

'The Voice' Newsletter



PARTY TIME!



In September, the Unique Social Group held their first event since the successful re-launch. The event was a music and games night. Twenty members attended and a good night was had by all. Back by popular demand was the trip to Morecambe Superbowl, despite the turnout not been as good due to poor weather conditions, the night was still enjoyable. Unique has now re-launched its Facebook group they will use this group for sharing photos and information of up and coming events. Future events for Unique include an Arts & Craft afternoon and currently preparations for the Christmas meal are underway.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MOBILE SIGHT LOSS SERVICE
PICCADILLY SUPPORT SERVICES
THE SPICE NETWORK
ONE VOICE COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES
DIABETES X-PERT COURSE
INSULATION SCHEME CAMPAIGN
DISABILITY AND CARERS EVENT



EDITION; NOVEMBER 2011

Working to improve the lives of disabled people in
Lancaster and Morecambe District

FACT from Lancashire County Council

(Last updated June 2011 by Bryan Moulding)

**Employment and disability from the Annual Population Survey
December 2010**

Summary; For 2010, it was estimated that in the 14-authority Lancashire area, 647,900 or 71.3% of people aged 16-64 were in employment. The chances of being in employment not surprisingly change dramatically if a person is disabled.

In Lancashire, 78.7% of non-disabled people were estimated to be in employment in 2010, whilst only 45.7% of disabled people were estimated to be in employment.

You don't need to 'shop til you drop' anymore. You can get help in getting around town. You can hire a scooter or wheelchair for part or all of the day from St Leonards House or our Morecambe shop.



**Morecambe Shop
Shop-Mobility
213 Marine Road
Winter Gardens
Morecambe
01524 831760
(On Morecambe Prom)**

<http://www.onevoicedisabilityservices.org.uk/Shopmobility.html>

ONE VOICE DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE

The Information Service provides free and confidential information on a range of issues which affect disabled people, their families and carers. We can give information and support on the following:

Disability Access / Welfare Benefits / Self Directed Care & Personal Budgets / Housing / Holidays / Transport & Travel / Employment & Training / Further Education / Volunteering / Aids, Adaptations & Mobility Equipment / Social & Leisure / Recreation / Carer Support / Accessing Statutory Services / Rights & Legislation / Services for Children with disabilities / Health & Social Care

We are open Monday- Friday from 9.30 am - 4.00 pm and can be accessed via the enquiry line, email, referral, appointment

Mobile Sight Loss Service

Visually impaired people often feel isolated when they do not have access to information that can improve their lives. Action for Blind People believes that help should be available irrespective of where you live and aim to reach as many blind and partially sighted people as possible.

What is the mobile sight loss information service and what does it do?

Two mobile sight loss resource vehicles travel to locations throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Visitors can try for themselves the latest technology and gadgets intended to improve daily life for blind and partially sighted people. Our friendly



and knowledgeable team are on hand to demonstrate equipment and products, and to offer free and impartial advice on sight loss.

Where is the mobile visiting?

To find out where the mobile is visiting please visit our website.

<http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/our-services/drop-in/mobile-sight-loss-service/mobile-events-calendar/>

Who do they visit?

Social service sensory teams, libraries and local societies for the blind and partially sighted are among the organisations which invite us to over 200 different venues each year such as town centres, shopping centres and conferences.

If you are a local or national service provider, Action for Blind People's free and impartial service can help you to reach and support your clients.

For more information about the mobile sight loss information service please contact us.

Working in partnership with local organisations is vital to the success of any visit by the mobile sight loss information service and we look to support your valuable work by having you join us on the mobile to provide advice on services available locally.

<http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/our-services/drop-in/mobile-sight-loss-service/mobile-events-calendar/>

Help Direct has arranged for the Action for Blind People Bus to visit the Lancaster District on Thursday November 10th, and this time it will park up outside two rural venues, to offer information about all sorts of practical support and aids available to visually-impaired people in those areas.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10th

10.00 am – 12 Noon Hornby Village Institute, Hornby

2 – 4.00 pm Gaskell Hall, Emesgate Lane, Silverdale



Diabetes X-pert courses in North Lancashire Venues and start dates for Autumn 2011

Poulton Civic Centre – 2nd November 2011, 9.45am

The Centre@Halton – 3rd November 2011, 10am

Morecambe Health Centre – 4th November 2011, 9.45am

Morecambe Health Centre – 4th November 2011, 1.45pm

Lancaster University – 7th November 2011, 6.30pm

St Annes YMCA – 16th November 2011, 6.30pm

The Diabetes X-pert course runs over 6 weeks for 2 ½ hours per week. You will learn about up-to-date treatments and management of Diabetes and have opportunities to explore and address problems/ issues that you may have with your diabetes.

