

# Doncaster Carers Newsletter



Autumn 2009

## Garden Party

This year we organized the Garden Party for the Wednesday in Carers Week. Luckily the rain held off and the sun shone for most of the day.

Over 80 carers attended throughout the day. There was lots for them to do including: Guess the Babies and a Treasure Hunt. We had a cake stall, bric a brac stall, card / book and Tombola stalls.

There were lots of different information stands including Rethink, SYCIL, Dial, The Fire service and Cancer Awareness.

Providing the entertainment was a Wild West show and Bollywood dancing. Beauty therapies and henna painting was also available. The sunshine held until about 2.30pm when the rain came and everyone moved indoors where we finished the day with a game of bingo.

Some of the comments made by carers who attended the Garden Party:

- *'Great day, the food and entertainment were lovely'*
- *'It was nice talking to people who understood what I am going through (caring) and learning how they deal with things'*
- *'Found out about a support group which I can go to, also the staff (DPFC) are really helpful'*

Hope to see you all next year!



*The Garden Party*

## Info Bus

The Carers Strategy group organized an information bus for the week. This bus was parked in different localities through out Doncaster promoting carers issues and giving advice and information to carers.

DPFC staff offered advice and information on the bus on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday along with other carers strategy member organisations. We had six new contacts with carers who have now received advice, information and support from DPFC.

It was felt that the bus was a good way of interacting with the public and a good tool to engage 'hidden' carers.

# Carers Against Poverty

22<sup>nd</sup> April 09

In April we took a bus with 24 carers on board to London to take part in the first national petition and protest about the need for financial recognition for carers.



The protest was organised by a group of carers with the support of Carers UK and local carers centres such as ourselves. We met other groups of carers from all over England and Wales in Trafalgar Square and then marched down to 10 Downing St where our group certainly made themselves heard above everyone else.

DPFC had arranged for carers from Doncaster to meet local MPs Rosie Winterton, Ed Miliband and Caroline Flint at the Houses of Parliament after the petition

had been handed in. So we headed down to meet them after the petition was given to the carers chosen to go to number 10. We nearly didn't get past the entrance gates due to our T-shirts which had the slogan 'Carers Against Poverty' written across the front of them (we were told this was seen as lobbying and was not allowed). One or two carers did think about taking them off in full view of the press but in the end we were shown to a private room to turn them inside out!



All the MPs seemed very interested in what we had to say and promised to follow up on information given to them by individual carers. We headed home after what many on the bus expressed as a 'great experience and 'we all want to do it again next year' -so, watch this space!

## Meeting with Leigh Lewis Permanent Secretary at Dept of Works and Pensions

11<sup>th</sup> May 09 - London

DPFC offices were contacted at the end of April by Carers UK to see if we could arrange for some carers to attend a meeting in London with Leigh Lewis, Permanent Secretary at DWP, Terry Moran Pension, Disability and Carers Service, Jeremy Groombridge, Director Jobcentre Plus and representatives from Carers UK.

The meeting had been arranged to inform the scrutinizing of the National Audit Office report into carers' benefits and Leigh felt it would be beneficial to hear first hand carers experiences with the intent to improve services to carers.

All the carers were given a chance to talk about their experiences and raise concerns regarding the barriers faced when accessing the above services whilst in a caring role.

The meeting was felt to be productive by the carers and they left with a promise from Leigh Lewis to invite them back in 6 to 9 months time to discuss any future changes in

services/benefits to carers within the above departments.



## Update on progress

Ann Sumner is the new Care Partnership Manager for South Yorkshire. Ann will be working with her colleagues in West and North Yorkshire to ensure there is a consistent approach to the support Jobcentre Plus offers across Yorkshire and the Humber. Ann will be working with organisations to identify the support available to all carers, cascading this information to Advisers across South Yorkshire.

# DONCASTER PARTNERSHIP FOR CARERS NEWS PAGE

## LOCAL CAMPAIGNING NEWS

Hi Everyone

We have had a busy year so far with the Carers Against Poverty campaign taking us to London in April (see article) and, following on from that trip carers from Doncaster were invited by Carers UK to meet the Dept of Works and Pension Secretary Leigh Lewis in May (see article).

We cannot stop there and indeed the Carers against Poverty campaign are looking at organising some form of protest next year whilst continuing to lobby government at both national and local level.

We, at DPFC are in contact with local MPs, ensuring they are made aware of carers issues including the financial hardships put on carers due to their caring role. We would like to hear from carers about the issues affecting them in Doncaster. Please contact us to discuss any issues including if you would like to be part of the Carers Against Poverty campaign at DPFC - contact details on back page

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fay Wood at DMBC who supported the trip to London by providing funding from the Carers Grant for the bus and the T shirts).

## ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

We consulted with carers to find out what they wanted and with the information gathered we have been working with the WEA to provide a programme of activities running from Sept Jan

### 'Crafts from different Cultures'

1.00 - 3.00pm - Mondays

Start date: 13<sup>th</sup> September 09

Experience crafts from around the world such as henna painting, batik printing etc:

### 'Aromatherapy for Carers'

10.00 - 12.00pm - Thursdays.

