

Somerset Access and
Inclusion Network
(of disabled people)

February 2006



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The Board of Trustees

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It may seem a little belated but as this is the first edition of the Networker for 2006, I would like to wish all of our readers a very happy new year.

2005 was a very busy year for SAIN, with the team completing numerous consultation projects around the county and continuing to represent disabled people on various boards, panels and groups around the county.

2006 is sure to bring about many challenges and I am very pleased to announce that, following the award of the contract to deliver a Direct Payment Support service for Wiltshire County Council and due to the considerable growth in consultation over the past twelve months, that Richard Pitman has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer for SAIN on a full time basis with effect from the 1st January 2006. We have every confidence that Richard and his team will continue to develop SAIN as the organisation to talk to when disability is on the

agenda and that the transition to service provision for Wiltshire will be a smooth and effective process.

As SAIN grows then the need for a professional team to support the organisation becomes more and more apparent and to this end Michelle Edwards has been promoted to the position of Office Manager and Pavla Poksteflova will take on the full time position of Office Support Worker in early February. We have also recently interviewed for the posts of Finance Worker, Media and Publicity Administrator, Direct Payment Office Support Worker and Direct Payment Development Worker and we hope to be able to introduce the successful candidates in the next issue of the Networker.

In order to ensure that the team are able to perform to the best of their ability we will shortly be moving to new offices on the Belvedere Trading Estate in Taunton. Our new offices will be fully

accessible and will provide adequate office space for the team along with meeting space that will help us to fulfil our aims and objectives for 2006 and beyond.

Following refurbishment we hope to move into our new offices in late March 2006. We will obviously keep you informed.

So, as you can see 2006 has started with a bang and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Richard and his team every success over the coming year and assure them of the Trustees full and continuing support.

It would be good to see as many members as possible involved in SAIN projects this year and I would therefore ask you to keep your eyes out for consultation events and other opportunities that may be of interest to you and get involved wherever you can. Once again our best wishes for 2006

Kind regards

*Cathy Magill and
the Board of Trustees*

Thank you to Computer Associates

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Computer Associates who have recently donated a large amount of

Office furniture to SAIN. This will make our move to our new offices so much easier and is essential equipment to ensure that the team are as productive as possible.



New and improved website www.sain.org.uk

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

Cinema Exhibitor's Association card.

This is a national card that can be used to verify that the holder is entitled to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. The card has been developed to introduce a voluntary consistent approach to the provision of concessionary tickets for carers across the cinema industry.

To apply for the card, you will need to meet one or more of the following criteria:

a) Be in receipt of disability living allowance or attendance allow-

ance.

b) Be a registered blind person.

c) Be a holder of a disabled person's rail card.

The card is valid for 3 years from the date of issue.

Application forms are available from cinemas that support the card across the UK or you can download an application form from the CEA website where you will also find information on participating cinemas which includes Cineworld, The Odean and Scott Cinemas.

A processing fee of five pounds is chargeable per card. This is to be sent along with the completed

application.

For more information contact

Tel: 0151 348 8020

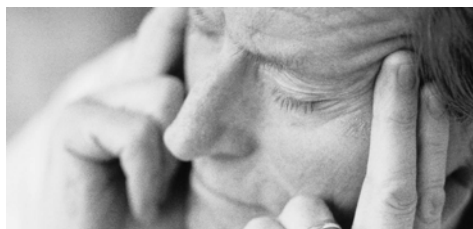
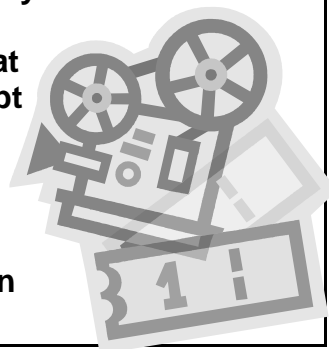
Fax: 0151 348 8021

Minicom/Text phone: 0151 356 7113

email: info@ceacard.co.uk

Website www.ceacard.co.uk

Please call your local cinema to ensure that they accept the card before sending your application



Tinnitus is the term for noise that people hear in one ear, both ears or in their head.

Tinnitus meeting for all RNID members and others affected by tinnitus

- * Tinnitus equipment demonstration
- * Talks by RNID tinnitus staff and Musgrove Hospital Hearing Therapist
- * Refreshments provided

Do you have tinnitus?

National Tinnitus Week
20-26 February 2006

Monday 20 February,
10.30am-2.30pm
Taunton Library meeting room

**Contact Libbie Sheppard on
01225 485 765 (tel/textphone)
for more info.**

Somerset Arts and Disability Focus Group

Wednesday 1st March
12.30-4.30 Taunton Library Meeting Room

Calling all Disabled artists. Your contribution is vital and we really need to hear what you have to say!

The Somerset Arts and Disability Project, in partnership with Equata, the South West Disability Arts Development Agency, are hosting an afternoon event in Taunton to which disabled artists are invited to talk about their individual arts practice and to speak about their views on Disability Art plus arts and disability in Som-

erset and any ideas/comments they have on the future of the county's arts practice.

It will also be a great opportunity to meet other disabled artists from the area and to share experiences and to network.

The event will be hosted by Kim Wide from Equata and Catherine Beedell, Somerset Arts and Disability Co-ordinator. Open to Somerset-based disabled/deaf artists only.

