

## The Board of Trustees

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## The Board of Trustees

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Yet another busy few months at the SAIN office have passed, with both Trustees and staff working hard.

The Trustees have been meeting to develop a good governance guide. Unfortunately, Richard Lees, who has been involved with SAIN since its conception and has been a Trustee for some considerable time has had to resign his post in order to pursue a change in career. We would all like to thank Richard for his con-

tribution to the development of SAIN over the years and also say that we will miss his good humour and positive outlook on life. We wish Richard all the very best for his future and hope that he will stay in touch.

We hope that you will find the information to follow of interest and would ask that you contact Michelle at the SAIN office if you have any comments on this edition of the Networker or would like to make a contribution to any

future editions.

We would encourage as many of you as possible to get involved in the various consultation projects that we are currently involved in and look forward to seeing you all at our AGM in November.

With Best wishes

*Cathy Magill*

Chair of Trustees

## Electric Wheelchairs vs. Scooters



Over the past few months, we have had quite a few enquiries from people that have been unable to access a building, interior lifts or bus whilst using their electric scooters and therefore wishing SAIN to take up the

issue with the relevant bodies. Unfortunately, in most of the cases we have been unable to take this further as, under the Disability Discrimination Act and the Part M Building Regulations, significant space only needs to be left for a manual or electric wheelchair to manoeuvre. Scooters are in fact classed as an outside vehicle. Shops, for example,

would be well within their rights to not permit access to their premises.

I hope this clarifies the situation although I appreciate that it is probably not what some scooter users would like to hear.

Richard Pitman



## Joint Equipment Services User Listening Event



**Have you ever received equipment or home aids from Social Services or Medequip?**

SAIN have been asked by The Somerset Joint Equipment Services to recruit people who have received equipment or home aids from Social Service or Medequip to at-

tend one of 2 listening events to be held during October. One event will be in the Taunton area and the other in South Somerset. The purpose of these events is to gain service users views on their experience of receiving equipment from Medequip, who provide the current service. They are really keen to gain your thoughts on the service and how you would like to see the service developed over the next 10 years. Travel can be provided,

plus assistance with any care needs you may have, such as a sitting service if you are a carer or carers for personal care. Each event will run from 10am to 1pm with lunch included.

We have still to confirm dates and venues but if you would like to be kept informed or have any questions concerning this event please contact Mandy on 0844 9842828 or email [mandy@sain.org.uk](mailto:mandy@sain.org.uk)

## Falcon Academy - Survey on the impact of ME/CFS on education

Falcon Academy is a not-for-profit organisation set up to provide education and support to those who have ME/CFS. We have an online education survey and want this to be the biggest UK survey on the impact of ME/CFS on education.

ME/CFS is not just about being

so tired you cannot lift a fork, It is a highly traumatising and destructive neurological illness which affects the lives of both the young person and the family. It tends to strike during the school, college and university years and so has a major impact upon educational opportunities and life chances. We want those who have ME/CFS to have a much better future and so the data we gain from the survey will be made public and

will be shared with government and other agencies. So, please ask people who have ME/CFS to go to [www.falconacademy.org.uk](http://www.falconacademy.org.uk) and complete our survey. For more information please contact the Falcon Academy

**Falcon Academy**  
**68 Hamilton Road, Taunton**  
**01823 289559 or email:**  
**[info@falconacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@falconacademy.org.uk)**

## Access to Information— Thank you

Thanks to all those that took time recently to complete and return our questionnaire concerning Ac-

cess to Information for Sedgemoor District Council. We received a good response and are in the process of compiling a summary to be sent to Sedgemoor District Council.

Thanks again  
Mandy Seaman,  
Project Assistant  
For more information call Mandy on 0844 9842828



## Disabled people/people with sensory loss are encouraged to join the Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

Below is an unofficial statement in relation to Community Support Officers

The police force, in Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire is trying to be an organisation that represents the community. To do this, there need to be more people working in the police who have disabilities or who may need help at work because of a loss of hearing or something similar.

The police are looking for people

who might want to be "Community support Officers" (PCSO's). This is a person who is not a police officer. The main role of a PCSO is to reassure the public and patrol in uniform. They sometimes deal with people who are causing a nuisance but have a lot of other responsibilities as well .

