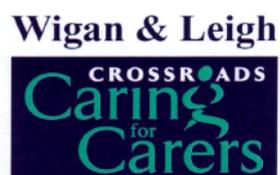


C.C.S.G. Newsletter



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September 2007

Whitby's skyline is dominated by the ruins of St. Hilda's Abbey, high on Whitby's East Cliff. Spreading below Whitby, a maze of alleyways and narrow streets run down to the busy quay side. From the old town of Whitby, 199 steps lead up to the parish church of St. Mary, whose churchyard on Whitby's East Cliff gave Bram Stoker the inspiration to write his world famous book, Dracula. So if your carer went to Whitby check their neck before you go to sleep ooooo spooky.

Meanwhile take a look at some of the pictures from the carers weekend away to Whitby in July.



Raven hall Hotel, carers home for a weekend.



The weather was good to them considering all the rain we have been having. Lovely to see they had a good time.



Recognise it? the home of Heartbeat.



Why not join in yourself, if you're a carer join the support group and have some time out for yourself. You can see some more pictures from this weekend away and others on our website, in the picture gallery.

www.wigancrossroads.org

A feature in the Sunday Times Magazine 'Crying out to be heard' highlights how young carers are being overlooked and have to struggle on alone without adult support, rarely receiving help from school or social services until the situation reaches crisis point.

Families quickly become isolated and can retreat, out of embarrassment and fear, from possible sources of help. Many young carers do not tell their schools about their home life as they do not want to be singled out and bullied or due to fear that they might be put into care.

Help us keep down the cost

Due to constant rising costs the support group committee are considering printing the newsletter in black and white to send out to people, the newsletter on the website will still be in colour as it doesn't actually cost anything to post it on the site, you could help us keep the cost down by having us e-mail you once the newsletter is on the website, you can read it on the site and if you decide you want a paper copy you could print it of yourself, we know many people have e-mail addresses and all we need is for you to e-mail us saying you will take it this way, the benefits to you are, you get e-mailed within minutes of the newsletter going on the website, it's in colour and you can access the links from the newsletter directly, you also have the ability to view all the back issues from the books and guides page of the website, the benefit to the group is lower running costs and the carers who help to run the newsletter would not have to give up as much of their valuable time to help to produce it.

Please help us with this by just e-mailing us saying you will accept the newsletter electronically and we will do the rest, e-mail us at: ccsg.group@hotmail.com

Less than 18% of young carers have ever been formally assessed.

When adults are assessed for community care, their family responsibilities should also be taken into account, however in practice this very rarely happens.

The feature went on to say that a key issue was the insufficient co-ordination between adult and children's services.

Alex Fox, Assistant Director (Policy and Service Development) at The Princess Royal Trust for Carers said that health and social services routinely fail to ask adults in their care, Are you a parent?

Even if young carers are identified and receive an assessment, this does not mean that they will get the support they need. Since children's services are so involved in child-protection issues, they often do not have the resources or funds to intervene.

C.C.S.G. is for young carers as well as adults, if you know a young carer why not tell them about us and about our website.

www.wigancrossroads.org

The European Commission has launched an online consultation focusing on combating discrimination in the Member States and at European Union (EU) level. It aims to help the Commission plan new measures to tackle discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in areas beyond the job market.

The DRC supports the consultation's proposals and encourages all those who agree to respond to the consultation.

You can add your comments before 15 October 2007 by going to their website at www.ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm

And also The European Disability Forum (EDF) - a Brussels-based organisation representing the interests of disabled people across the European Union (EU) - is campaigning to sign up 1 million people from across the 29 EU member states to its petition to introduce EU-wide disability legislation.

The petition calls for strong and comprehensive legislation that will protect disabled people in all member states from discrimination. It will be presented to the European Commission in October to demonstrate support for equality for disabled people. The presentation will coincide with a meeting of disability groups from across the EU that is being hosted by the EDF.

You can add your signature to the online petition at www.1million4disability.eu

Ban on Alzheimer's drug stands.

Campaigners have lost their battle to make the Health Service pay for early stage drugs for Alzheimer's patients.

The High Court ruled that the health rationing watchdog will not have to reinstate drugs for those with "mild" symptoms.

Mrs Justice Dobbs said the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence had not acted unfairly and irrationally in formulating its guidance to health trusts.

NICE will, however, have to rewrite advice that could have discriminated against some sufferers.

Campaigners said patients will now effectively have to prove their dementia has worsened before qualifying for free treatment.

Doctors said the decision means Alzheimer's sufferers in England will continue to receive the worst treatment in Western Europe.

Each year, up to 100,000 are denied funding for three drugs which cost just £2.50 a day and can slow the decline into dementia.

New Rights for disabled traveller's.

EU Regulation - from 26 July 2007

Airlines and travel companies cannot refuse to accept bookings from passengers who are disabled.

