

Disability Peterborough
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www.disabilitypeterborough.org

Registered Charity No. 1089250
Company Limited by guarantee: 4255588

February - March 2020



News, views & information
from Peterborough
Disability Forum

Newsletter



Disability Peterborough would like to thank Hegarty Solicitors for making us Charity of the year for 2019.

Hegarty Solicitors have a dedicated charity committee who organise events throughout the year to raise money for their chosen 'charity of the year'.

The company has three offices: Peterborough, Stamford and Oakham, and they aim to choose a local charity for each office on a yearly rotation basis as their charity of the year. In 2019, Disability Peterborough was chosen as their local charity to support as their charity of the year, and raised £1,200 through organising events such as dress down days and they also hosted an annual company quiz.

I would like to welcome everyone to our first newsletter of 2020!



We understand that rumors have been circulating that we have shut down or withdrawn our specialist Information Advice and Guidance services, this is not the case. Although PCC no longer fund us, we are working hard to find funding to keep our specialist disability services running in the city. The support and ideas you have sent us are very much appreciated and we are following up on many levels.

Dr Timothy Hall at Peterborough University is just in the process of completing an independent in depth report on the value of our services. We will be able to share the findings with you all in the next edition.

We would like to welcome Graham Barnes to our team and he will be working on fundraising and media. The Rank Foundation is funding this new post and I know that Graham is looking forward to meeting a wide variety of organisations and individuals who offer services for disabled people.

Let us know if you have any ideas for future editions and we will do our best to include topics that are very relevant to disabled people in Peterborough.

Thank you...

Disability Peterborough would like to thank all those who helped with the Christmas wrapping at Serpentine Green between 17th and 23rd December 2019.

Special thanks go to, Serpentine Green, Accord Mortgages (Yorkshire Bank) and BGL, extra thanks to BGL for match funding on the days their volunteers came to help.



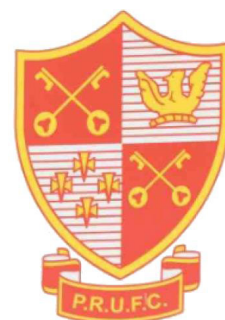
Thanks also go to Tesco's The Card Factory and M&S for their donation of supplies.

A total of £2020.65 was raised and this will go towards the running cost of Disability Peterborough projects.

Thanks to Peterborough Rugby Club for allowing the Special Olympics to hold a tombola at one of their tournaments and raise £122.00

The past president, Mr B Morley was so impressed with the work that the Special Olympics do he organized a further collection and donated a further £110. This year Peterborough Special

Olympics are sending individuals to take part in the regions games and if successful there is a potential for them to compete in the National Special Olympics in 2021.



HOW TO CONTACT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED

It is possible to text, rather than call, the emergency services?

Emergency SMS is similar to the police's Silent Solution and allows deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired people in the UK send an SMS text message to the UK 999 service where it will be passed on to the police, ambulance, fire rescue or coastguard.

In order to use the service, you must first register your mobile phone number with the emergency services.

To do this, text "register" to 999. You will then receive a message confirming that you have been registered with the service.

To text 999 in an emergency, you will need to text which emergency service you require, briefly explain the problem and where the problem is happening giving the name of the road, house number, postcode, or nearby landmark, if possible.

After sending the text message, you will receive a response

which will either ask for more information or tell you that help

is on the way. You should not assume your message has been received until the emergency service sends a message back. It will usually take about two minutes before you get a reply. If you do not receive a reply within three minutes, you are advised to try again or find other ways of getting help.

Contact **999**
by **SMS text**



Your privacy is important to us! We want you to know that by subscribing to the newsletter that we will not give your contact information to anyone. You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking the link at the bottom of any newsletter.

Can you avoid paying Care Home or Nursing Fees?



Moving into a care home can be very expensive and many people are forced to sell their home to pay for their care.

You can get help with paying for your care from your local authority, but this is means-tested and your savings and any property you own will be taken into account when determining your eligibility.

It is not surprising then that some companies offer advice on how to avoid paying for care. It has been said that mis-selling of legal packages to help avoid paying care fees could be like the PPI mis-selling scandal and you should seek sound legal advice before handing over any money to these schemes.

Although trust schemes can work, their effectiveness cannot be guaranteed. Your local authority can challenge your exemption from paying care fees – for example if it can show that a significant reason for you putting your property into trust was to avoid care costs and, at the time you did it, you had a reasonable expectation that you'd need care in the future. Local authority guidance does say, however, that it would be unreasonable for the council to reach this conclusion

if you were fit and healthy when you transferred the property.

Whether such arrangements, even if they are not challenged, are likely to be of real benefit to you in practice will depend upon your individual circumstances. Your income might be enough to pay most or all your care fees anyway. It may be that the level of your other capital is enough to cover the shortfall between your income and care fees for the likely length of your stay in care.

This is a very complex area of law – there are many factors to consider – and it's highly recommended that you consult a solicitor with experience and expertise in this field. They should look at your family, health and financial situation and advise you as an individual.

