



Somerset Access and Inclusion Network (of disabled people)

The Networker

February 2007

Unit 11-12 Belvedere
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The Board of Trustees

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The Board of Trustees

Dave Abbot, Dennis Aston
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Yet another couple of months have passed us in a blur. We have been busy submitting tenders, which we hope to have news on for you soon. We are pleased to announce that St Monica's Trust have awarded SAIN a grant of £3500, this will help us to develop Day Service Opportunities that includes the Taunton Deane Disability Forum (see page 2), the Information

Café and activities (see page 3) and will partially support the refurbishment of Unit 13. Unit 13 will provide us with additional meeting and syndicate space that, when not in use for day services, will provide affordable meeting space that can be rented to other local organisations. We hope that the refurbishment will be completed by early April 2007. Considerable efforts have also

gone into the development of "One Somerset" (see page 3) which we hope will be a really exciting and thought provoking day. Thanks to all those who have been involved in consultation projects in the past few months. Please keep your eyes on the newsletter for more events coming soon.



Compass Disability Services

Pointing you in the right direction

It's all in the name. Compass Disability Services Pointing you in the right direction!

Thank you to everyone who sent in suggestions for a new name for the organisation.

With effect from the 1st April 2007 SAIN will be known as Compass Disability Services. We felt that this reflected the fact that we are a growing organisation moving into different parts of the

South West and also reflected our ability to point people in a direction that supports improved access and inclusion in services, facilities and premises in the South West.

SAIN will continue to be a project delivered by Compass Disability Services along with the Wiltshire Direct Payment Support Service (WDPSS), The Forum for Equality and Diversity in Somerset (FEDS) and other projects.

Self Directed Support (SDS)
Richard Pitman, our Chief Executive has been involved in the implementation and service delivery of Direct Payments within Somerset for many years. One of his continuing roles is to sit on the Direct Payments Policy and Practice Group, now replaced by the Self Directed Support (SDS)

Management Group. This group has been refocused to not only include Direct Payments but Independent Livings Funds and possibly Individual Budgets as they come online. One of the groups purposes is to engage with service users to explore the possibilities of SDS and understand their perspectives.

Richard's role is to inform the group of concerns that users and potential users may have about any aspect of Self Directed Support, he will forward any comments back to the Management Group.

Please contact him on 0844 9842828 or email
Richard@sain.org.uk

New and improved website www.sain.org.uk

Taunton Deane Disability Forum

Do you want to have your say?

Do you find it hard to get your voice heard? Do you have ideas which would improve the quality of life for disabled people living in or visiting Taunton Deane? Or do you feel your complaints are not listened to?

SAIN are holding regular forum meetings where you will be able

to get your point of view across. This will take place every 4th Tuesday of the month from 2.30 to 4.30pm at the SAIN meeting room on the Belvedere Trading Estate.

Future meetings will involve people from various agencies, so that they can hear your views. Taunton Deane Council want to come to a meeting and ask for comments on the development of their Disability Equality Scheme, and

we are hoping to get the person in charge of taxi licensing to another meeting. Other topics will be decided as and when they become apparent

The more people that attend, the broader the views represented, so don't leave it to someone else.

Come and have your say.

Contact Mandy at SAIN for more Information.



bibic  BIBIC is being funded by the CWDC (The Child Workforce Development Council) to find creative ways for consulting with children about the services they are receiving. Research questions will be framed in different ways to

cater for the different age and ability levels of the participating children. At BIBIC's head office in Somerset the family services team work with children, young people, young adults and their families producing tailored holistic programmes to be carried out at home. BIBIC is already involved

in a research project to measure the impact of the programmes on the family and the CWDC project will enable improved participation by the young people themselves. For more information please contact BIBIC on 01278 684060 or email vivienne.streeter@BIBIC.org.uk

Sedgemoor Disability Forum and Disabled Tenants Focus Group

SAIN will be facilitating the next Disabled Tenants Forum meeting for Homes in Sedgemoor on the 24th April. More detailed informa-

tion will be available closer to the date. However if you would like to ensure we keep you informed please contact Mandy at the office on 0844 9842828

The next Sedgemoor Disability Forum Meeting will also be held in Bridgwater on the 1st May 2007.

