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Web site being developed.

Aims of the PDUG.

- One of the main purpose's of the Physical Disability User Group is to provide a safe environment where User's of Physical Disability services in Northamptonshire can be consulted.
- We also aim to support one another by sharing experience's and knowledge.

PDUG MEETINGS

The PDUG meetings are held at the :—

Doddridge Centre
109 Saint James Road
Northampton

Dates left for 2006

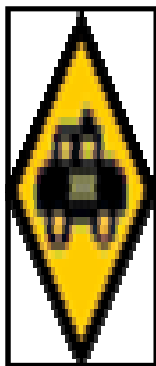
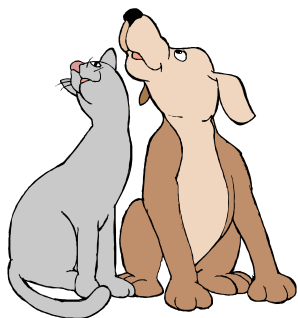
Oct Friday 27th

1.30 Tea/Coffee

2.00 pm meeting starts

4.00 pm approx finish.

For more information on the PDUG contact Ian Topp at the above.



Travelling Expenses will be reimbursed on the day 37 pence per mile or taxi receipt.



Bright Ideas

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Consultation On Continuing Healthcare

NHS continuing healthcare is the name given to a package of services which is arranged and funded free of charge by the NHS for people outside hospital.

Anyone can get NHS continuing healthcare in any setting, provided they have a certain level of care needs.

In your home, this means that the NHS will pay for all your healthcare (for example, seeing a GP, community nurse or therapist) and personal care (for example, personal

carers or care workers)

In a care home, the NHS will also pay your care home fees.



For more information on who will be eligible for continuing healthcare there is more on page 4 and 5.

Charging for care is a minefield!

New Format of Newsletter

As you can see the format of Bright Ideas has changed. The reason for this is to reduce postage costs. As the Post Office now charge on weight and size it is more efficient to do the newsletter in this format. It is your newsletter so if you have a

problem with this please let me know.



Salcey Forest



Paths are wheelchair friendly.

The Royal Forest of Salcey is a magnificent ancient woodland offering excellent opportunities to view an amazing range of wildlife. The forest is a remnant of the medieval royal hunting forest. Reminders of the past can still be found, with many miles of ancient woodbanks, building remains and ancient trees. The 'druids' or veteran oaks in Salcey are rare and

amazing wildlife habitats, and some of the old oaks are believed to be over 500 years old.

How to get there: Salcey Forest is between Milton Keynes and Northampton, and located immediately to the east of the small village of Hartwell. There is also a tree top walk which is wheelchair accessible.

Trivia

Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I have been with a loose woman.

The priest asked, "Is that you Tony Falconi?
Yes, Father it is.
And who was the woman you were with?

I can't tell you, Father, I don't want to ruin her reputation.
Well, Tony, I'm sure to find out her name sooner or later as I know which of our gathering are open to the delights of the flesh

Was it Tina Minetti? I cannot say.

Was it Teresa Volpe?
I'll never tell.

Was it Nina Capelli?
I'm sorry but I cannot name her.

Was it Cathy Piriano?
My lips are sealed.

Was it Rosa Di Angelo, then?
Please, Father, I cannot tell

you.

The priest sighs in frustration. You're very tight-lipped and I admire that. But you've sinned and you have to atone. You cannot attend church services for 4 months. Now you go and behave yourself.

Johnny walks back to his pew and his friend Nino slides over and whispers, What'd you get?
Four months vacation and five good leads

Travel Thickness

"We had to queue outside with no air conditioning"



Bless me Father for I have sinned.

