

Newsletter

May 2007

Carers Support Waverley

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Spring is here!!

Welcome to our May Newsletter, please read on to find out what's coming up over the next few months.

Carers Week 11th –15th June.

The theme for Carers Week this year is "**My Life as a Carer**" and it is to promote and highlight various aspects of caring.

We are organising **two** events during that week and we hope you will be able to join us if they are of interest to you.

Wednesday 13th - West Dean Gardens (near Chichester).

The gardens are located in an area of outstanding natural beauty and feature a parkland walk and arboretum with views over Sussex. A guided tour is available which takes 1–1 ¼ hours and it consists of a brief introduction to the history and background of the gardens. There will also be an in-depth look at the recently restored working walled kitchen garden and some insights into the realities of running such an establishment. The tour will conclude with a brief description of the ornamental grounds, parkland walk and St Roches Arboretum.

We will need to book the tour in advance so please let us know when calling to reserve your place if you would like the tour too.

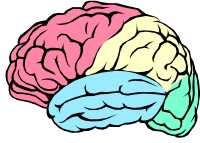
Transport will be provided but there is a map available for those who wish to make their own way there. Hope to see you there!!

We also have a Training Day on **Friday 15th** at **St Saviours Church, Guildford.**

We aim to cover 4 aspects of caring and so have asked Sarah Brewster, ACE, Jenny Hattersley and Surrey Welfare Rights to each hold sessions. You will be asked to choose which sessions you want to attend as unfortunately there won't be time for everybody to cover all four.

The subjects covered will be: **Financial, Career, Social Life/Relationships, Health.**

As with any of our day trips and training days we can help with care cover costs and transport, so please let us know if you would like to attend. We will then send you more information and ask for your choices for the day. Lunch will also be provided.



The Mental Capacity Act is a new law to protect adults when they lose mental capacity. The Department for Constitutional Affairs state "it will make clear who can take decisions, in which situations and how they should go about this."

The Act is being introduced in two stages; April 2007 sees the introduction of:

- a new criminal offence of ill treatment or neglect of a person that you care for who lacks capacity. Further discussion will be needed to look at the implications of this for carers who are reaching crisis point, and how we advise carers in this position.
- Independent Mental Health Advocates to support people who lack capacity to be involved in decisions about their medical treatment and where they live.

Enduring Power of Attorney

Just a note to advise any of you who have been considering this...or putting it off, that the government is planning major changes to the procedure for obtaining EPA which will make it much more complicated and expensive. Both the Alzheimer's Society and the Parkinson's Disease Society have made reference to this and encourage you to obtain EPA now, not necessarily to use immediately,

but just in case. These changes will take place from 1st October and EPA will become LPA (Lasting Power of Attorney), a different, more complex document.

There is an informal sheet about EPA available from Help the Aged which can be downloaded from www.helptheaged.org.uk. For those of you who do not have access to the internet but would like a copy, please phone the office and we will send it to you.

Helplines

A support line is now available for **Carers of people with Dementia**. It comes from Dementia Plus and Admiral Nursing Direct – you can call them on **Tel: 0845 257 9406** or email them at direct@fordementia.org.uk

Families Anonymous is a support organisation for families looking after people with drug and alcohol dependency. Their website is www.famanon.org.uk. You can also contact them on **Tel: 08451200 660**, Mon-Fri, 1-4pm and 6-10pm. Weekends, 2—10pm.

PDS (Parkinson's Disease Society) have a *freephone* helpline, Mon-Fri 9:30am – 5:30pm
Call **Tel: 0808 800 0303**.

Surrey Statements

Surrey Local Education Authority has been instructed by the Secretary of State for Education to amend the Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) for pupils in mainstream schools which do not specify what provision will be made to meet the child's SEN.

(X) Surrey Points" do not comply with the law.

For advice on Statements and other educational matters, contact the NAS Advocacy for Education service on **0845 070 4002**.

This has come about as a result of complaints to the Secretary of State that Statements which just refer to "additional arrangements equivalent to

An informative piece about the instruction appeared on the BBC News web site (www.news.bbc.co.uk) on 24th January.

Outreach to private schools - Many people already know the excellent work done by the autism outreach teachers from Freemantles and Lindon Bridge Schools, who go into Surrey Local Education Authority (LEA) mainstream primary schools and advise staff on how best to help pupils with autism. The LEA is developing a service for their mainstream secondary schools too.

There is now a new outreach service run by the NAS which can be purchased by schools. This could be particularly useful for independent schools, and parents can pass on details to the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. The NAS service offers training for staff, assessments for pupils, and advice, not only from teachers but also psychologists, speech and language therapists, special needs assistants and care staff. For more details about NAS Outreach Service contact Alison Stobart on Tel: 0207 704 3801 or email: alicestobart@nas.org.uk



New rights for working Carers

As a result of years of campaigning by Carers UK, the Work and Families Act 2006 came into force on 6th April this year. It gives carers the right to ask their employer for flexible working to help them juggle work with caring.

One in five carers is forced to give up work, sometimes because they are unable to change their working hours to suit their caring situation. Under this new Act, employees who have worked for their employer for more than 26 weeks can apply for a permanent change to their terms and conditions. For example, flexi-time, home working, term time working or other flexible working practices. Employers can refuse a request but they must give good reasons and employees have the right to appeal.



Dates for your diary:

AGM – Action for Carers Surrey Forum

East Horsley Village Hall
Tuesday 29th May 2007
10am - 3pm

“My life as a Carer” (Carers Week theme)

Focusing on Finance, Career, Health and Social Life
St Saviours Church, Woodbridge Road, Guildford, GU1 4QD
Friday 15th June 2007
10am – 4pm

Charging for Care Homes and Home Care

Surrey Law Centre
August 2007

If this subject is of interest to you please ring to reserve your place and we will then forward more details regarding date, time and venue.

Educational Issues – Children with Special Needs

October 2007

Stress Management

January 2008
Trainer: Jenny Hattersley

Coping with Bereavement

March 2008
With CRUSE Bereavement Counsellors

Useful Phone Numbers

Alheimers Society

01428 642055

Parkinson’s Disease Society

0207 931 8080

Guildford and Waverley Crossroads

Care

01252 313323

Age Concern

01483 548812

Surrey Young Carers Project

01483 568269

Action for Carers (Surrey)

01483 302748