This is an opportunity for all disabled people living in Sedgemoor or using the services provided by Sedgemoor District Council to come along and have a say in local issues. More information will follow closer to the date. Please contact Mandy on 0844 9842828

WHEELCHAIR FENCING DEMONSTRATION AT PRINCESS ROYAL SPORTS CENTRE, WELLINGTON 17th FEBRUARY 2007

Competitive wheelchair fencing was first introduced in 1953 and has been a Paralympic sport since 1960 in Rome. The fencers use wheelchairs which are clamped to the piste by means of a metal frame. Fencers are classified according to their level of ability.

In order to promote wheelchair fencing in the South West, Wellington Swords Fencing Club, in conjunction with Wellington School, will be holding a demonstration afternoon on Saturday 17

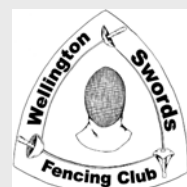
February 2007 with members of the UK national team at the Princess Royal Sports Complex in Wellington between 2pm and 4pm. We are fortunate in having as the resident fencing coach, Professor Gyorgy Felletar from Hungary who has trained the Hungarian Wheelchair Fencing Team to Olympic standard in Atlanta and Sydney. The afternoon will consist of demonstrations and explanations of wheelchair fencing, the range of weapons used, exercise techniques and the opportunity for both able bodied and wheelchair spectators to "have a go".

Wellington Swords Fencing Club will have provision for wheelchair

fencing by May this year as a result of funding from "Awards for All" and other local grants and is aiming to hold one session of wheelchair fencing a week from that time. The Sports Complex has full disabled access and all equipment will be provided in the first instance.

If you think that this is a sport that might interest you either as a participant or a therapist then please come along. Entrance is free and there will be refreshments available in the Sports Complex. For more details contact

Lawrence Burr OBE
Tel: 01823 433844



One Somerset, 27th April, Taunton Racecourse Lets Celebrate!

Plans for "One Somerset", taking place on 27 April 2007 at Taunton Racecourse are coming together well.

Organised by The Forum for Equality and Diversity in Somerset (FEDS) who are facilitated by SAIN, this event will bring together the six strands of diversity. Race, Age, Faith, Disability, Gender and Sexual Orientation.

This will be a free event, open to the general public from 12 noon until 8.30pm. A day to experience

and learn about the diversity present in our immediate region and to encourage understanding and integration within our society.

A colourful, vibrant and thought provoking day of performances from various bands and dance theatres, art and craft displays, a blend of fun/participative workshops alongside some lecture-style ones, an information fair with several hundred stands, and much more. All representing the excitement, interest and diversity of the community in Somerset.

We are very keen to ensure that our event fully reflects the diverse

culture of Somerset so if you haven't yet booked a stand but would like to, please contact Michelle in the SAIN office.

We are still interested in obtaining more sponsorship for the event so if you know of any local companies who have a passion for their community please let Michelle know and we will make contact.

Finally don't forget to put the date in your diary, come along and have a great day out!



www.onesomerset.info

SENSORY LOSS CONSULTATION

Thank you to everyone that took part in the recent Sensory Loss consultation. 3 groups met to discuss their views on services provided by Somerset County Council's Adult Primary Care Team,

such as places where information should be available, views on the County Council website, accessibility of buildings and provision of equipment. In total 40 people took part in this consultation. The information discussed will now be reported back to participants and to Somerset County Council to assist them with future policy formation and decision making. To be kept informed please contact Mandy in the SAIN office.

work, head massage, emotional training and some form of exercise/keep fit. The activity session in March will be Emotional Training (see below for more details) and in April Wheelchair Line dancing. Please book for this session as Rita will need to bring in the materials. For more information please call Nat on 0844 984 2828.

Information Café and activities.

SAIN has recently launched two schemes for disabled people in Taunton. From 1.00 to 2.30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month SAIN will host an 'Information Café and Drop-In session. We will have other organisations, such as A4e (Direct Payments and advocacy) and Shelter (housing) joining us to

provide information on a wide range of subjects. Coffee and biscuits can be purchased at very reasonable prices, so come along to find out what's going on, get advice or just chat.

