

Changes In Services for Disabled Children in Somerset

Many of you will have heard about the Review of Children's Services in Somerset. All authorities in the country have to undertake this exercise which is in response to the Children Bill currently going through parliament, itself largely a result of the enquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. The review will look at how services can work together to give all children the best possible chances in life, and involves education, health providers, social services, youth services and voluntary organisations. Just how the needs of disabled

children can best be met is an important part of this review so Somerset IMPACT asked David Taylor, Corporate Director, Somerset Social Services to present an overview at their Liaison Meeting on 8th July. The meeting gave a unique opportunity for parents, carers and support workers to ask questions, and give their views and suggestions in order to influence the outcome of this very important review.

For more information call Janet Dodwell on 01278 444794 or email: Janet.Dodwell@somimpact.freese.rve.co.uk
Registered Charity No. 1076410

DIARY Have Moved!!

Diary who provide information, advice and advocacy service to anyone with a disability in Yeovil and South Somerset are pleased to confirm that they have moved to their new town centre premises and that their name has now changed to ABLE Advocacy

ABLE ADVOCACY
1 Market Street, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 1HR
Telephone 01935 433055
Fax 01935 411820

SAIN members are being asked to help Review the "Supporting People" Services

What is "Supporting People"?

Supporting People funds housing related support which helps people to live independently.

This support could be to help you with

- benefit claims or other forms
- advice on budgeting and debt management
- life skills advice and training
- arranging other services you need, for example, care or befriending services (but not *providing* them)
- daily checks in sheltered housing schemes
- the provision of Community Alarms

This support does not include personal or health care services, which remain the responsibility of Social Services and the NHS.

Who does "Supporting People" help?

Supporting People helps a wide range of people who need help to develop and maintain their independence, such as:

- ◆ older people in sheltered housing and in independent housing
- ◆ young people and homeless people, including vulnerable families and teenage parents with support needs,
- ◆ people with mental health difficulties who need housing support to help them to live independently,
- ◆ women escaping domestic violence who need accommodation and support,
- ◆ people who may have drug or alcohol dependency.
- ◆ people who have a physical disability
- ◆ people who have learning disabilities

This support may be as part of supported accommodation or a support worker could help a person living in their own home.

The "Supporting People" Team are carrying out a review of the service and would like to know:

- " what they can do to improve Supporting People Services in Somerset.
- " what you think is good about the Services you use.

- " what Services you think are missing
- " what you think is the best way for you to tell them your views in the future.

This will help to improve current services and plan future developments.

The groups that "Supporting people" help have differing needs and they have therefore asked SAIN to bring together a group of physically disabled people to look at the service from their perspective. If you would like to be involved in this group or have any comments on the service please contact Michelle at the office. We are hoping to bring together a group of interested parties in August to discuss the service in detail

 * **West Somerset Disability** *
 * **Association** *
 * **Summer Fete** *
 * 24 July from *
 * 11.00 to 4.00 at the Method- *
 * ist Church Hall, *
 * Minehead. *
 * Barbeque, Cream Teas and *
 * all the usual stalls *
 * *



Report on the Building Bridges Conference May 2004
The aim of Building Bridges Conference 2004, was for the event to be instrumental in creating partnerships between agencies and Deaf people. Such partnerships allow access to information about the provision of services, and also would enable Deaf people to have an influence on service development. People were able to meet others and communicate easily. Barriers were broken down and people were equal.

Many delegates greatly benefited from the Social Model of Deafness presentation. It challenged many of the audience's perceptions and enabled Deaf people to consider their own identity and confronted many people's views of Deafness. It was invaluable to hear about the Disability Discrimination Act both from the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) and the RNID, as the Act was explained and examples given so the audience

learnt about where they stood in terms of the legislation. Many people commented that this presentation was appreciated and useful.

The seminar and workshop leaders were highly respected and gave glowing examples of good practice, to ensure access for Deaf people. Hampshire Police Constabulary particularly made an impact at the conference, with a presentation about their accessible service for Deaf people called PLOD (Police Link Officer's for Deaf people). Representatives from Avon and Somerset Police Constabulary were there to see how Hampshire's PLOD scheme had been successful in improving access for Deaf people to the Police force. Avon & Somerset Police will be launching their PLOD scheme during 2005.

The Conference benefited from having such a professional and flexible team of Communication support workers including BSL/English Interpreters, Hands on British Sign Language Interpreter, Notetakers, Speech to text and palantypists. They provided an excellent working example of how communication can be equal between Deaf and

hearing people. Having Deaf professionals leading presentations and workshops meant that there were positive role models at the event.

A few people have, since the conference, expressed a new interest in the Somerset Deaf Forum and wish to be informed of any meetings happening in the area, so that they can play an active role in talking to service providers. It has also been great to see new faces! There were a number of Deaf people at the conference who had never been involved with anything linked to Deaf issues before. They have said that after the conference they now wanted to become involved and that it had opened up a whole new world for them!