EU Regulation – from 26 July 2008

- **Assistance**
All airports which have more than 150,000 passengers a year will need to have arrangements to assist disabled passengers in the airport. This will mean providing help to get from arrival through to the point of boarding the plane. It will also include assistance at the destination airport from the plane to the airport exit. These services must be provided free.
- **Disability Awareness training**
Airlines and airport managing bodies are required to provide disability awareness and equality training to their staff. Good staff assistance can be the pivotal factor in making a journey successful and effective staff training is crucial to achieving this. The Regulation also requires refresher training.
- **Assistance on the plane**
The 2008 duties require airlines to assist a passenger with a mobility impairment to get to the toilet and to provide essential (such as safety) information in alternative formats for someone say, who has a visual impairment and needs information in large print.
- **Accommodation on the plane**
The Regulation requires airlines to take 'reasonable steps' to accommodate the seating needs of disabled passengers. One of the most common complaints the DRC receives is from people who have requested seating with extra leg room, but don't get it.

Examples of how the 2008 duty will effect disabled people

The following will be unlawful from July 2008:

- passengers charged for wheelchair assistance to board or disembark from the plane
- booked assistance to disembark from the plane not honoured. (The DRC took three calls from disabled people last year who were left stranded on a plane)
- airlines charging for carrying a wheelchair
- airlines refusing to carry a wheelchair. (The DRC took 13 calls about airlines refusing to carry a manual or electric wheelchair)
- airlines not accommodating seating requirements or charging extra for seats.

Mental health patients to benefit from drive for dignity and respect.

Care Services Minister Ivan Lewis announced that the successful 'dignity in care' campaign to ensure that older people are treated with respect by health and care professionals, will be extended to people with mental health problems.

The initial campaign has already proved successful in raising awareness of dignity in care and driving forward improvements in the way in which older people are treated every day.

There are now 1000 individuals who have been recognised as 'Dignity Champions' and been rewarded for going that extra mile in improving the service that older people receive.

Initiatives round the country include installing a music system in wards at West Hertfordshire NHS Trust to mask confidential conversations to maintain the crucial privacy that older people need to feel respected.

Ivan Lewis said:

"Our campaign to put dignity and respect at the heart of care services for older people is beginning to make a real difference at a local level.

"A record 1000 people including volunteers, carers and professionals have now signed up to champion the rights of older people in hospitals and nursing homes. We genuinely need people like this to be the voice and ear of colleagues and professionals to promote dignity. These inspirational individuals are taking positive action to ensure that older people have a positive experience in the way they are treated by professionals in the NHS and social care sector.

An increasing number of NHS trusts, local authorities and independent sector providers are focusing on how their services can place a new emphasis on dignity and respect for patients, residents and their families.

"As well as strengthening our focus on older people we are today announcing the extension of our dignity campaign to people with mental health needs. People experiencing mental health difficulties are amongst the most vulnerable in society. We know people fear what they don't understand.

Fear can result in discrimination and we know that people with mental health problems are facing discrimination when trying to access public services like health care or get support from social services.

This newsletter is a bit shorter than we have been producing these days, the reason for this is that I have had major problems with my hardware and had to finish the newsletter quickly, I am hoping to get everything sorted shortly but, at this time it is not certain that I will be able to produce the October issue of the newsletter, I will post a message on the website towards the end of September to let you know how it's going.

The eighth annual **Carers Rights Day** will take place on:

Friday 7 December 2007

The aims of Carers Rights Day 2007 are to:

- increase the take up of benefits available to carers and their families
- ensure that carers access their rights
- raise awareness of the needs of carers
- help people recognise themselves as carers
- ensure carers are aware of and take up their new right to request flexible working

This year's theme is Caring Costs and the focus is on carers and work and the other costs of caring. We will be concentrating on carers' rights which help them to stay in work and, if they give up work or retire early, how to ensure that they get the right benefits and entitlements.

We would like to send our condolences to one of our members on the sad loss of her father on 16th August, our thoughts are with you Winifred.

If you have anything you would like to see in the next newsletter, a poem or a story, an article, your favourite recipe.

Please E-mail it to:

ccsg.group@hotmail.com

or contact us on 07807 210913

All the views expressed in the publication are individual and not necessarily the view or policy of Crossroads, the Crossroads support Group or its supporters.

Editor. John Booth.

Building the future together-In partnership with Wigan Council.

New Support Group Launched for Families of Drug Users

Wigan and Leigh Family Support Group (FSG) are a new voluntary group set up to support people who are concerned about a family member's drug misuse.

The group offer a free-phone helpline and a weekly drop-in where you can talk freely and confidentially with other people who are going through or have been through the same problems as you.

The group launched on Tuesday 4th September from ADS, 24 Hallgate, Wigan. For more information call 01942 828 125 or call Wigan Drug Action Team 01942 828125

Don't forget the coffee mornings on the second Wednesday each month, 12 noon at Kingsleigh Methodist Church, King Steet, Leigh.

The Carers Support Group can now offer extra visits from Crossroads care support workers as support in case of bereavement, this is not bereavement counseling, it is in the form of additional visits to help and offer support during times of loss.

For more information contact Crossroads or the support group on 07807 210913

C.C.S.G. 
Community Foundation
for Greater Manchester