This advice should be backed up in a written report and you should then be given time to consider whether and how you wish to proceed. Schemes which claim to give guaranteed protection to protect your home from care fees which sound too good to be true, may well be just that.

Last month's statistics from the DWP and the Tribunals Service are full of percentages.

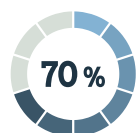
Below are statistics relating to disability benefits (from DWP figures to October 2019)



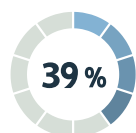
of DLA to PIP claimants who have so far had their benefits stopped or reduced.



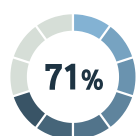
of PIP and ESA claimants who are now winning their appeals.



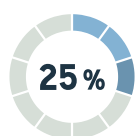
of new PIP claimants who did not get any award at all.



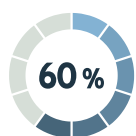
of claimants have had their benefit increased when they moved from DLA to PIP.



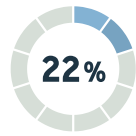
of new PIP awards last two years or less.



have lost their entire award on being moved from DLA to PIP.

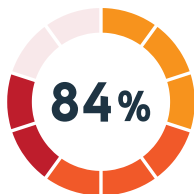


of new ESA claimants who are put in the support group.



have had their benefit reduced but not stopped altogether.

In comparison the rate of successful new claims for PIP was 84% (as against the national figures of 30% for the same period) when trained advisors from Disability Peterborough helped with the application process.



We strongly advise anyone with physical disabilities should seek out specialist advice as the figures above speak for themselves.

Tel 01733 265551 for an appointment.



Government Promises New 'Changing Places' Toilets in Hospitals

Changing Places are fully accessible toilets and are designed so that they are completely accessible and provide enough space and equipment for people who are not able to use the toilet independently. There must be an extra facility, in addition to the accessible toilets for independent use.

The Government has committed to giving half a million pounds to expand the number of Changing Places in hospitals across the UK. There are currently only around 40 Changing Places in hospitals. In time, the new funding should take this number to over 100.

The initial funds will enable 15 new Changing Places to be built. Caroline Dinenage, Minister for Care has said a further £1.5 million will be available to bid for, and she has called for new build hospitals to have Changing Places built into them. 40 new hospitals are planned. "People with severe disabilities deserve to live with dignity and comfort, but lack of access to adequate toilet facilities can be a real challenge. Hospitals, like all public spaces, have a duty to cater for people with disabilities – who risk discomfort, embarrassment and even injury without access to a Changing Place.



Crafternoon Tea

Irene is seen here displaying the lovely craft work she made herself several years ago, Irene is regular attender of Crafternoon Tea and brought these in to show her friends in the group.

The Crafternoon Tea sessions are proving very popular and provide an accessible venue for people with a disability.

Come and have a cup of tea and meet the group to see if you would like to try a new craft activity or bring you own.

Crafternoon Tea is held at The John Mansfield Campus, Western Ave, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough PE1 4HX. At 1pm to 3.30 on Tuesdays with a £3.50 contribution per session.

Booking is essential, simply call or email so that we know you are coming.

T: **01733265551**

E: **info@disabilitypeterborough.org**

New location for Visitor Information Centre

From **2 January 2020** the Visitor Information Centre will be moving to the Town Hall on Bridge Street. All services that used to be offered for visitors and residents including brochures for attractions and events and general advice will continue at the Town Hall reception.

Bus passes and blue badges will be offered at the **Customer Services Centre**, also in Bridge Street, for six months prior to the services transferring online.

Carers Wellbeing Event

Do you know any unpaid/family carers who would welcome the opportunity to take time away from their caring responsibilities?

On March 26th between 10am - 3pm unpaid/family carers can attend a free Carers Wellbeing Event at the Bull Hotel in Peterborough to enjoy free pampering sessions, information and advice from an array of organisations and much more. Refreshments will be provided free of charge throughout the day including a buffet lunch and afternoon tea with homemade cakes. The pampering sessions include free manicures, massage, etc. Unpaid carers are welcome to bring those that they 'care for' if they cannot make alternative arrangements.

This an opportunity for unpaid carers to relax and take time out of their busy schedules. Carers are welcome to attend for an hour, few hours or the whole day it is entirely up to them.

To book a place please telephone 01733 207133 or email workforcedevelopment@peterborough.gov.uk

Peterborough Cardio Cuppa Club

For anyone who has had a cardiac event, regular support and activities are offered through the Cuppa Club. The Ferry Meadows Walks are approximately 2 miles depending on ability level and can be undertaken at your own pace. You do not need to book.

Cardiac Support Group, Argo Lounge, 7 Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1EH

10am on: Fri 7th Feb, Fri 6th Mar, Fri 3rd Apr, Fri 1st May, Fri 5th Jun.

Ferry Meadows Walks, Ferry Meadows Kitchen & Bar, Ham Lane, Peterborough, PE2 5UU

10am on: Thur 20th Feb, Mon 16th Mar, Thur 16th Apr, Mon 11th May, Thur 18th Jun.

Contact Cardiac Rehabilitation Team, Peterborough City Hospital.

Tel: 01733 673785 Email: peh-tr.cardiacrehab@nhs.net