From January to June the drop-in will be followed from 2.30pm to 4.30pm by an activity session. Things we are 'lining' up include wheelchair line dancing, needle-

of unwelcome change we tend to focus on the major event and think that this is solely responsible for making us feel a certain way. However, there may also be other losses that need to be recognised. The body's immune system can be hindered by the long-term stress of unrecognised grieving, which can affect physical health as well as emotional well-being. Emotional training is not a form of

Emotional Training Session

The March Day Opportunity session will be run by Jennifer West from Stepping Stones on the topic of Emotional Training.

Anyone can encounter times in their life when they feel overwhelmed, confused and unable to make decisions. Emotional training is about recognising our emotions and understanding why we feel the way we do. During times

counselling. The approach is based on 'life-long learning' principles. People learn how to understand the useful purpose of their more unpleasant emotions and when people understand their emotions they can make better decisions and learn self-respect.

Jennifer's Emotional Training session will run from 2.30 to 4.30pm, Tuesday 13 March.

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.



Making it work

Somerset Work Preparation Service

Somerset Work Preparation Service provides training and support into work for adults with learning disabilities. The newest business venture amongst its many projects is the production of hand made truffles, "Chocol@!" People learn about the process and in-

gredients involved in making this first class chocolate, the skills needed in dealing with the general public, and how to take and fulfil orders.

The team are based at South Somerset Work Preparation in Yeovil and are very excited about the interest shown by a great many people, in this new project. The production is supported by David Boocock, Deputy Team Leader at South Somerset Work Prep, who is a trained chocolatier. The truffles will be available

at Somerset County Museum, or can be ordered on 01935 420925.

Information leaflet and price list on request.

The photograph shows, from left to right, Amanda White, Sara Park and John Gay preparing to temper some Chocol@!



SMALL GRANTS AVAILABLE for community and voluntary groups working with children and young people

The Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) is now taking applications for the final year of funding for the small grants programme called the Local Network Fund. All applications must be returned by **September 2007**.

This is a government initiative that exists to help **disadvantaged children and young people achieve their potential**. Small grants are available

from **£250 to £7000** for activities.

The Community Foundation would like to hear from any locally managed small, community, voluntary or self-help groups who are working with 0-19 year olds.

The Foundation also has other small grants available. Interested groups should contact Debbie Jones, SCF Community Outreach Officer, who supports groups through the application process.

Please telephone: 01458 833 133

debbie.jones@somersetcf.org.uk or visit www.somersetcf.org/grants.html for more details.

What is Partnerships for Older People (POPP)?

Somerset is one of 19 Authorities to be given money by the Department of Health to help older people to stay active and healthy, and have more say about what happens in their local community.

What will it be doing?

50 Active Living Centres (ALCs) will be developed in Somerset by 2008. They will be drop-in centres where people can take part in a range of activities. Somerset has also developed a falls prevention service. The service is being commissioned through the Somerset PCT. It will identify people who are at risk of falling and, by making sure they are identified early and offered support, will

help to prevent emergency admission to hospital and long-term injury.

Who is it for?

Anyone aged over fifty.

Who can get involved?

As part of an overall plan Somerset POPP will have developed 17 Centres by the end of December 2006 with a further 33 planned for 2007/08. ALCs have been set up in a variety of places like Village Halls, Self Help Centres, Healthy Living Centres and Community Halls.

The POPP welcomes interest from any community groups. The contribution of local volunteers will be very important for the success of the ALCs. The Somerset POPP will be actively encourag-

ing volunteering and offering new opportunities for voluntary work.

Who is in the Partnership?

The Partnership for Older People is made up of representatives from voluntary and community organisations, District Councils, Health Professionals, Somerset PCT and the private sector.

Somerset County Council is the lead organisation for POPP. Age Concern Somerset is hosting the staff in the POPP development team, a Project Manager and 5 POPP development workers.

How can we find out more?

Somerset County Council Lead Officer – Sue Sheppard 01823 356711



Taunton Deane Council for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Centre have moved to 57 East Reach, TAUNTON, Somerset, TA1 3EZ.

Telephone: 01823 284470, Fax: 01823 333892, Email: enquiries@tauntoncvs.org.uk or volunteerbureau@tauntoncvs.org.uk Website: www.tauntoncvs.org.uk