items or an all-in-one type printer. If you are willing to donate one, or know of someone else or an organisation who might donate one, please contact Steve Byhurst on **01403 750166** as soon as possible. Thank you.

Steve writes of the **Crawley and Horsham Mind Services** :

Our organisation has been through a number of changes over the last couple of years and I would like to update everyone regarding the services we currently provide to anyone affected by mental ill health in the Crawley and Horsham area. Please note that we are not funded to be a crisis/emergency service.

- Advice & Information Service (via phone Monday to Thursday p.m. or answerphone/email/fax/post anytime, personal callers only by appointment) **01403 750166**, [info@candhmind.org.uk](mailto:info@candhmind.org.uk)
- Advocacy (9-5 Monday to Friday) **01403 270388** or **01403 211593**
- Learning initiatives (main programmes run three times a year, January to March, April to June and September to November plus one-off courses usually in July to August) **01403 750166**
- Mentoring Service (9-5 Thursday and Friday) **01403 211593**
- Volunteering (opportunities always available) **01403 750166**

Our previous befriending scheme is now part of the mentoring service and all local Mind self-help groups have now closed. Please ensure that any out of date promotional material is taken out of circulation to avoid confusion.

If you would like to receive regular updates regarding our service provision, please contact me to join our emailing list.

Steve Byhurst – Information & Project Support Coordinator  
Crawley and Horsham Mind Services  
**01403 750166** [steve@candhmind.org.uk](mailto:steve@candhmind.org.uk)



## **West Sussex County Council – Transforming Adults’ Social Care**

An update on the latest developments in the transformation of Adults’ Services. *(Extract West Sussex County Council e-bulletin 2)*

### **1. Self Directed Support**

We have developed self-directed support arrangements for 66 adults with a learning difficulty through our ‘in control’ pilot. We expect to increase this number in the future.

We have also developed similar processes for older people through our ‘individual budgets’ pilot. So far 167 people have consented to be part of the national evaluation. This far exceeds our target.

The next stage is to bring together what we have learnt from these two initiatives and develop a clear ‘end-to-end’ process by April 2008. After that we can fully implement self-directed support into all of our services, and make sure staff are fully trained and have the systems in place to support them.

### **2. Specialist Services**

Our current services also need to be more responsive to people’s needs. Improvements have been made to our home care and occupational therapy services, and work is currently in hand to improve other services, such as day care and support for adults with a learning difficulty.

### **3. Wellbeing**

We are developing a broader range of more general support across local communities. These developments may take a little longer, but in the short term we are actively pursuing local initiatives for older people through a project called ‘POPP’ (Partnerships for Older People Project). This aims to develop joint prevention teams and networks of support right across the county. We are also developing plans for more integrated work with our Health colleagues.

Please e-mail us at [as.transformation@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:as.transformation@westsussex.gov.uk) if you have any comments or queries.

## **Visual impairment charity looks to the future**

In 1857, back in the days of Queen Victoria, teaching blind people to read and weave baskets were the main activities of Action for Blind People – known then as the ‘Surrey Association for the General Welfare of the Blind’. Fast forward 150 years to 2007, and opportunities for and attitudes towards visually impaired people have changed dramatically, along with the nature and scale of Action for Blind People’s work. Today, Action for Blind People currently has nine regional teams across England, including in the South East, providing local free confidential support to blind and partially sighted people across the area. Whatever a person’s age, background or eye condition, Action takes a practical approach, providing help with any problem - large or small. Experts work with visually impaired clients on problems such as; finding or keeping a job, applying for benefits, housing issues, aids and adaptations, holiday breaks or playing sport. Occasionally a client may come to Action with an issue which is outside of the charity’s areas of expertise. Action has developed a network of partner organisations and works with partners to ensure every client’s difficulties are resolved.

Through the charity’s broad range of services, Action for Blind People is working towards a world in which blind and partially sighted people have the same rights, responsibilities and opportunities as everyone else.