To find out more about the X-pert Diabetes Course, or to book a place, please

Call Jane on 0800 988 5530

Publication of DWP research report 774: Routes onto Employment and Support Allowance

In September 2011 The Department for Work and Pensions has published a report of findings from a survey of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants. The report provides detailed information about the characteristics of people who claim ESA and changes in their employment situation over a period of around 18 months.

Key findings;

- Half of people claiming ESA were in paid work immediately before their claim. People who were employed prior to claiming were older, and the vast majority (85 per cent) had been in employment for most of their working lives. Half had a health condition which was of recent (2008/09) onset.
- People who were not in work before their claim have a particularly disadvantaged socio-economic profile. Almost one-third had never worked or were long-term unemployed, 41 per cent had no qualifications, 25 per cent had literacy problems, and only 23 per cent were owner-occupiers.
- Many ESA claimants have multiple health conditions (66 per cent) or fluctuating conditions (53 per cent). Most claimants did not attribute their health conditions to work but a substantial minority (19 per cent) did, most commonly if they had a musculoskeletal condition (32 per cent).
- Relatively few claimants had entered work a year to 18 months after their initial claim, regardless of their employment origins. A quarter of people who were in employment before claiming ESA had returned to work by the time of the follow-up survey wave but only nine per cent of those previously out of work had entered employment by that time. Health and health beliefs are central to return to work. Early recovery was a strong predictor of a return to employment. Among claimants who were in work immediately before their claim, the belief that work improves health was also associated with a higher likelihood of resuming work.

Notes for Editors:

"Routes onto Employment and Support Allowance", by Paul Sissons, Helen Barnes and Helen Stevens from the Institute for Employment Studies, was published on 22 September 2011 as report 774 in the DWP research report series. It is available on the DWP website

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5rrs-index.asp>

Two other reports based on this survey, focusing on people's experiences of claiming ESA have been published in the DWP research report series: Research Report 707, "Employment and Support Allowance: Findings from a face-to-face survey of customers" and Research Report 745 "Employment and Support Allowance: findings from a follow-up survey of customers"

Support Planning is coming to a place near you!!!

Self Directed Support is a new way of providing social care, offering choice, flexibility and control over the support you need in order for you to live the life you choose. It involves identifying and allocating a personal budget and providing help, if you need it, to plan how to use this.

Under SDS most people assessed as needing social care services will be allocated a Personal Budget. A Personal Budget is an amount of money that the council agree will meet your social care support needs.

Following an assessment of your needs, the Council will give you an indication of how much money will be available to allow you to begin to plan your support. You may choose to manage your support entirely by yourself, or ask others such as your carer, family or friends to help you. You may also choose to have your support managed by a provider agency on your behalf. You will have a support plan that details how you want your support provided.

For more information about self directed support and support planning, please contact Graeme Ellis of Community Independent Living Partnership on 01524 700012



Disability and Carers Event



Lonsdale Carers and One Voice Disability Services are holding a multi-agency event to mark Carers Rights Day

(2nd December) & International Day of Disabled People (3rd December)

Date: Friday 2nd December 2011

Time: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Venue: Victoria Institute, Brookhouse Road, Caton.

Theme of the day: Money Matters with £750 million of unclaimed carers benefits and disability benefit reviews underway this is an opportunity to share information and ensure people are getting the support they need.

A full agenda will be distributed nearer the time, to book a stall or for further details please contact our offices on 01524 34411 /

one-voice@btconnect.com

New Publication - “Personalised Welfare: Rethinking employment support and jobcentres” 16th September, 2011

By [Ed Holmes](#) Edited by [Matt Oakley](#)

This new publication notes serious problems with JCP. Only 29% of claimants say they are satisfied with their experience at Jobcentres. In research for DWP, employers reported “very negative” experiences with “really inappropriate” candidates sent for interviews. JCP’s job search database is severely dysfunctional. And JCPs advisers are hamstrung by poor use of information, which gives them only very basic information about the claimants they are trying to help.

The report says that an effective and personalised employment service rather than a benefits office would be of greater help to those looking for work. CommunityLink would be used to target this sort of support at those with the greatest needs from day one of a benefit claim, replicating the Australian model which focuses on making a detailed profile of claimants’ needs and underlying problems.

CommunityLink would be fully functional by 2017/2018 and the report calls for some short term reforms to enable the transition from JobCentre Plus to take place smoothly [Download PDF](#)



ONE VOICE COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES St Leonards House, St Leonards Gate, Lancaster



Aromatherapy Massage, Indian Head Massage, Reflexology

We have now settled in to our new premises at St Leonards House and have a therapy room which provides a relaxing and tranquil environment. Treatments are available to disabled people, those with health conditions and carers. Complementary Therapies have numerous benefits including improving physical and emotional well-being and aiding relaxation.

