

Contents

Mini Breaks for Young People	1
New Managers	2
Charging for Care in Bristol	3
Membership	4
Satisfaction Survey	4
Hate Crime Event	5
Information and Advice line	5
Human Rights Convention	6
Rowen Jade	7
Volunteers wanted	7
New Equality Act Explained	8
Peer Support	9
Listening Partnership	10
New WECIL Contract	11
Your views count	11
Contact Us	12

“Awesome Summer Camp”



Having fun abseiling.

WECIL work with Bristol City Council Youth and Play Services to provide residential breaks for young disabled people across Bristol. Our last residential was held at Atlantic College in Wales and was an opportunity for young people to have a break, learn new skills, make friends and get involved in fun activities such as canoeing, archery, sand sledging, rock climbing, abseiling and much more...

Lisa Brinkman aged 14 years said:

“I have just returned from an awesome summer camp. We stayed at Atlantic College for three nights and four days. The overall experience at camp was amazing. At first we were a little anxious about completing the challenges but there was plenty of support and encouragement from staff and students. Once we overcame our fears we gained confidence and a sense of achievement. I have great memories of the trip and will not forget the friends made. It was a great chance to have a break from everyday problems at home and have a great time with my friends. During the camp it felt as if a massive weight had been lifted off my shoulders.”

The next residential will be on 23rd - 26th October 2010 at the Bendrigg Trust (<http://www.bendrigg.org.uk>) – check out the wheelchair accessible climbing wall! The residential is open to young disabled people aged 13-25 years, who live in the Bristol area. Places are limited to 25 and are filling up fast so please be quick.

For further information please contact:
Lesley Scally, Projects Coordinator.
Telephone: 0117 903 8933
Email: lesleyscally@wecil.co.uk



Enjoying canoeing.

WECIL Welcomes New Managers

Hi I'm Kate Thomas and I joined WECIL at the end of June in the new position of **Business Development Manager**. My role is to help identify and develop new opportunities for WECIL. Since I started I have been kept busy writing applications for contracts with two of the local authorities in the South West and finding out how some of our current services compare to those provided by other organisations.

Before joining WECIL I was working in a similar role for an organisation promoting waste reduction and providing environmental consultancy services to local authorities where I picked up the very bad habit of looking in other people's bins- non recyclers beware!

In the next couple of months I will be asking service users about possible new services. If you would like to participate in some discussion groups I would love to hear from you.

Telephone: 0117 903 9868 Email: kate.thomas@wecil.co.uk



My name is Neil Humphreys and I would like to introduce myself as WECIL's new **Finance Manager**. I started on 18th August and am already thoroughly enthused about WECIL and the role itself. I would like to thank those I have already met for their welcome and support and look forward to the same with those I have yet to meet.

I'm a qualified Accountant. My last role was with the Children's Charity, Barnardo's, as Regional Finance Manager, working together with the property and "Information Services" (IT) teams to ensure joined up working and proper support to services in their work with children, young people and families. Similar to my role at Barnardo's, I look forward to using my financial skills in a way which ultimately benefits WECIL members. Prior to that I've also worked in the public and private sectors, so I've had a pretty diverse work life!

Outside of work my interests include watching rugby, history and medieval sword fighting!"

Bristol City Council is Proposing Changes to Charging for Care

Bristol City Council (BCC) is proposing changes to the way that people contribute towards the cost of their social care services. This will mean people will be charged for services and support which has previously been free.

WECIL intends to respond to BCC's 'Fairer Contributions' consultation before the 22nd October 2010 deadline and we are keen to hear your views.

After the consultation period the council intends to submit the 'Fairer Contributions Policy' to Cabinet on 25th November 2010 for a decision. The council intend to implement the policy on 3rd January 2011.

Tell us what you think:

- ◆ Although the council could choose to charge for some services and not others, they are proposing to calculate contribution costs based on the full cost of packages. This means previously free services will become chargeable by default. **No one will be better off – service users will either remain the same or be worse off. Can service users afford to be worse off?**
- ◆ Is this about fairer charging or is it about BCC raising income from people who rely on them for support?
- ◆ Recipients of Community based services (such as Day Care, Very Sheltered Housing and Direct Payment Recipients) will be worst affected. What should the council do to protect funding for these people?
- ◆ Should the council offer an independent advocate to help service users through the financial assessment process?
- ◆ If you receive Direct Payments, do you agree to charges being deducted and then receiving a net payment? Would you prefer to receive a gross payment and then BCC invoicing you for the charge?
- ◆ Do you have enough information and support on this charging issue? If not, what do you need?

We also want to hear from anyone who has already been through the financial assessment process to hear about the impact charging has had on your life.

Please contact us before October. When you contact us, please let us know if you agree to us passing your comments on to Bristol City Council.