### **Contacting Action for Blind People:**

Action for Blind People Southern Counties

Telephone number: 01372 731 281

Email: [southern.counties@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:southern.counties@actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

National Freephone Helpline: 0800 915 4666, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

Website: [www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

### **Fact box:**

- 2007 marks Action for Blind People’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Action for Blind People is an expert national organisation ensuring over 24,000 blind and partially sighted people get practical support in all aspects of their lives.
- There are nine regional Action teams in England
- The charity runs 25 sports clubs for visually impaired children
- Action owns four specially adapted hotels for blind and partially sighted holiday-makers
- Three mobile information services provide free and impartial advice across the UK

## **Homeshare Scheme operating in West Sussex**

A scheme to help older people stay in their own homes while giving a place to live to those seeking accommodation is operating in West Sussex.

There are many older people living alone in the County whose family and friends are too far away to give them the help, companionship and security they need.

At the same time the high cost of housing has made it difficult for people such as care workers, teachers or students to find suitable accommodation.

**Called Homeshare, this is a scheme where a householder offers a homesharer free accommodation in exchange for an agreed level of help with daily tasks such as cooking, cleaning or gardening as well as companionship. It allows the homesharer to save money by not paying rent and allows them to live in an area they might not otherwise have been able to afford.**

Homeshare puts the householder and the worker in touch with each other. Before a match is made and homesharing takes place the Homeshare Co-ordinator interviews and checks both parties. It's only when they are sure that both parties will be suitable for the arrangement that they are introduced to each other.

The co-ordinator also provides ongoing help, support and advice to both parties.

West Sussex is one of only two areas in the country which have been selected for this pilot scheme. The scheme is funded and run by National Association of Adult Placement Services (NAAPS) in partnership with Adults' Services. It will be evaluated by Oxford Brookes University.

Anyone interested in homesharing or who wishes to gain further information should contact Dawn Blake, the Homeshare Co-ordinator. Telephone 07738 641897 or E-Mail: [dawn.blake@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.blake@westsussex.gov.uk)

## **Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults**

West Sussex County Council launched the new Sussex Multi-Agency Policy & Procedures for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults at a road show specifically run for provider organisations.

Presentations were given by Bev Morgan - Adult Safeguarding Manager for West Sussex County Council, Greg Slay - Service Development Manager & Mental Capacity Act Implementation Lead for West Sussex County Council and John Gisby – Business Development, Care Training Consortium. There was also the opportunity to discuss the issues that the new procedures raise particularly from service providers' perspectives and to identify the support and training needs that service providers may need to implement the new procedures effectively.

The event was well attended across all sectors and disciplines, health & social care, voluntary organisations and the independent sector.

### **Pan-Sussex Multi-Agency Policy & Procedures for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults aims to :**

- Improve outcomes for service users
- Build on existing partnership working
- Improve awareness of safeguarding adults by everyone
- Increase levels of reporting
- Build on existing workforce development and training
- Support future developments & requirements of safeguarding adults work, e.g. forthcoming legislation and reporting requirements
- Enable consistency across Sussex for partner agencies

### **Implications**

Voluntary organisations, being front line service providers, have duties and responsibilities within the new procedures with regard to prevalence, identification of concerns and alerts. Implications include record keeping, moving and handling, Human Rights Act, choice and consent etc. Consequently there must be adequate infrastructure support with links to appropriate policy, procedures, training and supervision.

An e-version of the new Sussex Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults can be accessed on the West Sussex County Council website <http://www.westsussex.gov.uk>

*/continued on page 9*

## **UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People – Prevalence**

### **Survey Report** *(Prepared for June 2007 Comic Relief & Comic Relief elder abuse website.*

*Study over two years of 2,000 older people living at home, excluding care homes or hospitals etc.)*

#### **Key findings :-**

227,000 older people potentially experience abuse by family, close friends & care workers of whom :

- 42% were abused by a partner
- 40% by another family member
- 13% by a voluntary or paid care worker
- 5% by a close friend

Outcome : Ivan Lewis appointed Care Service Minister – review and guidance for official handling of abuse case.

