

Peterborough Disability Forum

NewsLink May 2017

Inspirational Nikki gets the gongs!



Well done Inspire Peterborough Manager Nikki Griffiths who scooped two awards at the recent Civic Awards Ceremony. The awards, for Community Involvement and Sport were well deserved according to Peterborough Disability Forum co-chair Barry Plumb. Barry said "Nikki thoroughly merits this recognition for all the hard work she has put in to making

Peterborough the "go to" place for inclusive and accessible sporting activities. It's made even better by the fact that Nikki has been given these awards by local people and local community groups who see the benefit of all of her hard work."

Report from Peterborough Special Olympics Swimming Group for Disability and Community Awareness Month by Dr Johanna Sydenham



PDOSG had a stand for the first three days of the Disability and Community Awareness Month held in the atrium of the Serpentine Green Shopping Centre. The first day was very exciting as the first stands were set up, ably supported by the staff of Serpentine Green getting tables and chairs. David Wait

the manager was wonderful coming to chat to us all asking about our groups and if we needed anything. The Mayor arrived up at noon to the rousing singing of the local primary school to give an opening speech.

We had lots of interest in our stand with people taking leaflets and watching the video PSOSG- This is us. This was helped by the enticing cakes made by Stacey, one of our mums, and also by having Susie the Mermaid, our mascot patiently answering lots of question by curious passers-by. The following week we already had 2 new swimmers coming to our group, several other enquiries about PSOSG and three enquiries to the SO Equestrian group. It was certainly worth all the hard work by many behind the scenes to get the event up and running and also the support from our volunteers and swimmers who helped man the stand over the three days. www.peterboroughsoswimminggp.wordpress.com

Inspiring Peterborough Radio Show gets a new time



On Friday 14th April Peterborough Community Radio Station (PCR) went FM potentially adding a whole new audience to those that already listen to Peterborough's only FM community station. Lots of new presenters, features and programmes including a Sunday night slot (7-9 pm) for the Inspiring Peterborough Radio Show.

If you don't know about the Inspiring Peterborough Radio Show, it's one of the few shows in the UK which brings news, views and information for people with disabilities or long term health conditions, as well as their family members and carers. The show also includes news and interviews from the community at large. From parking at the hospital, access to public buildings through to inclusive sport and leisure activities, the programme covers it all!

There is some really good music and some fascinating and informative guests!

If you want to raise your charities profile or promote your organisations events contact producer Sally Booth: radio@inspirepeterborough.com
But please remember Sally needs to hear from you at least a month before the event or if you want to be a guest on a Friday morning.

Wednesday PHAB Club moves to new location



**Wednesday
Phab Club
Peterborough**

After 5 years at the Kingfisher in Bretton, the popular Wednesday evening club has moved. Wednesday PHAB Club is now located at the Pyramid Community Centre.

Watergall, Bretton, PE3 8NZ. 7.30pm start-finish at 9.30pm.

Sportivate Racing Wheelchair Project



Ian Nolan from the Special Needs Athletics Club is offering taster sessions (experience of using a racing wheelchair) for 3 weeks starting on the 17th May (5.45pm-7.15pm) at the Peterborough Athletics Track. The taster sessions will be conducted on the straight section of track at the far end of the oval track.

Details can be found on the NVH website:

www.nvhspecialneedsclub.moonfruit.com

To book a taster session please email Ian: ian929nolan@btinternet.com.

Thousands have disability vehicles taken away



More than 50,000 disabled people have had their vehicles taken away since benefit changes impacted on the scheme in 2013. The Motability scheme entitles disabled people to lease a specially adapted new car, scooter or powered wheelchair using part of their benefit. But the charity says that 51,000 people have lost their vehicles since the system was changed in 2013. DWP says there are more people on the scheme now than in 2010.

Changes to the process came in 5 years ago when personal independence payments (PIPs) were launched to replace the disability living allowance (DLA). Of the 51,000 taken off, more than 3,000 people have since re-joined the scheme after the original decision to refuse them PIP was overturned. Recipients of PIPs are assessed using a points system to determine what level of help they receive.

To qualify for the higher level of mobility component of PIPs, which is needed to lease a Motability vehicle, there are a number of criteria, including being unable to walk unaided for 20 metres. Compared with 50 metres under DLA rules.

Charity Muscular Dystrophy UK said 900 cars are now being taken away every week, as more people are rejected for PIP. Campaigners, including the Conservative MP Peter Bone, are demanding changes to the Motability programme, so that vehicles are not taken away before claimants have had a chance to appeal against a decision. Mr Bone said: "You appeal against the PIP award and ultimately the tribunal awards you back the PIP, but you've already lost the car and maybe your job because of it."

DWP figures show that since PIPs were introduced, more than 160,000 people have had their original rejection overturned at mandatory reconsideration or appeal. Some 65% of decisions are now overturned at tribunal in the claimant's favour, according to Ministry of Justice statistics.

A DWP spokeswoman said: "The reality is that, since PIP was introduced in 2013, more than two million decisions have been made; of these just 7% have been appealed and 3% have been overturned. "But we constantly review our processes, to make sure they are working in the best way possible". She said there are now 70,000 more people on the Motability scheme compared with 2010.

