

Disability Peterborough
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www.disabilitypeterborough.org

Registered Charity No. 1089250
Company Limited by guarantee: 4255588

April - May 2019



News, views & information
from Peterborough
Disability Forum

Newslink

CEOs comments

As the Chief Executive of Disability Peterborough I welcome you to the first issue of our new monthly e-newsletter. We hope you like the new design and format. We also hope you enjoy this new way of keeping you informed and up to date with all the latest news, information, helpful hints and tips and forthcoming events relating to disability topics both locally and nationally.

As a disabled peoples user led organisation we want this newsletter to be valuable for you so please share your feedback and suggestions with us. Let us know what you want included, we want to hear your stories, and this could be examples of unfair treatment or instances of excellent service.

Maybe you have a family member or friend who may benefit from the information in our e-newsletter if so please share! I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

Sandie Burns CEO

Shopmobility takes delivery of 13 new scooters

Shopmobility, managed by Disability Peterborough have added 13 new scooters to their fleet and the old worn out ones have been retired – the new scooters are a result of all the hard work and efforts from monies raised by the Mayors Charities when Councillor John Fox was the Mayor of Peterborough.



The scooters now at Shopmobility have tracking devices fitted and other security measures to prevent loss or theft.

Shopmobility have also added some new lightweight wheelchairs for customers who require them on a long term hire basis, these wheelchairs and one of the new scooters was donated by Peterborough Yacht Club who held a charity fund raising day last summer.

For more information about Shopmobility contact
Chrissie on 01733 313133

Focus Groups

Do you have any suggestions for making Peterborough a better place to live for disabled people?

Access and Inclusion Manager Bryan Tyler has been busy visiting charities, voluntary organisations and community groups recently and asking people what services they feel are missing from those on offer in Peterborough. If you would like to find out more about the Focus Groups contact bryan@disabilitypeterborough.org



Pension Credit changes coming into effect 15th May 2019

At present if you are a couple you can make a claim for Pension Credit as soon as the oldest member of the couple reaches pension age. These rules are due to change with effect from 15th May 2019 and from this date any new claims to pension credit will only be accepted if both members of the couple are over pension age.

People who would have been eligible to make a claim for Pension Credit before 15th May 2019 will be able to make a late claim for up to 3 months after this rule comes into force otherwise, they will come under Universal Credit rules whereby their entitlement can be as much as £7000 per annum lower than on Pension Credit. Existing pension credit claims will not be affected by this change.

If in doubt, please seek a full benefit check to make sure you do not lose out. **Contact Jane Baillie Benefits Advisor on 01733 265551**

Sporting Saturday just gets bigger and better



Sporting Saturday, the city's leading sports and activity event for disabled people was the biggest and best in its six year history according to the organisers. The event, organised by local charity Disability Peterborough's project Inspire Peterborough, was the busiest so far.

Inspire Peterborough's Nikki Griffiths, said: *"it was a fantastic event. Record numbers of stands and activities and record breaking crowds. We also had many new faces which is fantastic. We had Lady Isabella Naylor Leyland, Mayor of Peterborough Cllr Chris Ash, and Deputy Mayor Cllr John Fox, as guests and they all got involved in trying some of the sports on offer or talking to stall holders. Nikki added: "It's our showcase event and we were really pleased with how it went. We've had fantastic feedback about people who attended are joining clubs or taking part in new activities."*

Fibromyalgia Awareness Day is 12th May 2019



Fibromyalgia Action UK
Fighting for Freedom from Fibromyalgia

May 12th is Fibromyalgia Awareness Day at **Walton**

Community Centre an event to raise awareness of this chronic pain condition. You can talk to sufferers and how it impacts on their daily lives. You can also find out more about the support that is available across the city.

The event starts at 10am and runs until 2pm. Guests include Mobility Aids Centre, St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool and Slimming World. Food and drink will be available as well as children's activities.

You can get more information from Fibromyalgia Action UK or from Peterborough and Fenland MIND.

Any money raised on the day will be donated to F.M.A.U.K

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Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) transfers

The DWP is carrying out a review of personal independence payment claimants to identify people who had their DLA stopped after they failed to attend a face to face assessment when being moved on to PIP and who later showed they had good cause for missing their assessment. They estimate that this may apply to approximately 4,600 across the UK.

If you think this may have applied to you, please contact Disability Peterborough for further advice. 01733 265551

The number of people being moved from DLA to PIP as part of the planned migration over the next year is likely to be much lower than expected as DWP staff are being diverted to review previous PIP decisions where mistakes may have been made.

Where these transfers have been postponed the reassessment is expected to resume in 2020/21.

However, if you are still on DLA and were under 65 on 8th April 2013 and you report a change of circumstances then you will be assessed under PIP rules – seek advice from one of our experienced benefit workers, ring before contacting the DWP.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) “Light touch” reviews

The DWP have announced that some of the most disabled clients with life-long conditions which are unlikely to improve and who have been awarded the enhanced rates PIP for both daily living and mobility will be moved to having a “light touch” review every 10 years instead of having a full reassessment.

At this stage there is still no guidance as to what the “light touch” review will entail.

**Special
Olympics**



Special Olympics

Peterborough Special Olympic Swimming Group is a swimming club for people who have a learning disability and is part of Special Olympics Peterborough.

The club took a group of swimmers to compete in the Special Olympics Regional Swimming Gala in Hatfield recently. Helped by parent-volunteers, the swimmers' performed amazingly well. Out of 38 races between them they achieved 23 new personal bests with many coming away with gold, silver and bronze medals. This is all achievable by commitment to training, twice weekly for some and dedicated paid and volunteer coaches- and not forgetting an army of parent volunteers.

