

Direct 2 You

May 2009
Newsletter 7

Bristol Shopmobility—Who are they?

Do you want to visit Bristol City Centre or go on holiday but need assistance with getting around?

Bristol Shopmobility can help.



Bristol Shopmobility is a charity which provides manual and powered wheelchairs and scooters to people, young or old, who have either a permanent or temporary mobility impairment and who wish to visit the City Centre area. They make a small charge of £1 per hour (or £5 for the day) for our equipment and will provide training on how to use the chairs/scooters if you are a

a “first time driver”. The first time you use our service we will ask you to complete our membership form and provide two forms of ID. This will not be required on subsequent visits.



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Bristol Shopmobility — Where are they?

They have recently moved into new purpose built premises in the Cabot Circus Car Park, just off Newfoundland Circus and Bond Street, and are able to accommodate over 30 chairs/scooters. If you use the car park there are reserved spaces specifically for customers of Shopmobility adjacent to the unit – unfortunately normal parking charges apply.

If you are arriving by other means of transport and are unable to get to either the Cabot Circus Unit or the Unit in the Mall Galleries then give them a call and they can arrange to meet you at a convenient place.



The Cabot Circus Unit is currently open Monday – Saturday between 10 am - 5 pm and the Mall Galleries Unit is open Tuesday – Thursday 11 am – 3 pm. They are hoping to shortly be opening 7 days a week and some Bank Holidays. To book equipment it's best to ring beforehand and they can then reserve exactly what you want.

If you call in on the day they most probably will be able to accommodate you but specific equipment may already be out on hire.

All bookings should be made by ringing 0117 9559083.

Items can be ordered at your request.

They also have a long term hire facility so if you need to borrow a chair or scooter for a few days or even a few weeks to attend an event or go on holiday they can help.

Bristol Shopmobility's address is Cabot Circus Car Park, Newfoundland Circus, Bristol BS2 9AB

Special Points of Interest:

- “We are aiming to make the first pilot payment at the start of July 2009”
- “Following the Dispute Resolution Review, the government is changing the way we deal with problems at work”
- The Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) makes leisure centres available to everybody with full appreciation of impairment or disability.”

Denise Swain— News From the Council



Many thanks to those people who contacted me about 4 weekly payments, and to those people who gave me their views at the peer support meeting on 26th March.

Since then it has been confirmed that the SWIFT system can only make payments in multiples of weeks, and that calendar monthly payments will not be possible. We have taken on board the feedback you have given and have also discussed options with A4e, and are working on the best way to make changes.

The best option is likely to be making 12 payments through the year, which will make it easier for you to fit in with existing monitoring cycles. To ensure you have enough money to cover your costs throughout the year, we are looking at paying in multiples of 5 weeks – 4 weeks on a rolling cycle.

Payments will still be made in advance, but obviously the date they are paid in the month will vary from payment to payment

The plan is to pilot this system with a small group of service users and carers, ideally between 12 to 18 people in total.



Although we are restricted by the system and the number of options we have, we felt it was important to test the best option, as your feedback will help us iron out issues before the system is extended to all people receiving direct payments.

I know some people have been anxious about the potential changes, running the pilot project will help increase confidence in the system before it is extended to all service users.

We are aiming to make the first pilot payment at the start of July 2009.

The pilot will run for three months, to give the new processes time to work through and to give service users and carers a chance to experience the system, and to complete quarterly monitoring returns if you normally complete them.

If you are interested in helping us with this pilot, please contact me by 1st June. We are looking for a wide range of people to get involved, it doesn't matter if you use a provider service or employ personal assistants. Depending on the level of interest, I may also be in touch individually with those people who have expressed an interest in getting involved in developments in the past.

I will be arranging a briefing session for all people involved in the pilot, which will include A4e and council finance staff. This is likely to be around the middle of June, and will include lunch!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Denise Swain

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Employment Update

Grievance and Disciplinary Issues:

Following the Dispute Resolution Review (DRR), the government is changing the way we deal with problems at work. From **6 April 2009** there will be:

- Less emphasis on the mechanics of how to manage disciplinary issues, grievances and dismissals
- More flexibility to resolve problems at an early stage and in a way that suits you best.