Recreation

Sailability (Pitsford water)
079 525 793 80
www.northamptonssailability.org.uk

Ability Northants
01604 624088

Holiday and Travel information for Disabled People
Phone: 01293 774535
Website:www.holidaycare.org.uk
Email: holiday.care@virgin.net

Riding for the Disabled
Head office 02476 696510

Country parks and facilities available for the disabled at these venues contact 01604 237227

Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers South Northants project (Leisure and learning interests for people with a disability)
Tele 01280 704736 or visit www.rydercheshire.co.uk

Community Resource Team Aims to reduce social isolation
01604 665920

Transport
Northampton Door to Door Service
01604 611214 Email info@nnds.org.uk

Take 6
Taxis for disabled people
01604 764678

Disability Sports Development Manager Phone : 01604 237940
Mobile : 07709 399321

General

Mobile Hairdresser.
Darren Lund Mobile 07850 315314
Home 01604 493093

Adult Care Squad.
To help you, or people you know, access a wide range of social care services.
0845 124 4500
Email accs@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Age Concern
01604 611200

Benefits Agency
01604 446100

Citizens Advice Bureau
01604 636000

Welfare Rights
01604 636112

Care & Repair Northampton
01604 588604

Care and Repair Daventry
01327 302322

REMAP
Custom made aids for people with disabilities
Telephone: 0845 1300456
website: www.remap.org.uk

Key Contacts

Community Services You can contact Directly

Community Matrons– for health support and advice for people with complex long-term health conditions. Tele 01604 751753.

MS specialist nurse-for expert help and support for people with multiple sclerosis. Tele 01604 678111

Parkinson’s specialist nurse-for expert help and advice for people with Parkinson’s disease. Tele 01604 678120

Ability Northants

Independent disability information service..

13 Hazelwood Road Northampton NN1 1LG

Tel: 01604 624088

Email: louise.shaw@abilitynorthants.org

Community Services You can Access through your local GP practice

Community mental health team.

Favell House-for inpatient and day services for people with complex physical disabilities.

Intermediate care team– for short-term intensive support and rehabilitation

Nutrition and dietetics

Occupational Therapy

Palliative care specialist nursing service.

Physiotherapy.

Podiatry

Speech and language therapy.

Wheelchair services.

Employment and Disability Service (EADS)

This service covers Northampton, Daventry, Brackley and Towcester. And provides information for employers, help in finding employment and work preparation.

If you would like more information on these services you can call free on 0800 7835637 or email them at eads-ncc@northamptonshire.gov.uk.

Disability Equality Scheme (DES)

From the 4th December this year public authorities will have a new Disability Equality Duty towards disabled people. To do this each public authority must develop an **ACTION** plan to show what practical steps each public service provider is/ has taken to ensure that their services and functions meet the needs of disabled people so that they are treated equally with other people.

The action plan must ensure

1. The views of disabled people have been taken into account during the initial stages and ongoing development of services.
2. It is transparent and

demonstrates publicly how the public body intends to do this. If you wish to become involved with the new **PCT DES** contact

Margaret Stirmeý

Healthcare Governance
Bevan House
Kettering Parkway
Venture Park
Kettering
NN15 6XR
Tel:01536 480379

marga-
ret.stirmeý@northants.nhs.uk

If you wish to become involved with the **probation service DES**

Contact **Sandra Bell** at Ability Northants. 01604 624088



It’s a cracker

The mother in law has been coming here for Christmas for the past 20 years . Were going to do something different this year. Were going to let her in.

Physical Disability Team Public Consultation Feedback

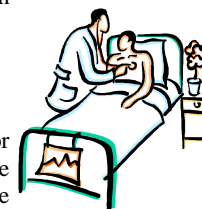
There were 51 respondents to the public consultation, and all the patients who had used the current service were extremely complimentary about the help and advice they had been given, and expressed their thanks to the staff and sadness at the potential loss of the service.

Feedback and issues were provided through the consultation and these were categorised within a number of themes. All the issues raised will be factored into proposals for future service review and development with the Trust.

New programme to improve palliative care

The Department of Health programme-announced in late July aims to establish new end-of-life care networks and improve the choice of care in hospitals and homes. The programme

will also look at funding for hospices and specialist palliative care issues and aim to improve the co-ordination of services across organisations involved in this area.



Initiative for improving choice of venue for care

EDITORS NOTE.