It is hoped that within the next two years that there will be another conference on issues that Deaf people in partnership with service providers, consider important. Lets ensure that these partnerships are maintained and continue to grow and flourish! For more information please contact Claire Crowley, Council of Deaf People, 01749 670777 (Minicom 01749 675034) The Old Deanery, Wells, BA5 2UG

Disability Action Group in Crewkerne

A disability action group could be up and running in Crewkerne soon. The group will be set up to represent the needs of local people with disabilities. Members of the South Somerset Disability Forum are actively helping to set up this group in partnership with local councillors. We hope to bring you more news soon.

For more information contact Frances Peacey of the South Somerset Disability Forum on 01935 706766

The Art of recovery Conference.

Friday 8th October 2004

The Art of Recovery Festival is a life enhancing event to celebrate the creativity of those affected by mental distress and to find ways for everyone to learn how to promote their own mental health -

whether by art, music, poetry singing, writing, exercise, faith or therapy.

The day will offer a variety of workshops including poetry, sculpture, painting and aromatherapy to name just a few. The event will also include a poetry and photography competition on the theme of

"Recovery".

The event is due to be held at the Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton

For more details and competition rules please contact Jade West or Diane Brodie at South Somerset MIND on 01935 474875/ 410138 or email diane.brodie@southsmind.plus.co

Access and Disability Road show

A Road Show was held on 30th June at Lady Smith Hall, Somerton and was funded and supported by the South Somerset Disability Forum, South Somerset District Council, Communities First in Rural Somerset and the Regional Development Agency. The main aim of the event was to encourage local people to join and participate in the Somerton Area Disability Action Group so that the

group will flourish and develop, becoming more active in promoting the social model of disability and improving access. We were very pleased that this aim was achieved because a number of local residents came forward and agreed to join the group. In addition, the event offered an opportunity for local people to meet representatives from various organisations and businesses including Batricar, Job Centre Plus, Red Cross, Somerset Community

Chest, Somerset Fire Brigade, Somerton Access Club 2000 and many others. The event was a great success in our eyes and we look forward to seeing other Access and Mobility Road Shows around the area.

For more information contact Frances Peacey of the South Somerset Disability Forum on 01935 706766

Shaping Health—Patient and Public Involvement Forums

As you may be aware Richard Pitman, our Development worker is a member of the Taunton and Somerset PPI Forum and he is urging other members to get involved, there are a number of forums throughout the county, each representing a different area.

What can a PPI forum do?

- Encourage local people to get involved in health matters
- Find out what people really think about health care locally and take action
- Independently watch over the quality of local health care
- Monitor, visit and report on NHS services from a patients viewpoint
- Shape decisions which impact upon our health
- Work with local groups and developing partnerships to influence local and national health decisions.
- Make reports and recommendations about trust services, based on the views of patients and the community.
- Be a force for fairness and change

- Monitor the effectiveness of local patient advice and liaison services (PALS) and complaint support services such as ICAS

What can a PPI forum not do?

- Become involved in management or operation of trust activities
- Reveal commercially sensitive information about a trust.
- Breach the confidentiality of individual patient details
- Take up individual complaints
- Promote their own pecuniary interests

If you would like to know more then following is a list of public meetings where any member of the public can go along and raise any health related issue or concern with a member of the forum.

Meeting are subject to change, if you have special needs for accessing a meeting please contact James or Luisa at the health Advisory Partnership on 01225 701120

South Somerset PPI Wednesday 14th July 2004

Venue to be Confirmed Starting at : 2.00pm

Mendip PPI Forum Wednesday 14th July 2004

Mendip Community Transport,

Royal Bath & West Show-ground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN. Starting at : 2.00pm

PPI Forum (RUH Bath) Monday 19th July

Frys Club and Conference Centre, Somerdale Room, Cadbury Factory, Keynsham, BS31 2UH Starting at : 7.00pm

PPI Forum Bath and North East Somerset Tuesday 20th July 2004

The Somer Centre, Small Hall, Gullock Tynning, Midsomer Norton, BA3 9AE. Starting at 2.30pm

Somerset Coast PPI Forum Wednesday 21st July 2004

Bridgwater & Albion Rugby & Football Club Ltd, Players Bar, Bridgwater, TA6 4TZ Starting at : 2.00pm

Somerset Partnership PPI Wednesday 21st July 2004

Bridgwater & Albion Rugby & Football Club Ltd, Lounge Suite, Bridgwater, TA6 4TZ Starting at : 2.00pm

Taunton Deane PPI Forum Tuesday 27th July 2004

Taunton Library, Meeting Room, Paul Street, Taunton, TA1 3XZ Starting at : 3.00pm

Taunton and Somerset PPI Forum Tuesday 27th July 2004

Taunton Library, Meeting Room, Paul Street, Taunton, TA1 3XZ