

### The Executive Committee

Cathy Magill - Chair  
Hughie Bollan - Secretary  
John Beadman - Treasurer



Joe Magill  
Carolynne Beadman  
Dave Abbot  
Richard Lees

Welcome to the September edition of the Networker.

SAIN have been very busy over the past couple of months securing consultation projects for the future. We will soon be looking for people to take part in a "Supporting people project" (See page 2) and will be continuing work on the Youth Service Project, which was suspended over the summer. Any disabled young people or parents of disabled young people who would like to give their views on what they would like to see from the Youth Service should contact the office. We are also going to be looking for people to form a tendering panel for the Halcon Hostel tendering process in November.

We have continued representing the views and needs of disabled people on many panels and boards and have welcomed the involvement of new representatives who have recently begun working with SAIN. We are always looking for more people who would like to be involved (Please see article below)

By now you should have received details of our up and coming AGM and conference. This will be held on Saturday 20th November 2004 at the Fleet Air Arm Museum in Yeovil. There will be a session looking at the rights of disabled people as related to the Disability Discrimination Act, which comes into force soon and there will be afternoon Workshops

which will include sessions for those interested in finding out more about becoming a SAIN representative. Those with a passion for fundraising (Which is always needed!) and a session looking at daytime opportunities for disabled people. Effectively there is something for everyone and all those attending will get a free pass to have a look around the museum. Please remember that all attendance forms must be completed and returned by no later than 11th October 2004 and all nominations for Trustees and Management committee must be received by no later than 6th November 2004. We are looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

### SAIN REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

As SAIN continues to grow we are on the look out for disabled people who have an understanding of the needs of all disabled people and are willing to share this by representing SAIN on one of the many board and panels that are established in the county, where a disabled perspective will ensure that the wants and needs of disabled people is taken into consideration at the decision making stage. All of our representatives are supported in the initial stages by an experienced rep and further by being invited to attend

regular Representative support groups where they can share their experiences and concerns with others in a similar situation. Most panels meet no more than once a month and many only meet quarterly so the amount of time that you need to commit is not that great. We currently have vacancies on the following panels

**The Industry group for Care,** This is a Social Services led group looking at all aspects of care, such as the promotion of care as a career and funding of training throughout the voluntary and independent sector. The

group normally meet on the first Thursday of each month

### Project Implementation Group for Long Term Care and Short Term Breaks.

This is a Social Services led group that discuss the 5 year implementation plan for the above to ensure that the service, which used to be referred to as respite care, is being delivered to meet the needs of users in Somerset. Meets every 6-8 weeks

Anyone interested in these or other opportunities that arise should contact the office

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

## 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

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

### Somerset Coast PPI Forum Thursday 21st October 2004

Cheddar Church House, Church St, Cheddar, BS27 3RF  
Starting at : 2.00pm

### Taunton and Somerset PPI Forum Thursday 14th October 2004

United Reform Church, Paul Street, Taunton, TA1 3PF  
Starting at : 12 noon

### East Somerset PPI Forum Wednesday 27th October 2004

Council Offices 3/4, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT  
Starting at : 1.30pm

## 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.

**SAIN will bring together a focus group of physically disabled people to look at the service from their perspective on Tuesday 12th October 2004. We are looking for the views of those who currently use the service and from those who have not used the service before. If you would like to be involved in this group please contact Michelle at the office.**



**Helping children achieve more.**



BIBIC - the British Institute for Brain Injured Children, is a national charity that has worked with children with learning difficulties for 30 years. The aim of the charity has always been to maximise the potential of children with conditions such as Down's syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and developmental delay. Over the last 5 years we have also extended

our remit to working with children with specific learning difficulties such as ADHD, dyslexia and dyspraxia as many of the conditions overlap.

In the time the charity has been doing this we have collated a vast experience that we would like to share with others working with these children.

BIBIC will be holding **free**, two hour seminars, for parents and professionals who want to find out more about their work. The first one will be held at the Old Municipal Buildings in Taunton on 22 September, the second

at Exeter CVS on 6 October and the third one at Knowle Hall, Bridgwater, Somerset on 20 November. These seminars will explain BIBIC's approach to multi-disciplinary assessments and how BIBIC supports and teaches parents to take an active role in their child's development; tackling communication, social, sensory, motor and learning difficulties.