#### **Code of Practice**

It is the responsibility of everyone who works with vulnerable adults to :

- Promote good practice and prevent abuse
- Adhere to the ‘Safeguarding Adults Policy & Procedures’
- Respect individual difference

We all have a duty to protect by reporting concerns and not keeping secrets.

#### **A vulnerable adult is ... ..**

‘a person aged 18 and over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of him/herself, or unable to protect him/herself against harm or serious exploitation’

*(Who Decides – Lord Chancellor’s office 1997)*

#### **Adult abuse is ... ..**

‘the violation of an individuals human and civil rights by any other person or persons’

*(No Secrets, Department of Health 2000)*

#### **Adult abuse may ... ..**

‘consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or omission to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he/she has not consented or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it’

*(No Secrets, Department of Health 2000)*

#### **Training**

There will be 30 x one day training sessions for managers and staff arranged during the period September 2007 to March 2008. Two further Road Shows have been organised for the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2007, at Bognor Regis and the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007, at Worthing. Additional details can be found on the Care Training Consortium website

[www.ctcdirect.org.uk](http://www.ctcdirect.org.uk)

## **Horsham Volunteer Centre – Volunteer Development Agency for Horsham district.**

Employee Volunteering is developing well across the Horsham district with more projects undertaken and more local companies becoming increasingly engaged. At the recent Horsham Employee Volunteering Forum, representatives from Royal & SunAlliance, Novartis and other companies expressed their wish to make a greater contribution to the community. A number of companies, new to the Forum, will also now be working with us.

Team activities, such as refurbishing buildings and maintaining outdoor areas, remain popular. We are however having some success in brokering other types of EV activities. A website has been created for one voluntary organisation and one group of employees plan to organise a social event for users of a day centre. We are encouraging employers to promote volunteering to their employees and to develop Employer Supported Volunteering Schemes. The challenge for us is to identify and create the opportunities for Employee Volunteering. We need to hear from voluntary organisations and community groups, about all of their needs, so that more EV activities can be created and advertised to stimulate action.

Another way that we are working with the voluntary and community sector is the development of volunteer opportunities to meet the needs of individuals who may have personal difficulties to overcome. Volunteering offers social interaction, work experience and confidence building. This requires identifying or creating appropriate roles at the outset and maintaining special care in managing volunteers. The willingness of Volunteer Managers to provide supported volunteering opportunities is much appreciated. There is a continuing need for such special placements and there are clear benefits for all concerned.

The Volunteer Centre can provide guidance on recruitment and management of volunteers. If you would like to discuss the needs of your organisations or any problems relating to volunteering, do contact us. The next training workshop 'Recruiting, Developing, Retaining Volunteers' will be in October/November.

Contact 01403 232100 [horshamvolunteer@btconnect.com](mailto:horshamvolunteer@btconnect.com) Heather Walker, Manager or Rachel Bartlett, Development Officer/Employee Volunteering



**ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2007  
19<sup>TH</sup> to 23<sup>RD</sup> November 2007**

**SAFER TOGETHER, SAFER WHEREVER**

The Theme for this year's anti-bullying week is focussing on children and young people feeling safer outside of the home and school, in their local areas, in clubs, parks and on the streets where there may or may not be adult supervision. West Sussex Action Against Bullying, a multi agency group led by West Sussex Healthy Schools and Community Safety representatives coordinate anti-bullying activities across West Sussex throughout the year. More information about this work can be found at:

[www.westsussex.gov.uk/aab](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/aab)

This year we want the focus of our work to be on the community, raising expectations about behaviour wherever children and young people are, providing support and guidance to young people facing the issue of bullying on a daily basis. As adults that work with children and young people we have a responsibility to challenge and respond to bullying behaviour and provide access to support for those that have experienced it.. As part of this we have outlined some ideas for activities for voluntary and uniformed groups to consider using during anti-bullying week or, indeed at any time of the year.

