

## Newsletter Items June/July 2004

### **Deepdale the last straw for respite in Preston?**

Carers of people with learning disabilities will know that for ten years concerns have been raised about lack of respite facilities in Preston for people with learning disabilities. Recently there has been a steady stream of carers expressing concern that respite facilities are disappearing due to Care Standards impositions, homes closing because they have had enough, people being moved to avoid crossing area authority boundaries and now the big one the proposed closure of the Deepdale Resource Centre.

At the Carers Support Group Meeting at Moor Lane Parents with children at Deepdale left Mubarak Darbar(Integrated Commissioning Manager ) in no doubt that they felt they had been lied to on the issue and had serious concerns about any future provision. Carers are also concerned that suggested satellite centres may be a return to the dark days of using church halls. Carers are still not happy that Deepdale is to go and Ribblebank will stay when they have a similar number of service users. Carers worry about the isolation of the service users and that contact with friends will be lost. (This issue also arose with the loss of holiday respite at Lakeland View Fleetwood where disabled people had been going for a holiday for many years and were told that because of Care Standards improvements there would be no more respite there and carers said there were no local alternatives). We have asked David Custance Head of Learning Disability Services for Lancashire to meet parent carers to discuss the closure of Deepdale. David said he would meet them but only to focus on trying to make progress rather than rehearsing longstanding issues about the possible closure of the Deepdale Centre. I am collecting carers responses to this but some carers are very unhappy about this restricted agenda.

### **CARERS WEEK 14<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2004**

Please note that Carers Week 2004 takes place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2004. Carers and Health is the key theme this year.

#### **Activities**

All week display at Preston City Hall.

Publicity material has been supplied to every health centre & GP surgery plus the Royal Preston Hospital in the hope that we can identify 'hidden carers'.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June Young Carers go to Pontins Blackpool

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June Carers Day at Alston Hall Longridge

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June Young Carers return from Pontins Blackpool

Any Day call in to the Carers Information Centre at 50 -52 Lancaster Rd Preston

#### **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. Recent Outings for Young Carers have included Bowling, Cinema, Zap Zone, Washington Hall Fire Training Centre, Windmill Animal Centre, Camelot, Pizza Hut and McDonalds. If you know of any young carers in the area who may need help please discuss with Margaret on 01772 200173.

#### **Welcome Zulekha**

The new Carers Support Officer Zulekha Bangee started work on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Some of the carers have met Zulekha at the various support groups but you can ring Zakhera on 200173 or call into the Carers Information Centre .

#### **Early Intervention Web Site**

Parents of children under 6 are asked if they will complete a survey on line at [www.earlyintervention.org.uk](http://www.earlyintervention.org.uk) . If you would like a paper copy of the survey call Natasha Horan on 020 7696 6954 or E mail [natasha@mencap.org.uk](mailto:natasha@mencap.org.uk) . The site compiles parents views on early interventions and asks whether a national information centre should be set up.

### **Learning Disability Week 21-27<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

Mencap believe that people with a learning disability are being denied access to essential healthcare so they are launching their 'Treat me Right' report and campaign during Learning Disability Week. They are campaigning for better training on LD for health staff, annual health checks for people with a learning disability and accessible information & advice in surgeries and hospitals. For more information go to [www.mencap.org.uk/treatmeright](http://www.mencap.org.uk/treatmeright).

### **Face to Face**

Face to Face is a befriending service which provides support for parents of children with special needs. If you would like to use this service please contact Neil Jordan on 0161 688 1000 or email [neil.jordan@scope.org.uk](mailto:neil.jordan@scope.org.uk). Further information is on [www.face2facenetwork.org.uk](http://www.face2facenetwork.org.uk)

### **Carers (Equal Opportunities) Bill**

The Bill passed its final stages in the House of Commons on Friday May 14<sup>th</sup> 2004. The Bill aims to provide anyone providing regular & substantial care to a sick or disabled person, new rights to information and greater choices and opportunities for work, education and life-long learning. The Bill will be passed to the House of Lords in June and if successful will receive Royal Assent in July.