If you would rather contact the council directly you can email fairer.contributions@bristol.gov.uk



Now is the Time to Renew Your WECIL Membership



Our members are essential in shaping the future of WECIL. Full membership gives you the right to participate and vote at our Annual General Meeting in September. Members are invited to WECIL events which this year included our 15th birthday party! You will also be kept up to date with our newsletter, any new developments and can join our online chat forum.

Full Membership is open to disabled people and remains unchanged at £4 waged and £2 unwaged. Associate Membership open to non-disabled people, is £5 waged and £2.50 unwaged. This category has participation but not voting rights.

If you wish to renew, let us know of any changes in contact details and send your membership fee. If you would like to become a new member of WECIL you can download the form from our website or contact Kath Tobin, PA to Chief Executive Officer for a copy.

For further information or if you have any questions about this please call Kath on **0117 903 8908** or email membership@wecil.co.uk.

Are You Satisfied?

As an organisation run by disabled people for disabled people we are always keen to hear the views of our service users and one of the ways we do this is through the annual satisfaction survey.

If you have used one of our services in the past year you will soon be invited to complete our annual survey. The survey only takes a few minutes to complete and this year for the first time you can complete it on-line or by post. It is your opportunity to tell us: what we do well and how you think we could improve.

We value your opinions and use the information to improve our services and plan for the future. We listened to what you told us last year and as a result we launched a new website with an on-line forum so users can share their views, we worked with City of Bristol College to design and pilot PA training through 'Right Skills, Right Practice,' all staff were issued with new and updated identification badges, we redesigned PA timesheets making them more user friendly and we are about to have our new telephone system installed which will mean it will be easier for you to get through to us.

WECIL want to continue to provide quality services that meet the needs of disabled people and we can only do that if you tell us what you want, so make sure you have YOUR say!



Hate Crime Awareness Event for South Gloucestershire

Avon and Somerset Constabulary have funded WECIL to host two disability hate crime awareness raising events in South Gloucestershire. This builds on the disablist hate crime work we deliver in Bristol through our Disablist Incidents and Crime Education (DICE) project. The first event will be on:



Tuesday 2nd November

1.00pm - 4.30pm

Conference Centre, Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds

Please come along to find out more. A member of the Listening Partnership group will be presenting the anti-bullying DVD “In Our Own Words” which was created by the group. The main speaker will be Chief Superintendent, Andy Francis, Chair of the South Gloucestershire Partnership Against Hate Crime who will be talking about the work that is being done in the county.

Hope to see you there!

For further information please contact: Sarah Howard, Project Worker
Tel: 0117 377 2732 Email: dice@wecil.co.uk

Disability Information and Advice Line Service

The Government is changing the way they assess peoples entitlement to some benefits. If you would like help to complete your Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance Form or your application for either of these benefits has been turned down and you would like to appeal against the decision, we can help you.

WECIL's Disability Information Advice Service (DIAS) which is funded by Bristol City Council offers comprehensive welfare benefits advice as well as information on a broad range of services that relate to all aspects of disabled people's lives including finances, health, leisure, travel and care.

We also provide information about disability issues to employers, service providers and other organisations.

You can contact the service either by emailing dias@wecil.co.uk or by calling us on 0117 983 2828. The advice line is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am -1 pm.

Shape the Human Rights for Disabled People in the UK

Last year the UK government ratified the United Nation Convention on the rights of disabled people. This forces UN member states to take active steps to ensure that the human rights of disabled people are respected. It is a very important and powerful process that affects all disabled people. It actively promotes equality and the inclusion of disabled people in society. The Convention, now signed, requires the UK government to change laws and policies, eliminate discrimination and actively consult with disabled people and their organisations. It covers a range of rights, including; the right to life, freedom from inhumane and degrading treatment, respect for integrity, privacy, family life, access to information, health, education, work and living standards.

The Convention is based on the Social Model of Disability and requires that disabling barriers and attitudes are removed. However, the Convention is not enforced by going to court, rather disabled people can use it as campaigning tool and make reference to it when challenging decisions and policies that affect our lives. You can find out more about the Convention on the UN website see www.un.org/disabilities.

The Convention requires the UK government to monitor and report to the UN on how well they think they have done in protecting and promoting the human rights of disabled people. The UN committee then tells the UK government what they think they have done well, and where they can improve. We believe it is important for the UN and the government to hear the real life voices and experiences of disabled people. Many of us face barriers every day, our human rights are denied too often. We could work and use the Convention to make these rights a reality. The United Kingdom Disabled Peoples Council (UKDPC, formerly BCODP) and nine disabled people's Organisations (DPOs) across England, including WECIL, are working together to collect information and evidence from disabled people about human rights abuses.

So, if you have or think you may have experienced a situation when you were discriminated, excluded, disrespected or treated differently because you are a disabled person, please get in touch with WECIL and tell us what happened. This information will be used to create a report that will inform the UN about the human rights for disabled people and shape future policy in the UK.