We hope that you find the ideas helpful, if you would like any further assistance or advice please contact either:

[paul.rigglesford@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:paul.rigglesford@westsussex.gov.uk)

or

[Karen.Watkins@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Watkins@westsussex.gov.uk)

Any further information about anti-bullying week can be found at:

[www.anti-bullyingalliance.gov.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.gov.uk)

## **New Minister announces more help from the “Every Child Matters” Department**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> July in a packed London Design Centre meeting room, Ed Balls MP – the new Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families – announced that as the “Every Child Matters” department, his collective responsibility was to make it an age of opportunity for all children, not just some children.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was one of three new departments set up by Gordon Brown on his succession to his role of Prime Minister and the appointment of Ed Balls as its leader will be encouraging news for many following his involvement with the “Every Disabled Child Matters” campaign resulting in the “Aiming High” Report, which announced additional funding to provide more respite facilities for disabled children. His new team will include:

- Beverley Hughes as Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families with Kevin Brennan as Under Secretary
- Jim Knight as Minister of State for Schools and Learners with Lord Adonis as Under Secretary

Ed Balls used his first public speech as Minister of State before an invited audience from members of the National Children’s Bureau, to announce additional funding and some new measures aimed at improving the lives of children and young people:

1. The Ministerial team will lead a nationwide consultation with education and children’s services experts, as well as children and families themselves to bring together all aspects of policy affecting children and young people into a new national Children’s Plan. Three working groups will look at education and other services for children and young people - one for 0-7 year olds, one for 8-13 year olds and another for 14-19 year olds based around four themes of prevention, personalisation, positive childhoods and families

2. The Children’s Fund was a time-limited programme originally due to end in March 2008 but funding will now continue at £132m in each of the three years from 2008 to 2011. The money will be distributed through local authorities and pooled with other funding to form a new area-based grant. The Government is encouraging local authorities and their partners to maintain a strong engagement of the voluntary and community sector in using these funds.

**“Every Child Matters”** - *continued from page 12*

3. To take on dual responsibility for play with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to develop fun, safe, and effective children’s play – the central part of any happy childhood and essential to learning and development

4. A ‘Staying Safe’ consultation to support parents in striking the right balance between protecting their children and allowing them to learn and explore safely, as well as extending anti-bullying policies to children’s homes, extended school services, and youth groups

5. Funding of £60 million over the next three years to support schools in working with mental health practitioners aimed at improving the emotional well-being of pupils, and have mental health experts working in schools to identify problems and provide children and young people with support – some 10% of children are diagnosed with a mental health problem.

The extension of the Children’s Fund until 2010 will indeed be good news to many voluntary groups around West Sussex who rely on this funding to provide “grass roots” services.

The “Staying Safe” consultation is available on the DCSF website and closes on the 31<sup>st</sup> October. Views are being sought from across the board including families and children themselves.

Ed Balls admitted that he was launching a challenging agenda but concluded:

*“I am an optimist. I believe that that every child has talent. Children can rise above the worst of all possible starts and exceed even the highest expectations of those around them.”*

Full details of Ed Balls’ speech and all these announcements are available on the DCSF website: [www.dcsf.gov.uk](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk)

**Disability Workshop & Introduction to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)**

## **Disability Workshop & Introduction to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)**

Damian Brewer, Access Officer for Horsham District Council, will be running a *FREE* workshop on topics above for anyone who has a disability or works in the voluntary sector. Maximum 12 participants. The session on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2007 will run from 13:30 to 16:30 at Committee Room 1, Horsham District Council Park North, North Road, Horsham.

If you wish to attend please contact Damian on 01403 215648 (Typetalk calls welcome) or email: [damian.brewer@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:damian.brewer@horsham.gov.uk) and inform him if you have any access requirements to attend the workshop.

## **Rural Outreach Forum**



The Rural Outreach Forum is a collaborative initiative between Horsham District Council, West Sussex County Council, the Horsham District Volunteer Centre and the Horsham Area Council for Voluntary Service.