The venue is fully accessible and there is parking nearby at the Paul Street Multi-Storey. To RSVP and discuss your access needs please contact Kim Wide at Equata on 01392

219440 or by e-mailing kim.wide@equata.co.uk.

Please tell Equata about any access requirements that you may have at the time of booking. Equata and the Somerset Arts and Disability Project are dedicated to access for all and will endeavour to support your requirements.

It is essential that you reply by the 15th February 2006 so that full access to the event can be assured.



Support for community groups in Cheddar Valley

The Cheddar Vale Lions Club have an increasing focus this year in their service to their local community. They are always on the lookout for ways that they can be of help.

Are you a community group, charity or not for profit organisation providing services or facilities to the community within the Cheddar Valley area? (Cheddar, Wedmore, Axbridge and Shi-

pham together with the areas in between.)

Do you have a specific project or equipment need that the Cheddar Vale Lions may be able to help you with?

The Cheddar Vale Lions have previously funded projects including an accessible pond at the Cheddar First School, portable ramps for Hugh Sexey Middle School and Christmas Shopping trips for older people in the area.

If you have a project, and would

like help with funding, manpower or project management, please contact Mike Belch of the Cheddar Valley Lions Club on 07802 797486 or email cheesy.mike@gmail.com for more information



We Serve

Somerset IMPACT News

Somerset IMPACT moved office in November last year. Our new address is : Wessex House, Bond Street, Bridgewater, TA6 3HW. It is just around the corner from our previous location so our telephone number remains the same.

ASD Information packs

Together with colleagues from Education, Health, Social Services and some parents, we have developed an information pack to be given to parents at the time they are told that their child has an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The idea is to provide information about services and support available in Somerset and ASD generally without bombarding them with too much detail. The packs are currently being put together to be sent to all diagnostic clinics for ASD. We will then send a reference copy (the contents can be photocopied) to a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector workers.

Our Voice Counts Project:

the aim of this project is to find out from disabled children and young people and their parents what life is really like for them in Somerset today. We are working in partnership with Barnardos who are experienced in working directly with disabled youngsters to get their views. Somerset IMPACT is responsible for finding out about parents' experiences in the county. To this end a series of meetings have been arranged for parents and carers to come together and tell us what they think. Those with responsibility for the planning and delivery of services (Education, Health and Social Care) to disabled children and young people have also been invited. Parents' and young people's views and ideas will seek to influence how these services are provided within the county. The dates of the meetings which are all held from 7 – 9pm are :

Thursday, 23rd February
Strode College, STREET

Tuesday, 28th February
Bridgwater Rugby Club,
BRIDGWATER

Wednesday, 8th March
Brewhouse Theatre,
TAUNTON

Monday, 13th March
Abbey Manor Business
Centre, YEOVIL

If you are a parent/carer and would like to come to one of these meetings or if you would just like to find out more about the Our Voice Counts Project, please ring Janet Disney on 01278 444794

Somerset IMPACT is determined this project will not be just another consultation with parents and carers. We will monitor and assess what has happened as a result of these meetings, getting feedback from both parents and service providers to see what difference has been made. In the longer term, we will endeavour to promote the continued participation of families in the development of services for disabled children.

For more information, help or guidance on any issue relating to the care of disabled children please contact Janet Dodwell, Information Officer on 01278444794 or email janet.dodwell@somimpact.freeserve.co.uk

Sedgemoor Disabled Tenants Focus Group

Are you disabled and a tenant of Sedgemoor District council? If so we would like to hear from you.

Sedgemoor District Council have asked SAIN to facilitate bi annual meeting of Disabled Tenants Fo-

cus Group. The group will meet every 6 months to look at housing related issues such as does your home meet your needs, if not what else is needed, would moving home be a possible solution and any other issue that you feel your council needs to be made aware of in relation to their provision of your home. If you would like to be kept in-

formed of future meeting dates, please complete the tear-off section at the bottom of this page and return to the freepost address. We will let you know of future meetings dates and can arrange transport, communication and care support if required.



Sedgemoor Disability Forum

Do you live in, or regularly use services in Sedgemoor? If so you may like to be involved.

This is a fantastic opportunity for disabled people to work with their local council to improve and develop their local community and put disability on the agenda. SAIN

have been funded to facilitate a Disability Forum for Sedgemoor. Sedgemoor is currently the only district in Somerset that does not have a disability forum and there is therefore the potential for the needs and wants of disabled people to be overlooked when it comes to local access issues, planning, community involvement and service delivery. By coming along to Forum meet-

ings you will have the opportunity to have your say on local issues and have a real impact on the way services are delivered in Sedgemoor . If you would like to be kept informed of future meeting dates please complete the tear-off section below and we will notify you well in advance of the next forum meeting date.



Please keep me informed about future dates for the Sedgemoor projects

I am interested in (Please tick as appropriate):

The Sedgemoor Disabled Tenants Focus group

(To be involved in this group you must be a tenant of Sedgemoor District council)

The Sedgemoor Disability Forum

(The Forum is open to any disabled person living in or regularly using the services of Sedgemoor District council)

Both the Disabled Tenants Group and the Disability Forum

Name

Address

..... Post code

Please cut out and return to SAIN, Freepost (SWB10926), Taunton, TA1 1ZB

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- Other Formats available
- 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.

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