Would you like to advertise here?

If you would like to support WECIL and promote your services to our 2000 + readers you now can.

From £ 45.00

Space will be limited so contact us early for the December issue: info@wecil.co.uk

Rowen Jade

We are very sorry to hear of Rowen's death last week.



Rowen's death is an enormous loss to the disabled community. Her actual physical presence was small but she had an enormous emotional impact and was an inspirational force to any disabled person who met her and she will be greatly missed. Rowen was a strong supporter of WECIL, having been employed by us as a Youth Independent Living Worker for three years she then

continued to support us and stay in touch by being a WECIL member.

We send lots of love to her family who are in our thoughts at this difficult time.

WECIL is Looking for Volunteers

Could you spare a few hours a week? Do you have a passion which hasn't yet been realised? Maybe we could help you; all we need is your time and commitment for a few hours a week volunteering.

If you want to gain first hand experience, brush up on existing skills or want to use us as a stepping stone into employment, we can help. **Full training, support and expenses are available.** We are currently seeking volunteers to help with the following projects:

- ♦ **A project supporter** to collect stories from disabled people who have experienced incidents that breach the Human Rights Convention for Disabled People. You will need good communication skills, be IT literate and willing to undergo an enhanced CRB check.
- ♦ **A researcher** to carry out on-street survey's and help in recruiting individuals to participate in focus groups.
- ♦ **An Assessor** to support the board in improving governance arrangements, skills and knowledge using existing auditing tools.
- ♦ **General project assistants** whose work covers a variety of tasks including reception duties, on-line research and general admin; these roles can be adapted to meet your skills



For more information or to chat about any of these opportunities please contact:
Janice Saunders, Resources Coordinator
Telephone: 0117 903 8922 Email: janicesaunders@wecil.co.uk

New Equality Act Explained

The Equality Act 2010 comes into effect on 1st October and replaces the existing antidiscrimination laws (including the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005) with a single Act. The Equality Act simplifies the law, removing inconsistencies and making it easier for people to understand and comply with it. It also strengthens the law in important ways to help tackle discrimination and inequality.

The Equality Act contains new provisions, including the concept of dual discrimination, an extended public sector Equality Duty and a prohibition on age discrimination in services and public functions.

The Act protects the same groups of people that were covered by previous equality legislation, by reference to what are now called 'protected characteristics' – disability being one of them.

The changes and new provisions relating to disability are summarised below.

Changes

The Act protects people who were previously disabled, are mistakenly thought to be disabled, or people who experience discrimination because of their association with a disabled person. These people are now protected against direct discrimination and harassment.



To qualify for protection from discrimination, a disabled person no longer has to show that their impairment affects a particular 'capacity', such as mobility or speech, hearing or eyesight.

Direct disability discrimination is now unlawful not just in relation to work but also in other areas, such as access to goods and services.

Reasonable adjustments must be made where disabled people experience a 'substantial disadvantage'.

Victimisation – there is now no need for a victim to show that they have been treated less favourably than someone who has not made or supported a complaint under the Act. They only need to show that they have been badly treated.

New Provisions

Discrimination arising from disability means it is unlawful to treat a disabled person unfavourably because of something connected with their disability unless there is a genuine reason for the treatment of the disabled person and the treatment is an appropriate response.

The Equality Act protects disabled people from indirect discrimination and from disability-related harassment.

For more information have a look at the Government Equalities Office www.equalities.gov.uk/equality_act_2010.aspx

Peer Support for Direct Payment Recipients

On 16th June we were delighted to welcome Anne Pridmore to give a talk and to answer questions at a peer support meeting. Anne was an early campaigner for Direct Payments and now runs a website called 'Being the Boss' which offers peer support to disabled people who employ their own Personal Assistants (PA). Anne is an experienced PA user who has lots of ideas and information to share.



“It is reassuring to know we are not alone, that we are doing things right and where there are stressful situations it is the same for others”
(comment from a Direct Payment recipient at the event).

There was also plenty of time for chatting and sharing stories over a tasty lunch! WECIL has applied to Bristol City Council for funding for further peer support events. Look out for further events in future newsletters.

Would you like to get in contact with others who are receiving Direct Payments?

WECIL holds a database of people who are in receipt of Direct Payments, this is called the 'Peer Support Contact List'. Through the list you can either make contact with people who receive Direct Payments or your details can be added so people can contact you, or both. If you would like to be involved all you have to do is:

- ◆ Speak to your WECIL Independent Living Advisor or,
- ◆ Call the Direct Payment Support Line on 0117 3772734 (Monday to Friday 1-4pm)
- ◆ Or email the Support Line dpsupport@wecil.co.uk

This list is available to all Direct Payment Recipients it does not matter how much or how little we support you. Through the contact list you can communicate with other people and share your experiences.