You can find written Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures on the Contract of Employment that A4e usually offer to people employing a PA.

If you don't currently have a written procedure for dealing with these matters contact A4e and we can send you one

Did you know? Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) & The Active Card



The Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) makes leisure centres available to everybody with full appreciation of impairment or disability.

Centres are awarded IFI status by achieving standards in many areas following a thorough audit process.

South Gloucestershire Leisure Trust has two main IFI sites:

Bradley Stoke and Yate.

Longwell Green is in the process of being audited.

- No joining fee
- No induction fee
- Reduced admission costs
- One to one written gym programme (with carer if necessary).
- IFI clinic sessions
- Active Card

For further details contact:

Jonathan Wheeler, IFI Activator:

jonathan.wheeler@southglos.gov.uk

Tel:01454 864618

The Active Card

The Leisure Trust, Council and NHS of South Gloucestershire have created a NEW Active Card.

An Active Mind in an Active Body.

Now one card fits all – it will let you borrow books and gain internet access at libraries, have a swim or use the gym. And so much more...

This is not all about sport and fitness – more about a balanced lifestyle, full of interest, vibrancy, reading, learning, playing and health. All this on offer and it's FREE to join!

When you join Active you will have access to information and updates about what is going on in South Gloucestershire so you and your family can get Active. Offering you even more choice you also have the option of upgrading your card to save money on activities.

Further Employment Updates

Grievance & Disciplinary continued:



ACAS have produced a guidance booklet providing basic practical guidance on how to deal with grievance and disciplinary issues if they arise.

The guidance recommends that you have a written procedure for dealing with grievance and disciplinary issues so that you deal with these concerns fairly

If you would like a copy please visit the ACAS website or contact A4e for a copy.

www.acas.org.uk,

Review of Statutory Rates.

From 5th April 2009 the standard rate of maternity, paternity and adoption pay increases from £117:18 to £123:06.

Statutory sick pay increases from £75:40 to £79:15

Holiday Pay:

The current holiday entitlement for workers (4.8 weeks) increased to 5.6 weeks from 1st April 2009.

Holiday pay is worked out on a pro rata basis for part-time workers.

Flexible Working:

From 6th April the right to request flexible working is being extended to parents of children aged 16 and under.

Useful Links:

For more details on employment legislation go to:

www.berr.gov.uk or

www.businesslink.gov.uk



Direct 2 You

South Gloucestershire Council Needs You !

The Council and the NHS are working together to deliver a programme of change which will transform the way people living in the area influence and receive Health and Social Care services.

One of the initiatives is to introduce self directed support where you will be offered a personal budget rather than



the traditional care package.

They need to work out how important different types of support are to you.

They have arranged 2 further sessions, on May 22nd at the Ridgewood Site in Yate. Places are limited to 12 per session and the session will last 3 hours.

The sessions will be computer based and consist of a series of questions.

For more details contact Judith Bavister, SG Council on 01454 864705 or email

Judith.Bavister@southglos.gov.uk

Peer Support

The Next Meeting is on:
Thursday 16th July 2009
7.00pm – 8.30pm
In the Jefferies Room
Emersons Village Hall
Emersons Green
South Gloucestershire
BS16 7AP

There will be a quiz and the group will also be nominating and voting for a New Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. If you are interested please do come along or come along anyway as the group always welcomes new members.



Meet the Team: Trevor Smith Service Support Officer



using our service and gathers in all the financial monitoring information that you fill out for us as well as providing assistance to people who want help completing the returns.

For those of you that have been using Direct Payments for a while, you may have either spoken to or had a letter from our Service Support Officer: Trevor. The Support Officer helps us to keep track of everyone

Trevor is the man with his finger on the pulse and tends to know who is doing what and where they are. If we need to know something Trevor usually has the answer or finds it for us, he even gives us weather reports!

Peer support meetings are a chance for people who receive Direct Payments to get together to have a chat, share ideas and meet A4e staff.



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WORKING
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