Its aim is to engage with voluntary and local community organisations and schemes throughout the Horsham Area, and especially in the rural areas, in order to :

- Provide a supportive framework to promote and enable positive and constructive exchange of information and best practice
- Promote awareness of the depth and breadth of support available to voluntary and community organisations
- Enable the identification of voluntary organisations throughout the Horsham Area and service offered
- Provide a joint platform for dialogue and networking
- Encourage joint working and the maintenance of community links

The inaugural event was held at Southwater in June 2007 with a further event held at Colgate in September 2007. The next event will be held at Broadbridge Heath on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007. A flyer and letter will be going out, meanwhile for further information and to register an intention to attend contact Janet on 01403 255277, email [hacvs@btinternet.com](mailto:hacvs@btinternet.com) or Heather on 01403 232100, email: [horshamvolunteer@btconnect.com](mailto:horshamvolunteer@btconnect.com)

Do you know of any accommodation / premises a small voluntary organisation in the Horsham Area could rent at a reasonable rate?

If you are able to help, please contact John on [jleross@attglobal.net](mailto:jleross@attglobal.net)

Thank you.



*Don't forget  
anti-bullying  
week  
19-23  
November!!*

### **The Down's Syndrome Association**

The Down's Syndrome Association is the only registered charity in the UK to focus on all aspects of living successfully with Down's Syndrome. Support is offered to families and professionals on issues concerning Down's Syndrome through the provision of information, advice and training. A selection of events for families and health workers, dealing with Down's Syndrome in their professional and personal lives, are taking place in venues across the country :

**3day NVQ accredited course for teaching assistants supporting pupils with Down's Syndrome** – Liverpool Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2007, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

**An Introduction to the Mental Capacity Act** – Teddington, Greater London, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

**Including pupils with Down's Syndrome in mainstream Primary School** – Birmingham, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

**Sexuality and Relationships Education** – Kingston-upon-Hull, Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007.

**Including Students with Down's Syndrome in mainstream Secondary School** – Teddington, Greater London, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

**Residential Family Weekend (0-2 years!! For families only!!)** – Blackpool, 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

**Early Years Speech and Language Development (0-4 years)** – Liverpool, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007.

**School-age Speech and Language Development (5+)** – Liverpool, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007.

For further details go to [www.downs-syndrome.org.uk](http://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk) or contact Lesley Alabaf on 0845 2300 372 or email [Lesley.Alabaf@downs-syndrome.org.uk](mailto:Lesley.Alabaf@downs-syndrome.org.uk)



Once we have settled into our new location we can begin to organise the new services we will be able to offer to our member organisations. So that we can provide the most comprehensive information we will not produce a November newsletter. Instead we will publish a special seasonal edition in December to include news on the move and an update on the developments at the new premises.

The Horsham Area Council for Voluntary Service exists to improve the quality and range of community services by supporting local voluntary action within the Horsham Area and by facilitating links between voluntary and statutory agencies and the business community.

We are looking forward to the opportunities the new premises will enable us to provide in developing and improving the service and support we provide to our members and the wider community.

Never hesitate to contact us, whether to include an article in our newsletter, or to discuss difficulties you are experiencing or anticipating, or to seek advice. We are always pleased to hear from you and to hear of your successes and good work.

Tel: 01403 255277

Email: [hacvs@btinternet.com](mailto:hacvs@btinternet.com)

Web: [www.horsham.co.uk/hacvs](http://www.horsham.co.uk/hacvs)

Where reference is made to a website, please contact the HACVS office if you do not have access to the Internet and would like further information about any particular topic.

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the HACVS. The information provided is for guidance and is not a recommendation by the HACVS. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information but the trustee board bears no responsibility for any dealings readers may undertake.

HACVS NEWS is your newsletter and invites contributions from groups and individuals on matters of interest to the voluntary sector. Pressure of space may necessitate the editing of some material. Contributions for the next newsletter should be emailed or posted to us by **2<sup>nd</sup> November 2007**. Thank you.