

NewsLink

News, views and information from Peterborough Disability Forum

August 2018

Disability Peterborough launches new Focus Groups

Calling all disability charities, community groups and coffee clubs



Disability Peterborough is looking at its service provision to inform its future strategic plan. The Focus Groups are to help establish what services disabled people want-including people with learning disabilities, physical or sensory impairment, mental health issues and older people.

This piece of work is simply to collect views on future service delivery for the next 3 years. Disability CEO Sandie Burns says, "We can't promise to deliver everything that disabled people want but we are interested in everything they have to say."

Is this something you, your clients, members, associates could benefit from and help with? Bryan Tyler and Julie Fernandez would like to hear the views of disabled people, their family members, carers and friends to discuss further and collect information to help carry out this important piece of work. Please get in touch if you would like a visit to your club or group: Bryan@inspirepeterborough.com

Disability Peterborough RISEs to the occasion



Another excellent RISE 4 Disability exhibition took place on Wednesday 12th July at the Arena in Peterborough. Jade Godier and her colleagues from Made2Aid put on another fantastic day of events and activities for the benefit of Health

Care professionals and the general public.

There was a wide and varied array of exhibitors offering advice on Independence at Home, Mobility Vehicles as well as Networking and Advice Zones. The Sport and Activity Zone was managed by Nikki Griffiths and colleagues from Inspire Peterborough. Sandie Burns CEO of Disability Peterborough said "we were delighted to support this year's RISE 4 Disability event. We had a large number of people giving us very positive feedback. The one area we did identify was a massive disconnect between what equipment people needed and what they could afford."

Barry's monthly moan

Where are all the Traffic Enforcement Officers? Certainly not in Cowgate!



For several months my colleague Bryan Tyler and I have been working with Councillors, Council Officers and John Drewnicki, Chair of the local Traders Association to improve the parking situation in Cowgate. Just for once, there is a disabled bay bias in that part of the city centre and it's having a detrimental effect on businesses. Able bodied drivers wishing to pop into the printers or furniture shop to collect purchases or drop off items or supplies are struggling to park close by and retailers are losing out. Cowgate is also difficult for goods vans and trucks to manoeuvre and it's made even more difficult by frustrated motorists parking in the Loading Bays, this means goods vehicles are blocking Cowgate until the motorist moves.

But rarer than hen's teeth are Parking Enforcement Officers. Several times I have witnessed drivers parking in the disabled bays without a Blue Badge and not a Traffic Officer in sight. Inconsiderate parking of any description causes resentment, frustration and ill-will but sometimes all it needs is some robust policing to stamp it out.

On a positive note to finish, well done the Disability Forum for bringing together the decision makers needed to make some positive changes to the disabled parking on Cowgate. Several new bays with rear and side hatching will be available in Kings Street as well as additional bays in Priestgate. Three bays will be lost on Cowgate but there will be a net gain of two additional disabled bays.

Waity's Massive Challenges



Well done David Wait, Manager of Serpentine Green and Chair of the Chamber of Commerce. David is pictured on top of Mount Snowden-one of the summits of the 3 Peaks Challenge which David completed recently.

Next up is the Skydive at Sibson with Bryan Tyler followed by a whole series of global events and activities including, the Fan Dance - a 48km trek over Pen-Y-Fan (it's normally 24km but doing it twice) that is used as part of the SAS selection. Climb Island Peak - a 21,000ft climb in the Himalaya's and a Full Marathon De Sables - 250Km across the Sahara. David is raising funds for Peterborough charity, Disability Peterborough. <https://localgiving.org/fundraising/waitysmonsterchallenges/>

When Pedestrian Crossings can seriously damage your health



For many walkers with sight loss or mobility problems a pedestrian crossing is a necessity, but a faded crossing can be a danger to life and limb. "Susan" a Disability Forum regular contacted Forum Manager Bryan Tyler recently to report the poor state of the crossings from Westgate Church to Queensgate Bus Station. Bryan contacted City Council Traffic Officer Lewis Banks who confirmed that the crossing has now been scheduled for repainting.