You might think that a disability or condition may stop you from becoming a PCSO, but it may not. You can look at the recruitment section of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary website [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) If you can't get the details you

want, you can email the police or call 0845 4567000.

I am the co-ordinator for the Police Link Officers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing scheme in Somerset and South Gloucestershire. If you are deaf or Hard of Hearing and want advice, please call me on 07795 390239 (SMS/phone) or via Type Talk on 07795 399035. If you are having difficulty in communicating with the police, feel free to contact me on the numbers I have given or by email [tim.powell-gill@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:tim.powell-gill@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

**Thanks, Tim Powell-Gill**  
**Inspector**

## Calling all Associate Members

### FEDS Membership Event

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October FEDS, The Forum for Equality and Diversity in Somerset will be holding a membership event, which is open to anyone from an equalities organisation, or equalities officers/workers from any other organisation, statutory, voluntary or business – anyone who might be interested in joining FEDS.

The Forum exists to bring together people interested in equalities, share best practise and promote equalities issues. It will have a key role in ensuring the delivery of the Somerset Equalities and Community Cohesion Strategy through the SSP. This event will be an opportunity to find out about the working agreement, aims and working practices of FEDS; to join up and discuss future activities. There will also be a summary by Equali-

ties South West of all the current and pending equalities legislation and I will be enlisting your help to map all the equalities organisations in Somerset.

The event takes place at Cider Farm Lakes, Lympsham from 9.30 until 12.30 and is **free**. If you would like to sign up please email the FEDS development worker at [alison@sain.org.uk](mailto:alison@sain.org.uk). Or call 0844 9842828

**Somerset Coast Home Improvement Agency (SCHIP) Green Team**

**Do you live in the West Somerset Area?**

**Are you an older person or person with a disability?**

**Do you need gardening help?**  
SCHIP Green Team is running a pilot gardening scheme in the

West Somerset area. The aim is to help people over 60 and/ or with a disability with work such as:-

- Clearing long grass and weeds,
- Trimming hedges and shrubs,
- Clearing and levelling of paths and access to gates and sheds
- Clearing algae from steps etc,
- Removal of overgrown shrubbery, Work to fences and gates,

There is a minimal charge of £10 for a maximum of 2 hours work. The Green team are looking for volunteer Gardeners to help them provide what has now become a very popular service. If you would like help with your garden or would like to talk to someone about becoming a volunteer please call **01278 442406** for further details



**BIBIC** helps children and young

people with a range of difficulties affecting their learning, mobility, communication and social development and behaviour, to achieve their potential. Based in Bridgwater, BIBIC offer a professional, holistic approach to the identification of difficulties and the development of new skills, incorporating speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, developmental programmes, nutritional and medical advice. As a dynamic organisation committed to meeting the needs of the whole family, BIBIC has long

been aware that sufficient advice and support is not always available. In recognition of BIBIC's commitment to developing its services in this area, the Big Lottery Fund has recently provided a grant for 3 years to develop the role of a Family Support Worker. Kelly Bohot is working with organisations and families across the South West region, to increase the level of support that BIBIC can offer. The role aims to promote positive parenting skills, provide information and advice and if necessary provide an efficient signposting service. The Family Support Worker will also help families to access local resources and existing support groups, and will help to set up

and co-ordinate support as it is required, addressing the needs of families that BIBIC already works with and new families who feel that they would benefit from accessing the support network. In addition to the professional development workshops and seminars which BIBIC run annually, Kelly will be co-ordinating talks to groups of both parents and professionals about the work that BIBIC carries out. If you are part of a support group or work with parent or youth groups and would like Kelly to arrange a talk or send some more information, please contact her at BIBIC on 01278 684060 or by email [Kelly.bohot@bibic.org.uk](mailto:Kelly.bohot@bibic.org.uk)

**RIGHTS TO GOODS AND SERVICES**

What are your rights as a disabled person if you go to a café, attend a hospital, go shopping or use a library?  
Have you found difficulties in getting access to services in your area? Have you been treated by your landlord less favourably because of a disability?

