

Newsletter Items FEB MAR2003

FLU VACCINATIONS FOR THE ELDERLY AND CARERS!!!!

Preston Primary Care Trust has advised that only two thirds of the elderly have taken advantage of this winters free flu vaccinations. While being pleased to publish this information we advised the Chief Executive of our long running desire to achieve free flu jabs for carers as a carer with influenza can be a more serious problem for the disabled person than them actually getting influenza. The chief executive has replied that there is '**no reason why carers who feel they would benefit from a flu injection, cannot request one from their GP**'. If you are a carer under pension age and have requested for flu vaccination Please let us know what happened.

Wanted a Longridge Carer

The former Preston Primary Care Group used to host a Carers Strategy Group which considered local initiatives arising from the National Carers Strategy. Also on the group were representatives from Social Services, Community Health Council and Preston Carers. The Primary Care Trust are to reform the group with meetings on 4th March, 6th May 2003, 8th July & 2nd September. Preston Primary Care Trust now embraces the Longridge area so we are looking for a carer from Longridge to attend the meetings.

Do you live in the Longridge area and have ideas on what can be done to help carers if so please contact Peter or Zakera on 01772 200173. For Carers Support purposes Longridge is under Carers Link Accrington.

COMMUNITY CARE (DELAYED DISCHARGES ETC) BILL

This bill will have a significant impact on carers lives but cares have not been included in it.

Part 1 NHS Trusts will be able to fine local authorities for every day that a person is delayed in hospital and sets new requirements for assessing patients ready for discharge.

Part 2 would make certain community care services free for older or disabled people upon discharge from hospital, but would not make the same services free for carers. If you would like a copy of the Parliamentary briefing please ring Peter or Zakera on 01772 200173

CARERS ASSESSMENTS & EMPLOYMENT

The Policy Briefing sets out the framework around carers assessments and how they relate to employment issues. New guidance called Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) on eligibility criteria for services comes into force on 7th April 2003 and could positively affect the way that Local Authorities treat carers who wish to return to work or are currently in employment. For a copy of the Policy Briefing please contact Peter or Zakera on 01772 200173.

DISABILITY AWARENESS

Opportunities and Choices an event to celebrate the European Year of the Disabled is to take place in the Guild Hall from 4p.m. to 8p.m. on Monday 7th April 2003. Note your diary for this event which will contain many displays and activities of interest to disabled people and carers.

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.

PONTINS HOLIDAY 2003

Once again the popular holiday break at Pontins Blackpool will be held in Carers Week 9th –16th June 2003. We have a few places available but expect to be oversubscribed..

YOUNG CARERS

The Carers Information Centre also embraces a young carers project whereby carers up to the age of 18 years who care for a family member can be provided with one to one support, advice on the illness of the person being cared for, breaks from caring and the chance to meet other young carers. At Christmas young carers were taken to a Christmas party and received presents. If you know of any young carers in the area who may need help please discuss with Peter or Zakera on 01772 200173.

NSF FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The National Service Framework for Older People is a ten-year plan to integrate health and social care for older people. The Local Implementation Team(LIT) has not met for some time but there will now be separate LITs for Preston and Chorley & South Ribble with quarterly joint meetings.

Carers Activities

11th February for 6 weeks **Crafts for Carers** 11.00a.m.-1.00p.m. Tuesdays at Ribblebank Resource Centre Gerrard St (off Bow Lane)Preston

20th February for 5 weeks **Beginners IT** 11.00a.m.-1.00p.m. Thursdays at CVS Office

25th February **Fun with computers (DTP)** 7-8.30p.m. Tuesday Moor Lane Resource Centre Moor Lane Preston

12th March for 5 weeks **Introduction to Watercolours** 11-1.00p.m. at CVS Office

3rd April for 5 weeks **Desk Top Publishing (DTP)** 11.-1.00p.m. at CVS Office

More details in the leaflet if you did not receive one please ring 200173 and ask for one.

Another unique **Carers Day** will be held at the **'Town' Hall** on Wednesday 5th February 2003. There will be a tour in the morning followed by a buffet lunch with the Mayor and a short presentation by Ben Edwards on 'Preston in Focus' Unfortunately all the places for this day have been taken..

Lancashire Asian Carers Forum

The Lancashire Asian Carers Forum (hereafter LACF) meets quarterly at various venues around Lancashire. The last meeting was at the Town Hall Accrington on 22nd January 2003, where over 60 carers heard a presentation by Nirmal Singh and Clive Giddins on the Lancashire County Council Racial Equality Action Plan. Local members of the working group for the LACF are Yakub Gangat and Jaya Patel. The next meeting will be held at the Hindu Gujarat Centre, South Meadow Lane, Preston on 19th May 2003 11.30 –2.00p.m. For further details about the meetings or about transport to the meetings or if you would like a copy of the Racial Equality Action Plan/the booklet on Culturally Appropriate Care 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 Street, Preston between 1 - 2.30p.m. At the meeting on 7th January 2003, Gail Capstick gave a presentation on Supporting People (Housing related support e.g. learning difficulties), which generated a number of questions, many on the fact that owner-occupiers are excluded. We further

had a meeting on 4th February 2003 where Jes Mortimar a senior officer for Adults with Disabilities gave an informed presentation on Government White paper, which has been issued to

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 at East Cliff offices, 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.** At the

Last meeting of the Forum presentations were given by Denise Szpunar on the Medicines and Falls Project and by Dawn Kenyon from Cumbria Carers Association on carers assessments carried out by carers projects

The next meeting of the forum is on **Tuesday 15th April 2003** when one of the subjects will be 'effect on benefits of 28 days in hospital' .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 25th February we will be 'having fun with computers' and on 25th March will hear about Supporting People.

WELCOME DR FOREMAN

A warm welcome is extended to Dr Foreman consultant in palliative care at Royal Preston Hospital. Dr Foreman has made a point of getting to know carers representatives in the town, which is a positive move we hope to see repeated.

Carers A-Z Guide

As soon as we get confirmation that the PCT telephone directory is ready we will commence work on the new version of the Carers A-Z Guide. If you know of any errors, additions or deletions please let Zakera or Peter know on 200173.

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: 29th April –1st May 2003 For those caring for 20 hours or more the cost is £20.