Supporting disabled ex forces on Talking Disability

Elaine Danaher from Combat Stress and retired RAF Wing Commander Bob Carr are guests on the forthcoming Talking Disability Radio Show. Elaine and Bob will be talking to presenter Bryan Tyler about the difficulties many forces veterans face after leaving the Services and how we can all do more to support those who have served their country.

Next Disability Forum

A date for your diary. If you or a family member are interested in disability issues then why not get involved in the Peterborough Disability Forum. The next meeting is on Thursday 30th July at Centre 68 behind Westgate Church from 10-12pm. Guests TBC.

NHS managers wasted a staggering £500 million last year

In one case NHS managers staged a leaving-do at a prestigious members' club in central London with a bill that came to more than £1,000

And some hospital chiefs blew funds on slap-up meals for themselves.



They included a £1,000 gathering at a swish private members' club by bosses at London's Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust. It feeds patients for less than £10 a head each day. Drugs worth £215,000 had to be chucked at one hospital after a storage fridge broke down. Another trust wrote off £651,000 owed by private patients. NHS chiefs are now curbing prescriptions for remedies which are cheaper over the counter.

Shopmobility to get new signs around the city



Many Peterborough residents and visitors to the city still don't know how and where to find the Shopmobility service (see article below) which operates from Queensgate on floor 11. Hopefully, over the next few months that should change with new signs and wayfinding details promoting the service available on buses, the train station and at the Visitor Centre in Bridge Street. More details to follow

Shopmobility-Peterborough's Hidden Gem

"Our volunteers are worth their weight in gold" says manager Chrissie

"It's amazing to think that back in 1984 Shopmobility Peterborough was amongst the first in the country." declares a proud Chrissie Forvague, manager of the Queensgate based charity. For the past 35 years Shopmobility have provided wheelchairs and mobility scooters to thousands of people with disabilities and health conditions to enable them to go shopping in Queensgate or sightseeing in and around the city centre. Long term hire wheelchairs and foldable scooters are also available for holidays etc.



Chrissie adds "we see ourselves as part of the community, people drop in for a chat, take a wheelchair or scooter, pop into the shops and come back to tell us all about their day. Our clients see the volunteers as friends and it's easy to see why, some of our volunteers have been with us for many years: Molly Wright has been with us since 1998."

Neil Elsom from West Town has been volunteering at Shopmobility for nine years. Neil said "I only came originally to help out for a few weeks but I'm still here years later. I love helping people and this is a great way of giving something back to the community". Retired pub landlady Angela Duley is another volunteer who was only supposed to be "helping out" for a few shifts but nearly two years later is still doing her bit. "I love talking to clients and I know many like to pop in for a chat. A lot of older and disabled people live alone and without Shopmobility, wouldn't be able to shop in Queensgate or wander round town. If I wasn't here on Mondays and Tuesdays helping out what else would I be doing? When I'm at Shopmobility I feel like I'm involved in something really worthwhile."

If you want to join Chrissie's fantastic group of volunteers at Shopmobility you can email: chrissie-dialpeterborough@btconnect.com

Major airports found to be failing disabled passengers

4 of the UK's 30 biggest airports are falling short in providing access for disabled travellers, the Civil Aviation Authority has said. Bottom of the list is Manchester, rated as "poor" for the second year running. Birmingham and London Stansted airports are also in need of improvement, the CAA said. In some cases, passengers had been left awaiting assistance for more than an hour, which the CAA said was "not an acceptable situation".

Dementia crisis will leave 100,000 victims with no beds by 2035



Thousands of vulnerable elderly people with dementia will end their lives 'isolated and alone' due to a rapidly growing shortage of care home places, a leading charity has warned. The Alzheimer's Society predicts the gulf between demand and supply for care home beds in England will reach 30,000 by 2022.

By 2035, it estimates the gap will be 100,000 — equivalent to the population of Lincoln. Society Chief Jeremy Hughes said. 'The crisis will be everywhere, even in the smallest village but the scale of the challenge is not being recognised. He described the idea that family carers would step in to help as 'flawed' because the pool of middle-aged carers is shrinking.