With funding from the Disability Rights Commission, 14 disability rights project workers have been based in Law Centres around England to offer free talks, presentations and information to disabled people's groups and their advisers about their rights of access to services, goods, facilities and premises..  
The disability rights project worker for the South West is

based at the Avon and Bristol Law Centre, 2 Moon Street, Bristol, BS2 8QE.  
If you or a group you belong to would like to find out more about the services the project can offer or you would like to book a talk or presentation for your group's meeting or AGM, please contact Angela Truell  
[angelat@abl.c.demon.co.uk](mailto:angelat@abl.c.demon.co.uk)  
or 0117 9248662

**RNID Information, Welfare Advice and Disability Equality Conference**

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September RNID will be organising the above event in Bristol. This event is aimed at professionals and carers working with

deaf and hard of hearing clients. There will be a session on the Disability Equality Duty, which comes into force in December 2006 and also a presentation from The Pension Service, focussing on supported home visits and related access issues

The event will be held at **CREATE Centre, Bristol** from 9.30-1pm. Communication Support will be provided if requested. For more details please contact Libbie Sheppard, Tel/Text: 01225 485765 [libbie.sheppard@rnid.org.uk](mailto:libbie.sheppard@rnid.org.uk)

### **SUCCESS LEADS TO NEED.**

Mendip Care & Repair Ltd are a home improvement agency based in Shepton Mallet, we have a handyperson, gardening and a decorating service as well as our newest venture, which is recycling stairlifts and other unwanted disability aids. We will remove an unwanted stairlift, re-furbish and re-install it into a property at a much lower cost than a new one. The re-furbished stairlift will be no older

than 5 years old. The stairlift removal service is free, if the stairlift is less than 5 years old. If the stairlift is more than 5 years old there will be a charge depending on the location. The stairlift will be re-furbished in our workshop. The basic cost of a straight run stairlift is £850-00 this includes fitting and a 3 month warranty. We also offer an extended warranty, call out and a breakdown service. We have a wide range of do-

nated goods including disability and bathing aids which can be purchased from us. Due to the recent success of this project we are now in desperate need of more stairlifts. If you know of an unwanted or unused stairlift please let Mendip Care and Repair know ASAP For more details please take a look at our web-site [www.mendipcareandrepair.co.uk](http://www.mendipcareandrepair.co.uk) or contact Sharon Leaver 01749 341827 Sharon@mendipcareandrepair.co.uk



### **FIRST STEPS Programme**

**Only 2 months left to take advantage of FREE one-to-one mentoring!**

Over the past year and a half, the **First Steps** programme has helped people with health issues and disabilities to access training, volunteer opportunities, improved confidence and employ-

ment options. We can still help you!

WTCS can help:  
To identify your skills  
To find local training opportunities  
Support with CV building and job searching  
Support with finding out about other programmes to help you progress  
Our personally designed programmes may help you take the

first step forward towards a better future.

Our personal mentors cover the whole of Somerset and can visit you at a time and place of your convenience.

If you've been injured or have a health condition and are claiming Incapacity or other Disability Benefits and would like help to move forward, give WTCS a call on 01823 490001

### **SAIN's AGM and Information Fair 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

SAIN will be holding this years AGM and Information Fair on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at the Blackbrook Sports Hall in Taunton. Last years event proved to be very well received and a great

opportunity for stall holders to network and also provide invaluable and interesting information to members who attended the event. We hope that this years Information fair will be even bigger and better than last year, we aim to have over 30 stands from organisation's providing information which we hope will be of in-

terest to our members, it would be nice to see as many of you as possible who took part last year. Invitations will be sent to all members towards the end of September. If you are interested in booking a stand please contact Mandy at the SAIN office for more information Tel: 0844 9842828

### **Are you a Disabled Tenant of Sedgemoor District Council?**

Would you like to be involved in the next Sedgemoor Disabled Tenants Focus Group? SAIN

facilitate this Focus Group on behalf of Sedgemoor District Council which meets twice a year. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at the Cider Farm Lakes in Lympsham from 10.30am until

12.30pm followed by lunch. We can arrange transport and care or communication support for you. If you are interested in attending please contact Mandy on 0844 9842828.

**Please remember to let us know if you change address, telephone number or email so that we can stay in touch.**

**This publication is available in other formats including Large Print, Tape and Braille. Please let us know if you would like to receive it in another format.**