Some people receiving Direct Payments say it is really good to speak to others about recruiting, being an employer, finding agency support and even how it feels once that the set up process is complete. If you think it would help to talk to others about this experience please get in touch with us and we will be happy to put you in contact.

Direct Payment Support- Quality Assured

On the 6th July we had a Quality Assurance Monitoring visit from Bristol City Council; we were delighted to receive overwhelmingly good feedback with no suggestions for improvement. The report summary said “WECIL offer a professional and tailored service to meet individual need. Staff presented as extremely professional, experienced and passionate about the work”



Beth asks Deputy Prime Minister the implications of budget cuts for people with learning difficulties

It is always great to hear from past members of the Listening Partnership group and to find out what they have been up to, so imagine our delight when we received this photo from Beth, a long standing member of the group, who left earlier this year.



When Beth heard that Nick Clegg was to hold a question and answer session on a local radio station in Bristol she knew she wanted to be involved. She phoned into the station to request a place. Both Beth and her PA were accepted into the audience and Beth was chosen to ask her question. Two people congratulated Beth on the question, saying they wanted to ask the same thing. The event was covered by Sky News and broadcast across the UK.

Beth is pictured here holding the microphone, while her PA takes notes so that the answer could be put into easy English later.

Listening Partnership is currently recruiting new members

Listening Partnership is a forum group for young disabled people aged between 13 and 25 years living in Bristol. The group decide what they want to do, including going out on trips and inviting speakers to the group to help them explore disability and discrimination issues and find out about their rights so that they can have a say in decisions that affect their lives. The group meets on Mondays evenings. If you are interested in coming along contact Sarah Howard our Youth Participation Worker - details below

Did you know that your organisation can consult with young disabled people?

If you want to know what young disabled people think about your services and how they would improve book a consultation with Listening Partnership.

Contact Sarah Howard Telephone: 0117 903 8918 or e-mail listeningpartnership@wecil.co.uk



WECIL Wins New Contract

WECIL are very pleased to announce that we have been successful in securing a new contract with South Gloucestershire Council to continue to provide Direct Payment Support Services to children & their families in receipt of Direct Payments, for a further two and a half years from October 2010.



WECIL has delivered Direct Payment Support in South Gloucestershire for the last four and a half years and we were keen to continue to do so. Staff worked hard to put together a comprehensive bid for this new contract to show the standard of support WECIL provides.

We are very proud of the working partnership that we have with South Gloucestershire council. We are so pleased that they have given WECIL this contract because this demonstrates that they have prioritised quality of service for children receiving Direct Payment in South Gloucestershire.

BS100 – Tell us what you think!

We need you! We are setting up an online consultation group called the Bristol 100 or 'BS100'. The idea is to set up a network of around 100 disabled people who can provide their expert opinion on a wide range of issues. Any disabled person who has access to the internet and is based in the Bristol area would be able to become a member. A similar scheme is already up and running in Cornwall with Disability Cornwall. Opinions and feedback will be treated confidentially and this is a great way for people to get their voice heard. Members do not have to travel to meetings, can give their feedback at a time which suits them and can give a quick response if needed. Consultations would be limited so that you would not be bombarded with requests!

As well as recruiting members who would like to join the network, we need a talented volunteer to help set it up. You will need to have good administrative skills, computing skills and the enthusiasm to promote the project to disabled people. Any experience of writing surveys would be helpful. If you have any questions, would like to join the network or to chat about being a volunteer, please contact:



Anna Wheeler, ULO Project Co-ordinator ulo@wecil.co.uk Tel: 0117 903 8929

Contact Us



Telephone Main Reception

0117 903 8900 (9am-4:30pm Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm Friday)



Post

WECIL Ltd, The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue,
Fishponds, Bristol BS16 2QQ



Internet

Email: reception@wecil.co.uk Website: www.wecil.co.uk



Fax 0117 983 6765

Disablilst Incidents and Crime Education (DICE)

Telephone: 0117 377 2732 Email: dice@wecil.co.uk

Payroll Bureau

Telephone: 0117 903 8912 Email: payroll@wecil.co.uk

Disability Information & Advice Service (DIAS)

Helpline: 0117 983 2828 (Tuesday-Thursday 10am-1pm)

Email: dias@wecil.co.uk

Care Management Advocacy Service (CMAP)

Telephone: 0117 903 8920 Email: advocacy@wecil.co.uk

Direct Payment Support Line

Telephone: 0117 377 2734 (Monday-Friday 1pm-4pm)

Email: dpsupport@wecil.co.uk

Listening Partnership

Telephone: 0117 903 8900 Email: listeningpartnership@wecil.co.uk

Out and About

Telephone: 0117 9038900 Email: lesleyscalley@wecil.co.uk

Please contact us if you would like this newsletter in another format.