Wednesday PHAB Club AGM

The Wednesday PHAB Club A.G.M will take place on the 8th August 2018 at the Pyramid Community Centre in Bretton, commencing at 6pm.

Disability sport: 'Lack of basics' stops people taking part



A lack of basic facilities and equipment prevents disabled people from taking part in sport, campaigners have said. They criticised a focus on finding future Paralympians rather than providing grassroots support.

Josh Reeves, a 21-year-old media student, tries to go to the gym at least once a week and has taken part in activities such as wheelchair karate. Mr Reeves, who has cerebral palsy, said there were only four machines he could use at his nearest gym, with a membership costing £35 a month. Instead he uses a cheaper gym that is more accessible, calling the general picture "shocking".

"There should be more sports and facilities out there for people with disabilities." said Josh

Dan Williams, 26, who is registered blind, set up a monthly tandem cycling group for visually impaired riders. "I don't want to be the next Paralympian; I just want to ride a bike like everybody else. We only have four tandems at the moment and we would like to have a fleet of at least 15 to get a lot more blind and partially-sighted people out there."

Earlier this year, a survey of 600 people showed "access to sport by disabled children and adults is perceived to be very patchy in many areas and across many sports with accessible changing rooms and direct access to the sporting facility often lacking".

Amilly Fitness

Inclusive health and wellbeing centre

inspire
Peterborough
enhancing lives

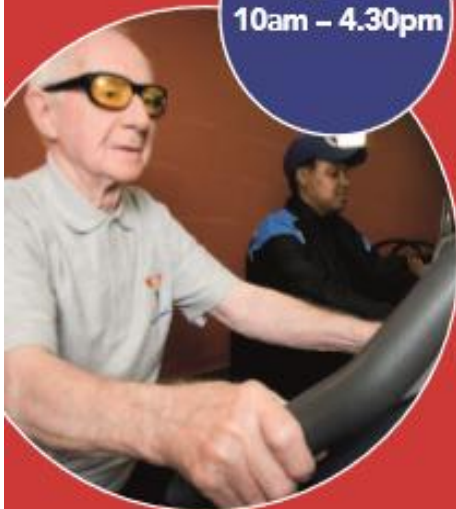


£2 per
session



Mondays and
Wednesdays

OPEN:
10am – 4.30pm



Inspire Peterborough have teamed up with Oak Activities to run an inclusive fitness centre for adults with a long term health condition, special need, physical, mental, sensory or learning disability.

Chair based exercise classes and open gym sessions

Booking essential via
www.bookwhen.com/amilly-fitness
or for group bookings please call 01733 330 815

Amilly House, 88 South Street, Stanground PE2 8EZ

Contact Inspire Peterborough for more information

www.inspirepeterborough.com | [/amilly-fitness](https://www.facebook.com/amilly-fitness)
T: 01733 330 815 | E: contact@inspirepeterborough.com

Disability Peterborough Project/Registered Charity Number: 1089250



And finally.....Some useful numbers

Age UK 01733 564185

Care and Repair 01733 863895

CareZone 01733 575083

Carers Trust Peterborough 01733 645234

City Care Clinic 01733 293800

Child Benefit 0845 302 1444

Department of Work and Pensions (new claims) 0800 055 6688

Disability Peterborough (DIAL) 01733 265551

Fire and Rescue Service 0800 917 9994

Headway Cambridgeshire 01223 576550

Housing Options 01733 864064

Inland Revenue – Tax Credits 0845 300 3900

Inspire Peterborough 01733 330815

Peterborough Association for the Blind 01733 344 844

Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme 0844 4994120

Peterborough Direct 01733 747474

Peterborough City Hospital 01733 678000

Peterborough Pensioners Association 01733 270528

Peterborough Police 101

Samaritans 08457 909090

Shopmobility 01733 313133

St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool 01733 453583

YMCA GYM 01733 313 085