As you may not be aware I was asked by a number of individuals about Continuing Health Care and who was eligible for it, hence the reason for inclusion in Bright Ideas. I apologise if the answer is not as straightforward as you or I would have liked. I will however make no apologise due to the fact that consultation finished on the 22 Sept 2006.

COMPLEXITY-Needs or symptoms which interact, making them difficult to manage and control.

INTENSITY-One or more needs which are so severe that they require regular interventions.

UNPREDICTABILITY-Unexpected changes in condition that are difficult to manage and present a risk to you or to others.

The Care Domains

I suppose we can just hope that we are in good hands and this will be the start to the end of what to me seems like a continuous reassessment of peoples need to make them fit what resources are left over.

The overall care needs are broken down into generic areas of need, to build a complete picture of the person's needs.

The care domains are:

Eligibility for NHS continuing Healthcare.

You should qualify for full NHS funding if your overall needs show that 'your primary need is a health need'. This means that your needs cannot be provided for by Social Services, because you require nursing or other health services which are beyond what Social Services can provide.

The 'primary health need' should be assessed by looking at all your care needs and relating them to four key 'indicators':

Behaviour	Cognitive Impairment	Communication
Mobility	Nutrition – Food & Drink	Continence
Skin & Tissue Viability	Breathing	Drug Therapies & Medication
Psychological/ Emotional Needs	Seizures	

NATURE-The type of condition or treatment required and its quality and quantity.

I would like to take part in the Favell House Focus Group
YES / NO

I would like to be kept informed on plans for services at Favell House
YES / NO

Name _____

Address

Tele _____ Email _____

Please return completed form to
Lesley James – Strategic Nurse Manager
Camp Hill Clinic
Hunsbury Hill Road
Northampton NN4 9UW
Lesley.james@northamptonpct.nhs.uk

Below are notes from a letter which relate to a focus Group being set up to review the services at Favell House by Lesley James. If you wish to take part or just be kept up to date or whatever the form on the opposite page will need to be completed.

Focus group members for service review

We have no plans to close Favell House, but we do want to make sure that our physical disability services are at the right level and at the appropriate high standard. We are also looking for ideas and opinions on how we might develop services to improve their effectiveness and achieve the best value for money.

We are looking for a maximum of 12 people to join the group and places will be allocated on a “first come, first served” basis. If you would like to take part, please return the attached form.

Everyone’s views and opinions are important to us, so even if you do not want to, or are unable to take part in the focus group, we would still really like to hear from you. Send your views and suggestions to:

Lesley James
Strategic Nurse Manager
Northampton Primary Care Trust
Camp Hill Clinic
Hunsbury Hill Road
Northampton NN4 9UW

E-mail – les-
ley.james@northamptonpct.nhs.uk

At the end of the review we will be producing a development plan for services at Favell House. This will set out any changes or improvements we need to make to guarantee high standards, fair access and value for money.

A Focus Group



What is different to the old system?

Each of the 28 Strategic Health Authorities in England operated their own eligibility rules for NHS Continuing Healthcare.

Varying use of ‘criteria’ for eligibility based on central guidance.

Each SHA used independent tools to support decision-making, based on their own eligibility criteria.

Under the new proposed National Service framework

One national policy on eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare in England.

A clear policy on eligibility, based on four key indicators and linked to the assessment process and tools.

A national assessment process supported by national tools to promote consistency across the country and link decisions directly to the key indicators.

Key Principles

- The NHS makes the decision on eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare in collaboration with the Local Authority through a multi-disciplinary team.
- Full and active involvement of patients and carers.

- Screening stage to promote proportionate assessments.
- Assessment and decision-making processes are co-ordinated.
- Fast-tracking available for those who need services quickly.
- All decisions are fair and consistent, regardless of the care group, type of needs or reason for those needs

Unbound less Generosity

One afternoon a lawyer was driving his Aston Martin when he saw a man eating grass by the side of the Road. “Why are you doing that”? The lawyer asks.

