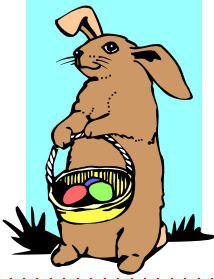


EAST DORSET MENCAP NEWSLETTER



MARCH
2011



CO – CHAIRMAN’S NOTES

Hello and welcome to our latest newsletter,

There have been exciting times here at East Dorset Mencap since our last newsletter in November, we have, as ever continued with our fundraising drive and our annual quiz was its usual great success raising us over £400! It is gratifying to know that even in these difficult times people are still out there supporting us in the work that we do.

In December we said goodbye to our much loved senior club leader Jackie who had been with us for many years, we wish her all the best in the future and thank her and her team most sincerely for the amazing job that they have done.

Also in December we officially relaunched our junior club ‘Poppets’, this was a really great day and we had lots of visitors, fun and games. Poppets continues to be a well supported club and is invaluable to those that use it.

We also welcome on board this month our new Senior club leader Becky who will run her first club at the beginning of April. We very much look forward to working with her and some exciting times at club.

Its that time of year again when the AGM is upon us, there are details later in the newsletter but please do come if you can. We are your local Mencap and we would very much like to see some of our members, we would love to hear your opinions.

There are a few fundraising events coming up, a couple of carnivals and a clothes show organised by Tracy especially for learning disability awareness week so please come along to any that you are able!!

Finally Tracy (one of our trustees) has also been working furiously to design and relaunch our beautiful new website. This will go live in the next few weeks. We are hoping that this will prove to be an invaluable source of information for us all!

Thanks go to everyone involved in East Dorset Mencap for their hard work and commitment that make us possible.

Hope to see you all at the A.G.M.

Claire Co-chairman

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

April 18th – A.G.M.

**To be held at the Community Learning Centre, Wimborne
From 6.30pm. Refreshments are provided. We also have
three speakers, who will each give a short talk. They are:
Jude Allen from Arts Plus,
Helen Ross, talking about disabilities and
Carol Burgess, telling us about Mencap changes in
Community Development.**

May 30th

Verwood Carnival

June 11th

Corfe Mullen Carnival

June 22nd

**Travelling trends Fashion Show at Lockyers Middle School,
Corfe Mullen. For further info contact Tracey at
traceyroberts131@hotmail.com**

If anyone has any bottles (of the alcoholic variety!) which they could donate to any of the above events, please bring them to the A.G.M.

NB. Please could you let Sarah know if you can attend the A.G.M. so that she has numbers for the catering. Either ring on 01202 548001 or email on sarah.ingram2@btopenworld.com

EDITOR'S NOTES

Hi Everyone,

I can't believe that it is nearly Easter again!! It's true, the older you get the faster it goes!
The Quiz in January went well again, not quite as many teams as last year but still a good attendance in spite of the recession. I don't think Jim made the questions too hard this time! The "Landlords" were the winners & they very kindly donated their £30 prize money back to us. Second, was a team from Ferndown Rotary Club, & we thank them once more for their continued support.

On a personal note, we have sold the caravan! We have decided at this time in our lives we need a few creature comforts – no more treks to the loo in the middle of the night in the pouring rain, no more sleepless nights as the rain & wind lash the van etc.etc.! However we will miss the nice camp sites we have visited over the years & lots of other things – but time for change.

Hope you all have a lovely Easter – don't eat too many eggs!!

Yours Mary

Article from Carol Burgess, your Community Development Officer

Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole

Mencap, PO Box 7386

Dorchester DT1 9FH

The last few weeks have been very busy organising and attending the Big Cuts Events in Bristol and Exeter, Mencap are holding events across England on the government's planned cuts and how to deal with them. The Big Cuts events bring together people from across the learning disability community to discuss the cuts in their local area.

The South West events were extremely well attended, in fact we had a waiting list for Exeter! Professor Luke Clements, a leading community care lawyer, gave legal advice and explained that some of the cuts may not be legal and how they could be challenged. Carers found the presentations very enlightening and many said they now felt 'empowered' and would challenge why some of their services were being cut. (More info on this can be found on our website www.mencap.org.uk)

On 28th March, the Dorset Parent Carer Council are holding an event at Kingston Maurward, just outside Dorchester for people to find out what is going on across Dorset, with lots of stands and information. I will have a Mencap stand there and hope local mencap groups will also get involved.

Learning Disability Week is 19-25 June, which this year will highlight Hate Crime, and we hope local groups will help us with our new campaign and get involved - more details of this will be sent to local groups.

Poppets Report

Poppets has been doing very well since the last newsletter, we have had our official relaunch and got a write up in the echo. We have a steady, regular group of children that come to club and lots of interest from new people who might want to come in the future. We have lots of wonderful volunteers that come every club session. Carmela is planning to design some new fliers for the club so that we can advertise in appropriate places. Carmela is now off on maternity leave and her husband Simon, who as you all know also volunteers at club, will be taking over the running of the Poppets while Carmela is away.

Congratulations to them on the birth of baby Esme!

