

Newsletter Items Nov/Dec2002/Jan2003

Carers Rights Day Tuesday 3rd December 2002 Carers Rights Packs available

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

MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

As part of their advice line for the Invalid Care Allowance(ICA) changes 28/10/02 Lancashire Welfare Rights discovered that neither the form nor the telephone helpline for Minimum Income Guarantee (Income Support for the over 60s) acknowledged underlying entitlement to ICA. If you are entitled to ICA but do not receive it because of a higher benefit e.g. Retirement Pension tell MIG that you have underlying entitlement to ICA to ensure that you do not lose out on the entitlement.

Carers Week 2003

Please note your diaries that Carers Week 2003 takes place from 9th to 16th June 2003. One of the key themes will be supporting opportunities for carers particularly in employment. Further ideas and suggestions are welcome. In 2002 over 1000 organisations took part, over 2700 events were organised and 350 MPs took part. Tens of thousands of carers organised, enjoyed and participated in a diversity of events unmatched by any other group or similar activity in the UK.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES & THEIR FAMILIES DATABASE

The Database to provide information for children with disabilities and their families is celebrating its first birthday. The scheme is a joint initiative between Social Services, Education, Health, along with parents and voluntary organisations. The service has already attracted 400 members, aged from birth to 19 with a target membership of around 2000 youngsters. The service was set up to provide information about support available to children and young people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, sensory impairment, autistic spectrum disorders and complex medical conditions throughout Lancashire. The database details will remain confidential and no details of any individual will be revealed. For further information please contact Peter or Zakera on 01772 200173.

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

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 drawing sketches based on aspects of the exhibition. A lunch will be provided.

Lancashire Asian Carers Forum

The Lancashire Asian Carers Forum meets quarterly at various venues around Lancashire. The next meeting will be at the Town Hall Accrington on 30th January 2003. 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 10th December when Kevin Anderton Patient Transport Services will give a presentation.

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 Tuesday 17th December 2002 (*******check**)

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 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. As 1 in 10 over 65 have some form of Dementia we are inviting Doreen Murray to talk on Dementia.

Carers and Service Users wanted

Carers and service users particularly disabled people who do not use the services of Lancashire Social Services are wanted for a stakeholder event for the Best Value Review of Services for people with a disability or sensory impairment. The event takes place on Wednesday 13th December 2002 and there are 7 workshops to choose from.

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 taking care of the carers 'recharge for mind & body' at Lancashire College Southport Rd Chorley on the following date: 13th –15th December 2002

For those caring for 20 hours or more the cost is £20.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICES

Local Authorities and the National Health Service are required to modernise, improve equipment and integrate community equipment services by March 2004. Community equipment is equipment for home nursing usually provided by the NHS e.g. pressure relief mattresses & commodes and equipment for daily living provided by social services e.g. raised toilet seats and shower chairs. However, the service does not include wheelchairs. A consultation process is under way and if you have any comments or experiences with community equipment please contact Peter or Zakera on 01772 200173.

Information obtained on the first consultation day 31st October 2002 on Occupational Therapy priorities in Preston were:

Priority 1 (urgent toileting needs) 1-2 days.

Priority 2 (for people who can manage a little) 15 weeks

Priority 3 (bathing waiting list) 80 weeks.

In Preston there are 3 fulltime qualified OTs and two part time unqualified OTs.