### **Big Conversation**

At a 'Big Conversation' Meeting in Downing St on 23<sup>rd</sup> April the Prime Minister met with several carers to discuss juggling work and care. During the meeting he promised to extend to carers the same rights as those introduced for parents in the workplace. Currently carers can only request time off for emergencies. For further information [www.carersonline.org.uk](http://www.carersonline.org.uk).

### **LANCASHIRE ASIAN CARERS FORUM**

The Lancashire Asian Carers Forum (LACF) meets quarterly at various locations around Lancashire. Local members of the working group for the LACF are Yakub Gangat and Jaya Patel. At the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at the Bridge Centre Eldon St Preston 40 carers learnt about council tax benefit from Howard Dazeley Lancashire Welfare Rights. The next meeting will be held in Burnley on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2004 11.30 –2.00p.m. For further details about the meetings or about transport to the meetings contact Zulekha Bangee 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 11<sup>th</sup> May NHS Direct gave an update on their expanding services. Future Meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> June Parkinson's Disease Society, 6<sup>th</sup> July Complaints Manager Lancs Care NHS Trust.

### **LANCASHIRE CARERS FORUM**

Lancashire Carers Forum (LCF) 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 Trusts (Primary & Acute) and elected members. Experts are invited to answer questions on issues of importance to carers. Meetings, which are held at the East Cliff Offices, Preston, last from **11.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.** Including a buffet lunch. Two voting carers from each area are allowed but **additional non-voting carers can attend.**

The next meeting of the forum is on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2004**. The ever popular **Annual Conference** will be held at the Woodlands Chorley on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September. If you are interested in attending any of these please contact Peter 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. On the 27<sup>th</sup> April Mubarak Darbar gave a presentation on Modernising Day Services and parent carers with children at Deepdale expressed their concerns over the proposed closure of the Deepdale Centre. On the 25<sup>th</sup> May we had a very informative presentation on NHS Direct. Future meetings are 29<sup>th</sup> June Prescriptions (combined with Carers UK AGM) and 27<sup>th</sup> July Learn Direct.

### **PRESTON BRANCH CARERS UK**

Carers UK, is the voice of carers. As a member of Carers UK you will become part of the carers' movement which speaks out for carers. Carers UK is an organisation for carers, run by carers for carers. The Annual General Meeting of Preston Branch Carers UK will as usual be combined with the support group meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June where Malcolm Phillips pharmaceutical advisor Preston PCT will give a presentation on Prescriptions. We are always on the lookout for new members committee members and items for discussion.

### **Preston Carers Network (Learning Disabilities)**

The aim is to establish a carer network to contribute to the development of Integrated Commissioning for Learning Disability Services in the Preston area. The network provides advice, experience, information & research and identifies gaps and shortfalls in service. The network meets every 2 months and if you have concerns affecting services for people with disabilities that you would like raising at the network meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2004 please contact Peter on 200173.

### **Preston Carers Strategy Group.**

This group which has representatives from Preston PCT ,Social Services and Carers meets every two months and is making progress on raising awareness of carers in Health Centres and GP surgeries. If you have any carers issues which you would like raising at the next meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July please contact Peter on 200173.

### **LANCASHIRE COLLEGE**

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 dates:

3<sup>rd</sup> –5<sup>th</sup> September Great Escape –Abseiling, Canoeing, Rock Climbing, Archery

15<sup>th</sup> –17<sup>th</sup> September Relaxation Techniques, Visit Glass Exhibition,Glass Painting

For those caring for 20 hours or more the cost is £25.

### **Longridge Carers Group**

Although outside our area for Carers Project purposes we share the same Primary Care Trust and work together on the Preston Carers Strategy. The Longridge Carers Group meets on the first Wednesday of every month between 1.00 to 3.00p.m. in the Health Education Room at Longridge Community Hospital, St Wilfrids Terrace. For further information contact Kathleen Eastwood at Carers Link , Link House 23 King St Accrington BB5 1PR Tel 01254 387444.