

Newsletter Items Sept/Oct 2002

Carers Rights Day

Carers Rights Day is a day of action co-ordinated by Carers UK under the Fair Deal for Carers campaign with the aims of:

- increasing take up of benefits available to carers and their families
- ensuring that carers access their rights under relevant legislation
- raising awareness of the needs of carers
- helping individuals identify themselves as carers

Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000(C&DC Act)

Policy and Practice Guidance

We have copies of a briefing document from Carers UK. A key point is that the implementation of the C&DC Act does not mean that the Carers(Recognition and Services) Act 1995 C(R&S) Act. is no longer relevant. The C(R&S) Act is important in ensuring that a carer's 'ability to care' is assessed and that the people they care for receive additional help on the basis of that assessment. Carers UK recommend that local councils look to assessing carers under both the C&DC Act and the C(R&S) Act. If you would like a copy of the guidance please telephone Peter or Zakera on 200173.

Ring Round Carers

We have had some negative feedback on the telephone groups formed from 'Ring Round Carers' If you have joined one of the groups we would like to hear your experiences. Please telephone Peter or Zakera on 200173.

Changes to Invalid Care Allowance(ICA)

From 28th October there are two main changes to ICA. Firstly the benefit is payable to carers aged over 65 (not if you are receiving a state retirement pension over £42.45 per week) see the July/August 2002 newsletter. Secondly if the person you look after dies after 28th October 2002 ICA can be paid for the next 8 weeks. You must continue to satisfy all the other ICA rules e.g. not earn over £75 per week or the ICA will stop.

Central Lancashire Independent Complaints and Advocacy Service.

Preston Community Health Council(CHC) and Chorley & South Ribble CHC are developing a project to develop a pilot independent complaints advocacy service. The new service which starts in September 2002 will seek to work with existing specialist and generic advocacy services across the area to provide and develop independent support for those wishing to resolve problems with their local NHS services.

Spire Moving on Day

Spire (Preston Supported Housing) is holding a moving on day on 30th September 2002 at the Harris Park Conference Centre Garstang Rd 9.30a.m. to 4.00p.m.

- Do you care for an adult with a Learning Disability ?
- Are you concerned about the future ?
- Would you like to be involved in planning for their future housing and support needs ?
- Spire is holding a moving on day ,for all carers who want to know more about planning for their family member's future

To reserve a place contact Karen or Jean on 01772 524567

NSF for Older People

The National Service Framework for Older People which is a ten-year plan to integrate health and social care for older people was outlined in the July/August Newsletter.. If you wish to express concerns on issues relating to the care of the elderly please contact Peter Sullivan at the Carers Information Centre 01172 200173.

Carers Activities

Working with Lancashire College we are running several courses and events for carers in the period up to Christmas.:

27th August **Flower Craft** 12.30-2.30p.m. Ribblebank Resource Centre

10th Sept –8th Oct **Beginners Computing** 12 –2 Tuesdays CVS Office

2nd Oct –30th Oct **Alternative Therapy** 1-2.45p.m. Thursdays CVS Office

22nd Oct –19th Nov **Second Stage Computing** 12-2.00p.m. Tuesdays CVS Office

12th December **Christmas Craft** 12-2.00p.m. CVS Office

A unique **Carers Day** will be held at the **Harris Museum** in the city centre on Thursday 14th November. Two groups of 15 carers will alternate between a tour of ‘hidden treasures’ and a practical workshop e.g. Egyptology. A lunch will be provided.

Details of the above events will be sent to carers but further details can be obtained from Peter or Zakera at the Carers Information Centre on 01772 200173.

Lancashire Asian Carers Forum

The Lancashire Asian Carers Forum meets quarterly at various venues around Lancashire..

The next meeting will be at the Daneshouse Centre in Burnley on 1st October 2002. Local members of the working group for the Lancashire Asian Carers Forum are Yakub Gangat and Jaya Patel. For further details about the meetings or about transport to the meetings contact Zakera Wadee or Peter Sullivan on 01772 200173

Preston Asian Carers Forum

The Forum meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Ribblebank Resource Centre Gerrard St Preston between 1.00 and 2.30p.m. The next meeting will be on 3rd September when Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS) Royal Preston & Sharoe Green Hospitals will give a presentation on their work. Subjects for future meetings will be : Tuesday 1st October Jess Mortimer Adult Services Tuesday 5th November Patient Transport Services

Lancashire Children’s Fund

The children’s fund has been established to tackle poverty and social exclusion focusing on children in the 5-13 age group and their families. Application forms and guidance for grants to be used for the benefit of ethnic minority children in the 5-13 age range are available. Details of the process for Phase 3 are posted on the childrens fund web site address www.lancashirechildrensfund.org.uk if you are interested in applying for a grant please contact Zakera Wadee on 200173 or call into the Carers Information Centre in Lancaster Rd. The next meeting of the Lancashire Children’s Fund Ethnic Minority Task Force is on Thursday 22nd August 2002 (*****update)

Lancashire Carers Forum

Lancashire Carers Forum is a meeting whereby carers from all areas of Lancashire can discuss their problems and raise issues with members of the Social Services, representatives of Health Authorities and elected members. Experts are invited to answer questions on issues of importance to carers. Meetings which are held in Preston last from 11.30a.m. –2.30p.m. including a buffet lunch. Two voting carers from each area are allowed but **additional non voting carers can now attend** . The new September Annual Conference is on Monday 2nd September 2002. The Conference takes place in

Lancashire Carers Awareness Week. Carers Fact Sheets and further information for carers are available from local Social Services teams -for Preston: Bhailok Court, Pole St, Preston PR1 1DX Telephone 01772 263689. The next meeting of the forum is on **Tuesday 14th January 2003** if you are interested in attending please contact Peter or Zakera on 200173 or call into the Carers Information Centre.

Preston Carers Support Group

The Preston Carers Support Group meets at the Moor Lane Resource Centre Moor Lane Preston at 7.00p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month. At the meeting on the 30th July Graham Lowe did a creative session on picture framing and window mounting. The carers enjoyed themselves cutting nailing and glueing which is excellent therapy. On the 27th August Neville Black from Myerscough College will be enlightening carers on the delights of 'Herbs and the Herb Garden'.

Volunteer Services for Carer Support

By the end of September Lancashire Social Services will have in place volunteer services for carers support similar to a 'sitting service ' and are looking for volunteers who can spend an hour or so with the carer or with the disabled person to give the carer a well earned break. If you can help please contact Peter or Zakera at the Carers Information Centre 01772 200173. In addition if you would help from the service either contact Peter or Zakera or ring Louise Temme from the Volunteer Services on 01257 248111. Please note that to receive help from the volunteer service support from a social worker will be required. We will publish more details on this scheme in future newsletters.

A-Z Guide

Further copies of the A-Z guide to Services for Carers are available from the Carers Information Centre at 50-52 Lancaster Rd Preston opposite the main entrance to the Town Hall.

Lancashire College Courses

Lancashire College are running a 48 hour residential course for carers at Lancashire College Southport Rd Chorley on the following date: 29th –31st October 2002
For those caring for 20 hours or more the cost is £20.

Short Breaks for Young Disabled People

Lancashire Social Services Directorate is undertaking a survey into short breaks for young disabled people. Are you a carers of a young person with a physical disability who have not used respite but would be willing to discuss what your needs are and what sort of services would meet your needs. If you are willing to help please contact Peter or Zakera at the Carers Information Centre on 01772 200173.