

## **An update from Compass**

Dear Networker & Carers Magazine Reader

We want to update you on things happening at Compass.

In the last newsletter we said we were hoping that we would be in a position to continue with our magazine albeit in a different format. Unfortunately since then we have to sadly report that we were unsuccessful in the tender to continue delivering the carers support service. As this service financially contributed to the production of the magazine we are now no longer in a position to continue after all, however we will continue to look at funding opportunities as we are very aware of its importance to a lot of our readers.

### **Compass Wellbeing**

Many of you will be aware that Compass Wellbeing opened in January this year and included in this mailshot is a newsletter updating you on things that are going on.

### **Compass Carers**

As I have said we will no longer be delivering Compass Carers because Somerset County Council has awarded the contract for Carers Support Services to the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) with effect from 1st October 2017.

CCS is a Somerset-wide Charity, established in 1926 and offering a range of personalised support and infrastructure services for communities across the county, often in isolated rural areas. CCS runs the Somerset Village and Community Agents services and more information about CCS' work can be found at [www.somersetccc.org.uk](http://www.somersetccc.org.uk).

Compass Carers will continue to offer our current service until the end of September 2017 and the service will transfer to CCS under the brand of Somerset Carers Agents.

While the details of this transfer are finalised over the next few months, both organisations will liaise closely during the final few weeks before the new service launches to ensure that the needs of Carers and former Carers continue to be met. Through this implementation phase, limited information will also be available on the CCS website and for further information please contact Keeley Rudd, Chief Executive of CCS on 01823 331222 or email [keeley@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:keeley@somersetccc.org.uk)

### **Compass Independent Living**

We are pleased to say that we have secured the funding from Skills for Care to deliver free training & peer support for Direct Payment & Personal Health Budget Employers. The events which are being run across the county will run from August 2017 – Spring 2018, with a 2½ session each month, providing information, training, resources and support to enable them to be good employers. For more information, please contact Debbie or Shannon at Compass Disability Services on 01823 282823 or by e-mail to [debbieo@compassdisability.org.uk](mailto:debbieo@compassdisability.org.uk) or [shannon@compassdisability.org.uk](mailto:shannon@compassdisability.org.uk)

Our **Compass Disability Network** project continues to run and provide voice for disabled people and carers across Somerset working to improve access and inclusion to services and facilities. It's free to join; members have an opportunity to participate in consultation events and meetings to give their views on a range of issues that are important to them. Views are fed back to organisations and agencies that develop services such as local authorities and health services.

Members can participate in as much or as little as they like. Being part of the Network is a great way to meet other people in a similar situation. To join please contact us on 01823 282823 or e-mail: [mandy@compassdisability.org.uk](mailto:mandy@compassdisability.org.uk). Alternatively if you are already a member of our network and you would like to update your details please contact us using the details supplied. Some examples of our groups include:

### **Sedgemoor Disability Forum**

The Sedgemoor Disability Forum meets twice a year (May and October) at different venues in Sedgemoor and gives local disabled people and carers an opportunity to be consulted and informed on a range of issues from different organisations. A light sandwich lunch is available and members are asked for a £3 contribution if they would like this. At the last meeting members heard from representatives from Sedgemoor District Council about Health and Wellbeing, National Energy Action giving help on energy usage and switching suppliers and Devon and Somerset Trading Standards raising awareness on scams.

### **Taunton Deane Disability Discussion Group**

This group also takes place twice a year for disabled people and carers living in the Taunton Deane area. The next meeting will take place at Compass Wellbeing on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 10.30am-2.30pm. Previous speakers have included representatives discussing the Taunton Town Centre public spaces improvement project and Taunton Deane Borough Councils new website.

### **Mendip Disability Forum**

The Mendip Disability Forum currently meets four times a year at Tor Leisure Centre in Glastonbury. A hot meal is provided at a small cost to members. This group is chaired separately with activities such as Bingo provided in the afternoon. The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 from 11am until 3pm**

Transport, care and communication support can be provided to enable you to attend our Forums and Discussion Groups and we are also able to re-imburse mileage for anyone living in the areas concerned wishing to make their own way to the meetings. Reports from all our Forums are available to view under the Compass Disability Network section of our website.

**Thank you for taking the time to read our update and remember we will continue to look to fund the newsletter and bring it back to you. – Richard Pitman CEO**

Did you know that we now have a Somerset West Lottery page and 50% of all tickets sold go to us and 10% goes to other good causes?

If you would like to find out more and help us help others then please follow the link:

<https://www.somersetwestlottery.co.uk/support/compass-disability-services>