Transitional support package for Motability customers

If you are a Motability Scheme customer and been informed by the DWP you are no longer eligible for the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), you need to inform Motability Operations Ltd. Motability have a transitional support package for customers who are no longer eligible to use the Motability Scheme following their PIP assessment. For customers who joined the Scheme before the end of 2013, financial support is available as long as the car is returned to the dealership in good condition and by the agreed date.

What is available: Up to £2,000 financial support, dependent on when client first joined the Scheme*. No further lease payments. Advance Payment refunded on a pro-rata basis.

Where relevant, financial support to fit the same adaptations to a non-Scheme vehicle. A guide called Staying Mobile after the Motability Scheme which includes advice on buying a used car, information on insurance, maintenance and other mobility solutions. Full claims history letter and details for Autonet Mobility, who are able to provide insurance quotes for former Motability Scheme customers. A fair market price for the car in case the client would like to buy it. The transitional support package has been carefully designed to support Scheme customers through the initial phase of PIP implementation.

This package is reviewed annually, to take account of economic conditions and any possible changes the Government may make to PIP. *To find out more about the transitional support, visit motability.org.uk/pip
Transitional support package for customer's motability.org.uk Customer focus Please tell Motability what you think. If you have any feedback that you would like to share, email: communications@motability.co.uk W

Disability Rights UK announces new chief executive



Disability Rights UK (DR UK) has announced that Kamran Mallick will replace Liz Sayce as chief executive of the charity, following her decision to retire. Currently chief executive of Action on Disability, Mallick has previously worked for the spinal injury charity Aspire as well as running his own business. Mallick said: "I'm delighted to be joining the UK's foremost user led disabled people's organisation at an exciting stage in its development. Disability Rights UK is working to expand its reach to all disabled people, and people with long term health conditions, and ensure it is their lived experiences which influence policy change."

Inspire Peterborough Receives Funding for Work with Disabled Ex-Forces Personnel



Inspire Peterborough have been awarded £20,000 by the Ministry of Defence, through the Armed Forces Covenant Fund for their project *Supporting Disabled Ex-Forces (SDEF)* which will operate

throughout Peterborough. SDEF will offer opportunities for ex-forces personnel with disabilities and/or mental health conditions to take part in social activities, sport or leisure activities and offer participants opportunities to gain qualifications in fitness and volunteering/employment in order to support their peers.

The new project, which runs until 2018 will aim to:-

- Reduce social isolation by establishing a befriender/buddy scheme to provide home visits and accompaniment to activities
- Provide accessible and affordable healthy living/sport and leisure activities using the current Inclusive Sport Peterborough programme as the foundation and building on this in local communities
- Provide a pathway, through improved fitness and mental wellbeing, to help participants into volunteering, education and training, which for some may provide a conduit into meaningful employment.



Stuart Perridge, an amputee and ex-RAF and Armed Forces, contacted Inspire Peterborough last year to find out what sporting opportunities were available in Peterborough. Stuart is now a member of Phantoms team playing in his first sledge hockey season, with dreams of playing at the Invictus Games!

Councillor John Fox, who was a serving Royal Navy Radio Operator, said "We came up with the idea for Supporting Disabled Ex Forces after meeting Stuart. Here was a local guy, who had served his country, lost a leg in the service of his country but struggled to know where to turn for a little bit of help. Supporting Disabled Ex Forces will fit perfectly with the aims of the Armed Forces committee in Peterborough, but with an emphasis on helping those with disabilities or long term health conditions. We have the contacts to signpost disabled ex forces personnel on to sport and health and wellbeing providers as well as employers or education and training organisations. We know there are lots of Stuarts out there, we want to do what we can to help those that would like a bit of support".



Peterborough Volunteer Centre

Come and celebrate with us!

On: Saturday 3rd June 2017

At: Serpentine Green Shopping Centre

10.00am to 4.00pm

Bring along your own small table (i.e. folding table approx. 4ft x 3ft) and chairs, leaflets, banners etc.

Please arrive by 9.30 am so that we are set up and ready for 10.00 am.

We will be located in the Food Court area.

Any queries please contact either Liz Telford or Patricia King

Email: liz.telford@pcvs.co.uk or patricia.king@pcvs.co.uk or telephone: 01733 311076

And finally.....Some useful numbers

Age UK 01733 564185

Benefits (housing and council tax) 01733 452241

Care and Repair 01733 863895

CareZone 01733 575083

Carers Trust Peterborough 01733 645234

City Care Clinic 01733 293800

Child Benefit 0845 302 1444

Department of Work and Pensions (new claims) 0800 055 6688

Disability Peterborough (DIAL) 01733 265551

Fire and Rescue Service 0800 917 9994

Housing Options 01733 864064

Inland Revenue – Tax Credits 0845 300 3900

Inspire Peterborough 01733 330815

Peterborough Association for the Blind 01733 344 844

Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme 0844 4994120

Peterborough Direct 01733 747474

Peterborough City Hospital 01733 678000

Peterborough Pensioners Association 01733 270528

Peterborough Police 101

Samaritans 08457 909090

Shopmobility 01733 313133

St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool 01733 453583

YMCA GYM 01733 313 085

**You can contact the Inspiring Peterborough Radio Show at PCR,
Herlington Centre. Peterborough, PE2 5PN.
radio@inspirepeterborough.com**