**To find out more or to book a place at any of the above events please contact BIBIC on 01278 684060 or e-mail [info@bibic.org.uk](mailto:info@bibic.org.uk). Website [www.bibic.org.uk](http://www.bibic.org.uk)**



**Do You Need a Computer?**



Taunton based Community Computers are a non profit organisation that recycles computers that have been donated to them rather than being disposed of into land fill sites.

Community Computer are a Microsoft authorised refurbisher and all machines are supplied with a fully licensed Windows 98 SE operating system

Computers are supplied to charities, schools, youth groups, Playgroups and other non profit organisations for a small charge to cover operating costs. They

also made available to those on state benefit, pensioners and disabled people.

Community Computers are pleased to accept Computer equipment that you are considering disposing of in the near future.

For more information please contact Community Computers on 01823 442665 or email [workshop@communitycomputers.org](mailto:workshop@communitycomputers.org) alternatively visit their website at [www.communitycomputers.org](http://www.communitycomputers.org)



**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 competi-

tion 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.c](mailto:diane.brodie@southsmind.plus.c)



**BEST VALUE REVIEW –  
LONG-TERM CARE AND  
SHORT-TERM BREAKS FOR  
ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL  
DISABILITIES**

**From the second Newsletter keeping you informed of the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Review, which was approved by the County Council in May last year.**

In summary, the Review envisaged:

For Long-Term Care:

- Ø A spectrum of services that promote independence and maximise choice and wherever possible to help support people in their own homes.
- Ø Where not possible/practical to new-build, to develop the options for Extra Care Housing.
- Ø When community living no longer possible, to promote access to specialist Nursing Homes geared up to younger people.

For Short-Term Breaks:

- Ø Greater choice and flexibility
- Ø More appropriate respite nursing care.
- Ø Re-focusing the role of Halcon House, including exploring the options for future management arrangements.
- Ø Promoting independence and the choice to take short breaks with friends and family.
- Ø A one-stop shop providing information and practical support and all short-breaks options.

**Progress to Date:**

**Short Breaks:**

The working group has now produced draft guidance for staff which is now awaiting Senior Management approval prior to being adopted as policy. It became increasingly apparent it would make most sense to have guidance and policies for all adults, particularly in view of the Fair Access to Care services, and to co-ordinate that guidance with that available for Carers, Older Adults and Day Opportunities.

**Direct Payments:**

It is envisaged that self-managed short breaks funded via Direct Payments will eventually be an option. However, it has been decided that they should be part of a wider project to identify and cost all Adult Services which can be accessed by this route.

**One Stop Shop:**

A new working group comprising Social Workers, Disability Advocates, Contracts Officer and service users has their first meeting later this month. Its remit is to produce a specification for advocacy services to be implemented Countywide, and also to draw up a specification for a Short Break information and Support Service with a view to formally tendering for both services. Carers Grant funding has been identified to support the latter.

**Halcon House:**

Invitations to tender for the service provided by Halcon have recently been advertised and a timescale set that will enable a new partner organisation to assume responsibility by April 2005. Service users will be fully included in the selection process

and all Halcon users have been kept informed.

**Long-Term Care Extra Care Housing:**

Watercombe Lane, the specialist housing development in Yeovil for younger adults with disabilities, was officially 'opened' last month and all six bungalows are now occupied. Anyone interested in visiting the Scheme can contact the Supported Housing Officer, Claire O'Neill on 01935 412513 to arrange an appointment.

There is no doubt that existing Extra Care Housing Schemes have considerable potential as an alternative to purpose-built schemes. A model for development has been produced which it is hoped can be adopted/adapted in all localities once approved by the Countywide Special Needs Housing Group and accepted as part of the Supporting People strategy.

**Commissioning:**

Over the next few months I will be initiating discussions with staff and colleagues in Health and Providers to explore the feasibility of commissioning local specialist residential resources for younger people and the potential of 'quality rating' to enhance spot purchase arrangements which would include short breaks.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Comments and enquiries always welcome.

Please ring Mathew Davis on 01935 422111 or e-mail [mydavis@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:mydavis@somerset.gov.uk).