Start date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 09

Try your hand at making bath salts, potpourri etc

*Experience the above activities whilst meeting other carers and sharing experiences and supporting each other.*

## CARERS FORUM

The Carers Forum meet on the third Wednesday of the month bi monthly  
10.00 - 12.00 pm  
at DPFC.

Dates for next two meeting are:

16<sup>th</sup> September 09

18<sup>th</sup> November 09

## DPFC PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

A new Parent support group will be meeting on the first Wednesday of the month from Sept 09  
10.00 - 12.00

**All parent carers are welcome**

Meet other parents experiencing the world of special needs education, health and social care services. Share your knowledge and learn from others, make new friends. DPFC staff will be on hand to offer advice and support

## Doncaster Partnership for Carers (DPFC) AGM

**28th September 2009**

**2.00pm - 2.30pm**

**74 Church Lane**

**Bessacarr**

**DN4 6QN**



74 Church Lane, Bessacarr,  
Doncaster DN4 6QD  
Tel: (01302) 531333  
Email: dpfc@doncastercarers.org.uk  
Web: www.doncastercarers.org.uk

**Tel: 01302 531333 Monday - Friday 9am-5pm  
except Bank Holidays. Out of these hours  
there is an answer machine for you to leave  
a message**

**Doncaster Partnership for Carers (DPFC)** support adults living in Doncaster who care for a family member, partner or friend who cannot manage without their help because they are ill, frail, have a physical disability or a mental health problem.

**All our services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL We help carers with:**

Information	Attending support groups	Speaking up for themselves
A Listening Ear	Concerns over services	Language support
Training	Having a 'voice' in health and social care service planning arenas	Accessing Services
Volunteering	Informed through our Free <b>Quarterly</b> Carers Newsletter (DCN)	Days out and meeting other carers

## Carers Coffee Morning

**Would you like to meet other carers, share experiences and knowledge, make friends, go on social outings? Then come along to Carers Coffee Morning which is held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month between 10.00am and 12.00pm at:**

**DPFC Carers Centre 74 Church Lane Bessacarr DN4 6QN**

Month	Dates	Speaker
September	9 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup>	
October	14 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup>	
November	11 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup>	

## OUTREACH SESSIONS

Outreach	Address	When	Time
Community Resource Centre	Station Road, Dunscroft (next to Sommerfield Car Park)	1st Monday of the month	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Armthorpe Library	Church Road, Armthorpe	2nd Monday of the month	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Thorne Library	The Vermuyden Centre Fieldside, Thorne	3rd Monday of the month	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Rest a While	Priory Place, Doncaster	4th Tuesday of the month	10.30am - 11.30am
Askern Library	Station Road, Askern	1st Friday of the month	10.30am - 11.30am
Redmond Centre	High Street Carcroft	2nd Friday of the month	9.30am - 10.30am
Askern Library	Station Road Askern	3rd Friday of the month	10.30am - 11.30am
Redmond Centre	High Street Carcroft	4th Friday of the month	9.30am - 10.30am

Outreach	Address	When	Time
Mayflower Medical Practice	Station Road, Bawtry DN10 6RQ	1st Monday of the month	9.30pm - 10.30pm
Carers Coffee Morning	74 Church Lane, Bessacarr	2nd Wednesday of the month	9.30pm - 10.30pm
Mayflower Medical Practice	Station Road, Bawtry DN10 6RQ	3rd Monday of the month	9.30pm - 10.30pm
Carers Coffee Morning	74 Church Lane, Bessacarr	4th Wednesday of the month	9.30pm - 10.30pm
Tandem Café	The Linney, Centre	1st Thursday of the month	2.00pm - 3.00pm
Denaby Main Opportunity Centre	Woodlands Way, Denaby Main	2nd Thursday of the month	9.30am - 11.30am
Tandem Café	The Linney, Centre	3rd Thursday of the month	2.00pm - 3.00pm
Denaby Main Opportunity Centre	Woodlands Way, Denaby Main	4th Thursday of the month	9.30am - 11.30am



### By Car

From the St Leger (racecourse) roundabout exit onto Bawtry Road (A638). Stay on Bawtry Road (A638) until you pass the Punches Hotel at these traffic lights turn left into Church Lane. When you come to the staggered junction, continue ahead on Church Lane, we are on the right.

### Bus Route

Catch the 57 bus (brown line) from stand A5, get off at the Water Tower Lane bus stop. Church Lane is the road opposite the Water Tower and we are on the right.

Articles printed in the Doncaster Carers Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view of Doncaster Partnership for Carers Ltd.

**PLEASE NOTE:** That whilst every care has been taken to provide accurate up-to-date information, no responsibility can be accepted for error or omissions in this issue, neither does the inclusion of any service imply any kind of recommendation.



Registered Charity No. 1075455  
Doncaster Partnership for Carers is a Company Limited by Guarantee.  
Registered in England & Wales No. 3698459