The swimming group is part of 8 Special Olympic Sports flourishing in Peterborough and managed by Disability Peterborough.

If you would like further information, please contact Kay Greenaway on 07712427558 or email: philipnkay@btinternet.com

Readers Q & As



Q: I would like to take my elderly gran shopping in Queensgate is there any where I can borrow a wheelchair or even hire one?

A: Shopmobility, which is managed by Disability Peterborough is on the 11th floor of the Queensgate car park in Peterborough City Centre. Wheelchairs or scooters can be hired for the day. Longer term hire can also be arranged. For further information call: 01733 313133

Q: My child has Cerebral Palsy and would like to go Ice Skating. Are there any opportunities for her to try the Ice Skating?

A: Yes, Inspire Peterborough, which is managed by Disability Peterborough, has

run a very successful Inclusive Ice Skating programme for several years based at the Bretton Ice Rink. If you would like to know more about the Ice Skating or other accessible sporting activities, contact Nikki at Inspire Peterborough on 01733 330815

Q: I have a service dog; will the taxis in Peterborough take them?

A: All taxi drivers in Peterborough must take service dogs. Taxi drivers will have to show proof of why they cannot take a service dog.

If you have a Taxi related issue, you can talk to the Licencing Department at Peterborough City Council. 01733 747474

Guide Dogs – Changing lives!

Many of you have heard about Guide Dogs – this is because they have been in existence since 1931. Guide Dogs have come a long way since then and have grown and strengthened their services to support all people who are not only blind but partially sighted in ensuring their mobility needs are met.

Guide Dogs are here to serve all people who have sight loss and who may have lost confidence in getting out and about.

If you want to find out more use the following links.

Alternatively you may like someone to come and talk to your group or organisation about sight loss, their services and how they may be able to help.

Please don't hesitate to contact helen.sismore@guidedogs.org.uk or telephone the Peterborough office on: 0118 983 8741.



chose Disability Peterborough as their local charity

Nikki Griffiths and Bryan Tyler collected a cheque for £500 from QD store manager Daniel Cass recently.

Daniel said: 'We like to choose a local charity to support every year and Inspire Peterborough's

project fitted the bill perfectly. We have several employees with a disability and they all raved about the good work Inspire does in the city. A very worthwhile cause and it's great to be associated with the Disability Peterborough charity'.

Eurostar offer disabled passenger's special assistance in stations and on-board trains



Station assistance

Assistance is available for disabled passengers at both ends of the journey, with the Eurostar Assist team or the local station team. Eurostar recommends travellers book assistance in advance but even if you book a last minute journey for example.

The Eurostar Assist meeting point is always by the Eurostar ticket gates. From there, staff will take you through passport control to the departure lounge, where you can take a seat in the priority seating area. When your train's ready for boarding, they'll accompany you to your carriage. When your train arrives at your destination, they'll meet you at the carriage doors and guide you through to arrivals.

Booking special assistance

Book your tickets 48 hours before departure, call Eurostar on +44(0) 3432 186 186 and select option four, or email: contactus@eurostar.com to tell them about your needs.

Parking

The main stations in England, France and Belgium all have disabled parking, full time staff, and step-free access from concourse to platform, accessible toilets, wheelchair loan, and ramps for accessing trains, automatic doors and customer announcements.

Eurostar wheelchair spaces

If you're unable to walk 200m without help, you'll need to travel in your wheelchair in one of the two spaces on board. Both spaces are close to accessible toilets and there'll be a ramp for you to get on to the train. If you book a wheelchair space, there's no need to call ahead for assistance at Eurostar stations.

Mobility scooters

If you want to travel with your mobility scooter, you have to book a wheelchair space. If you want help getting to and from the train, you can book special assistance.

For more information email:
eurodespatch@eurostar.com



LEAP (Local Energy Advice Partnership) is a free energy and money saving advice service

The service is provided by AgilityEco alongside a number of partner organisations.

It is delivered in close partnership with Housing Associations, charities including Disability Peterborough and Local Authorities, including Peterborough City Council.

LEAP offers a free of charge in-home advice visit.

The Home Energy Advisors can:

- Install free simple energy saving measures
- Arrange a free money advice consultation
- Help you find funding for further energy saving home improvements
- Check if you're on the best energy tariff

For self-referrals use the new Freephone number: 0800 060 7567

COMING UP...

What would you do to improve health services for disabled people and carers in Peterborough?

The NHS is developing a local plan and needs your help
There will be a Focus Group meeting at:

**City College, Brook Street, PE1 1TU
on Wednesday 24th April 10.30-12.30pm
Book your place: 0330 3551285 or
enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk**

Wellbeing 2019

What is Wellbeing? Its feeling comfortable, healthy and happy.

On 24th April between 10-12am Peterborough Job Centre in Bridge Street is offering people the opportunity to meet organisations that offer support and guidance to improve wellbeing.

Come and join us for Crafternoon Tea

Open to all with a physical disability (and carers) for an afternoon of crafting, chatting & enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake!

Opportunity to try new crafting skills, or bring your own project. All skill levels are welcome. These are not craft lessons, merely likeminded people sharing skills and supporting each other.

**£2 per session, including tea and cake
1pm – 3.30pm**

**Starting Tuesday 7th May 2019 for 6 weeks
At - John Mansfield Campus Western Avenue,
Dogsthorpe, Peterborough PE1 4HX
Booking is essential – Call or email us to book
your place Tel: 01733 265551
Email: info@disabilitypeterborough.org**