Senior Club

We are delighted to announce that we have recently appointed Rebecca Morgan as our new leader commencing on Saturday 2nd April. Becky lives in Winton, studied at Highcliffe School, Brockenhurst and Bournemouth Colleges before completing a law degree at the University of Hertfordshire. She is currently managing two supported living properties for vulnerable adults with complex needs.

We are sure Becky will be made most welcome by all, and quickly settle in and move the Club forward, following Jacqui's excellent leadership over the years. If you would like to meet and have an informal chat with Becky, she will be attending the AGM on Monday 18th April at the Community Learning Resource Centre (CLRC) in Wimborne.

EXTRACTS FROM VIEWPOINT – Feb issue:

THE END OF THE DLA?

The Government is planning to replace the Disability Living allowance:

The government has launched a consultation on plans to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with a new benefit – Personal Independence Payment.

DLA is a non-means-tested benefit and is paid to over 3 million people. Launching the consultation, Minister for Disabled People Maria Miller said: “Personal Independence Payment will maintain the key principles of DLA, providing cash support to help overcome the barriers which prevent disabled people from participating fully in everyday life, but it will be delivered in a fairer, more consistent and sustainable manner.”

Like DLA, Personal Independence Payment would have two components – mobility and daily living. The government plans to introduce it in 2013/14 by reassessing recipients of DLA of working age. In most cases, the assessment would involve a meeting with an independent healthcare professional.

Jane Alltimes, a Mencap senior campaigns and policy officer, said: “We welcome the principle of making the new benefit easier to understand. However, the emphasis on focusing support on those with the highest needs is concerning.

“The government must ensure that people with a learning disability, including those with moderate needs, don’t miss out on support to carry out everyday activities. DLA is not paid on the basis of a medical diagnosis, but to compensate disabled people for the extra costs incurred by the effect their condition has on their ability to get around or look after themselves. So it will be a challenge for any new medical assessment to assess this.”

Cuts for people in residential homes

Mencap and other disability organisations are continuing to campaign against plans to cut the

mobility element of DLA for people living in residential care homes.

Jane Alltimes said: “It isn’t entirely clear from the consultation paper how these plans will be carried over to Personal Independence Payment, but it seems likely that there will be some exemptions for people living in residential homes.”

Maria Miller revealed, in response to a written parliamentary question, that 80,000 people will be affected by the removal of the mobility component for those in residential care, rather than the previous estimate of 60,000.

The government’s argument that the DLA mobility component is an ‘overlap of public funds’ is wrong, according to *Don’t limit mobility*, a report submitted to MPs on 12 January by 27 organisations representing disabled people.



Go to www.mencap.org.uk/dla

Key point

- Disability Living Allowance is changing.

Independent Living Fund to close

The government has decided to phase out the Independent Living Fund, which supports people with severe disabilities, by 2015. The 21,000 recipients of the fund currently receive an average of £300 a week to help pay for carers, so they can live at home, rather than in a care home. Richard Hawkes, chief executive of disability charity Scope, said it was a “bemusing” decision. “It’s hard to see how phasing out this fund will do anything but narrow down options and push people towards greater dependence on the state.”

CONTACT ADDRESSES ARE:

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Claire Light – Chairperson – **Please note new address** – Barnstorf, Holtwood, Wimborne BH21 7DX. Phone 01202 251106

Mary Cooke – Editor, 93, Redhill Drive, Ensbury Park, Bournemouth. BH10 6AG.
Phone – 01202 528313 email james.cooke80@ntlworld.com

“Poppets” Group Leader – Carmela Coady – email carmela.coady@btinternet.com

Winton Gateway Club – Anna Reeves on 07872 627301 annareeves0@hotmail.com

Ferndown Gateway Club – Keith Henderson email - keith-kate.alwayslate@virgin.net

Community Development Officer – Carol Burgess. email - carol.burgess@mencaporg.uk

Below are all the local groups in the area:

Mencap Community Groups

Mencap Groups providing services

East Dorset Mencap – based Poole www.eastdorsetmencap.co.uk

Contact: Sarah Ingram Tel 01202 548001 or email eastdorsetmencap@yahoo.co.uk

West Dorset Mencap – based Bridport email secretary@westdorsetmencap.free-online.co.uk Contact Mervyn Harris 01305 848338 mervynharris981@btinternet.com

Mid Dorset Mencap – based Dorchester (currently in process of affiliation)

Contact Karen Mott 01305 854986 Email: gatemoor@btinternet.com

Gateway Clubs providing social activities

Club Name and area	Sunrise Weymouth	Stallbridge Sturminster Newton	Ferndown /West Moors	Sherborne	Snap Club Verwood	Purbeck Wareham
Meeting day	Thurs eve	Thurs eve	Monday eve	Thursday eve fortnightly	Weds eve	Thursday eve
Contact details	Shirley Snell 01305 7841101	Jude Watts 01963 362535	Jackie Loft 01202 894414	Mike Collins 01935 813499	Maureen Abel 01425 658208	Lewis Bell 01929 552173

MENCAP LEARNING DISABILITY HELPLINE: 0808 808 1111

This help line offers a confidential and impartial service and calls are free from an ordinary phone.

Opening hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. When an advisor is not available you can leave a message and they will get back to you.