“I don’t have any money for food ”the man replied.

“Oh, then you must come home with me.”

“But Sir I have a wife and five children”

“They are all welcome”

So the family got in the lawyers car and sped off towards his mansion. “ Your so kind to help so many people” the wife gushed during the journey.

“Its fine” said the lawyer. “I haven’t cut the grass in weeks”

Disability Network South meetings for next year. 2007

From 10:15am - 13:00pm

23 JANUARY 2007

20 MARCH 2007

22 MAY 2007

24 JULY 2007

25 SEPTEMBER 2007

20 NOVEMBER 2007

The venue for the meetings is at Towcester in the Council offices. (SNC Council Chamber)

The following information is from the last DNS meeting minutes .

The following is from a presentation given by Alan Isaac, Senior Technical Officer, Private Sector Housing department of the Environment Department at South Northamptonshire Council on Grants and Energy Efficiency

There are three main types of grants:

Mandatory Grants – Disabled Facilities Grants

- The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996
- For owner /occupiers and private tenants
- For essential adaptations
- Means tested
- Grant limit of £25,000

Discretionary Grants – Assisted Maintenance Grants

For essential repair works and minor adaptations

Maximum £2000

Not means tested

Applicants must be:-

- over 60 years of age and in receipt of a means tested benefit
- under 60 years of age in receipt of a means tested benefit with a disability element

External Grants – funded by third parties

Insulation schemes:-

- **WarmFront;** Government grants for insulation and heating. These grants can provide assistance for insulation and some heating repairs/improvement to families and people with disabilities on low incomes. Warm Front grants can provide energy efficient central heating where none is present, as well as insulation measures to make the home warmer. You can check your eligibility by ringing the Warm Front team free on 0800 952 1555 or you can visit their website at <http://www.eagagroup.com/grants/index.htm>

- **Chillout:** insulation grants for cavity wall and loft insulation. All householders are eligible for grants towards the cost of this insulation. An approved installer carries and applies for the grant on your behalf. In some cases 100% grants can be given. You can call free on 0800 731 8976 or visit their website at <http://www.chillout.uk.com/>

everyone. Anyone interested in applying for this scheme can contact Alan or alternatively you can visit their website at <http://boilermagic.co.uk/>

- **Simply Switch:** offers a free energy price check. With one telephone call you can check that you are getting the best deal for the supply of gas and electricity. You can call free on 0800 011 1289 or visit their website at <http://www.simplyswitch.com/switch-fuels.html?site=goog>

- **Solar Plan:** a scheme to promote the use of solar panels to provide either hot water or electricity for the home. Grants through the Governments initiative are available to help with the cost of installation. You can contact them on 08702 430 930 or visit their website at <http://www.clear-skies.org/communities/GrantsAndTechnologies.aspx> If you would like more details of any of these schemes please contact Alan on 01327 322292 or if you would like a copy of this presentation then please contact Julie Godwin on 01327 322297 or email her at julie.godwin@southnorthants.gov.uk

Alan will be receiving 500 free adaptors for computers, 50% of which need to reach persons in receipt of benefit. The adaptors automatically shut any peripheral equipment when windows is shut down, thus saving energy (and money) by leaving them on standby. They are not for sale in the shops yet. Also available are reflective panels for fitting behind radiators to

improve the efficiency of the heating, save energy and money.

We also work in conjunction with the Safe 'n' Sound programme run by South Northants Volunteer Bureau, the aim of which is to try to improve homes by ensuring they are warm and energy efficient, as well as being safe for the householder. The programme offers advice and help to protect against the cold, fire and crime as well as preventing accidents in the home through slips trips and falls.

All other councils in the county offer these initiatives, with the exception of the Safe 'n' Sound project, which is for residents of South Northants only.

Re-Launch of Carers Forum

Ability Northants are arranging a meeting for carers on the 27th October 2.00 pm at Northampton Association for the Blind, Waddington Court Welford Road., Northampton.

If you wish to attend contact Ability Northants by 20 October

01604 624088