Treatments are available on Fridays and currently cost £10. To book an appointment please contact:

Lezane Myall (BA, DipSW and Registered with the Federation of Holistic Therapists) Tel: **(01524) 34411** Email: lezane.onevoice@btconnect.com

The SPICE Network

Have you used the Mental Health Crisis Team locally?

Would you like to feedback your views of the Crisis Team?

Then why not come along and contribute? Your views and ideas are important and will help to improve services.

Joe Crocock, Senior Manager of the Crisis Team, will be attending the meeting to talk about changes taking place within the Crisis Team and to listen to your views.

**Wednesday 2nd November, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
The Storey Institute, the Music Room**

For further information, or if you need any support with transport, please contact Abi Betka or Julie Billsborough on 01524 62039.

The Office for Disability Issues—what does it do?

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) leads the government's vision of achieving equality for disabled people. We believe disabled people should have the same choices and opportunities as non disabled people. We are a cross-government organisation that works with government departments, disabled people and a wide range of external groups.

We work collaboratively with government departments to make sure the needs of disabled people are reflected in their work and our own projects. We provide strategic advice and analysis, we share tools and develop skills among government staff.

We engage with disabled people, disability organisations and service users, and believe that those affected by a service or policy should be involved in designing it. This co-production approach adds value to work across government and leads to innovative and practical solutions.

ODI was set up in January 2005 to coordinate disability policy across government. Since then ODI has led the way across government, encouraging best practice, co-production and engagement with disabled people.

<http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/index.php>



Support Services

An exciting new service for people with mental health issues

People can participate in sessional horticultural activities whilst also accessing training and learning opportunities in a safe, non-pressured supportive environment.



How Do you Apply to Piccadilly?

- You need to have a personal budget to come to Piccadilly, so first you need to find out if you are entitled to one.

Follow this procedure:

- Contact your care coordinator for an assessment.
- If you do not have a care coordinator contact your GP for a referral.
- Have a chat with the staff and volunteers at Piccadilly.
- Come and look round and see what we have on

Andrea Crook (Manager)

01524 847685

Piccadilly
Lancaster

E mail: andrea.crook@piccadillygarden.org

Web: www.piccadillygarden.org

Our Plant Nursery and Retail Outlet

- We offer skills in plant production, growing for sales on site and running stalls in the community.
- Activities include, propagation, potting, pruning and general care of a wide selection of plants

Our Garden Maintenance Team

- Our Garden maintenance team goes out in the community doing a whole range of maintenance work in customers gardens.
- We have also undertaken conservation work, projects with local schools and colleges, community groups and maintenance of our own site.

Our Food Growing Project

- You can experience growing vegetables, fruit and herbs, as part of our new well being project.
- We will be raising awareness of growing food to the community.
- We will have an orchard, mushroom growing area, raised beds and a quiet sensory garden plus our training buildings.

Insulation Scheme Campaign



Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership is working with Tadea, the sustainable energy and carbon reduction organisation, to manage a scheme which will see up to 2,000 homes in Lancaster District fitted with cavity wall and loft insulation.

This scheme is available to all residents of the District. Depending on the circumstances of each individual household, insulation will be fitted by the government-approved installer, Cosyseal, either free of charge or at a discount rate (see the criteria below).

The scheme has the support of NHS North Lancs, Lancaster City Council, Help Direct, and other LSP partner agencies working in the district.

Who can get this insulation fitted for free?

All over 70s

Those receiving a very wide range of benefits :

Attendance Allowance

Council Tax Benefit

Disability Living Allowance

Employment Support Allowance

Housing Benefit

Income Support

Income Based Job Seekers Allowance

War Disablement Pension (which must include constant attendance allowance)

Work Tax Credit with income less than £16,190

Child Tax Credit with income less than £20,000, with child under 18

Pension Credit

In addition, if they do not qualify through age or benefits as above:

Households with one or more occupants suffering from long-term health conditions exacerbated by cold or damp (as defined and referred by a GP or registered nurse working in the district)

Households with one or more occupants in receipt of the state retirement pension, and with a total yearly income of less than £20,000 (as self-certified by the household using a short LSP declaration form)

There is also a process for exceptional cases

How can people take up the offer?

All residents in the District can sign up to the scheme by calling tadea free on

0800 124 4320

or visiting **www.tadea.com/sustainable-homes/insulation** and completing the online application form.

ONE VOICE DISABILITY SERVICES

Room B22 , Ground Floor

St Leonard's House

St Leonard's Gate

Lancaster LA1 1NN

(01524 34411)

Email: one-voice@btconnect.com

For further information, see our website;

www.onevoicedisabilityservices.org.uk



Working to improve the lives of disabled people in
Lancaster and Morecambe District

With support of the following agencies

