



Powys Update

May 2014

Welcome to the Spring newsletter. So far it has been a busy period and as you will see below there is some significant news about various legislation and local administration.

Carers & their Rights

On 13th May I attended a talk by Professor Luke Clements about Carers & their Rights hosted by Powys Carers Service in Llandrindod Wells.

Luke Clements is a solicitor and Professor at Cardiff Law School his experience is primarily concerned with the rights of people who experience social exclusion, including disabled people and their carers.

The day was very informative and those Carers that attended found it relevant. The main topic of the day was an overview of the Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

The Act received its Royal Assent on 1 May 2014 and the associated Regulations, codes and guidance will be drafted over the next year. The legislation will then come into force either partially or wholly in 2016. The Act repeals eight previous pieces of legislation including the Health and Social Care Act 2001 which covers direct payments.

An important impact of the Welsh Act is that it is materially different from the English Bill (the Care Bill) which is still expected to come into effect in 2015. One effect of this will be that English court judgements may no longer be of direct relevance in Wales.

The Act will provide, for the first time, a legal framework for Welsh social services and will transform the way social services are delivered, promoting people's independence. It will also give them a stronger voice and more control and encourage a renewed focus on prevention and early intervention introducing equivalent rights for carers, so that they get similar rights to the people they care for.

If you require further information on this there is a useful link on the **AWF** website:

<http://www.allwalesforum.org.uk/>

Diary Dates

Carers Group Meetings:

Plas Dolerw, Newtown at 10.30am - 12.30pm, 8 July

Town Hall, (Judges Retiring Room) Welshpool at 2.00pm - 4.00pm, 8 July

George Hotel, Brecon at 11.00am - 1.00pm, 9 July

Llandrindod Wells, at 10.30 - 12.30pm, 10 July (if members wish to attend)

Independent Living Fund

Following a High Court judgment that the closure of the ILF was illegal the UK Government have nevertheless decided that the Fund will close but have announced that the closure will now take place in June 2015. The money allocated for Wales will be given to the Welsh Government but to date no decision on how that money will be distributed has been made by them. Further legal appeals by disability groups are on-going. Any further developments in this area will be reported in the Newsletter as they occur.

Christine Jones

Christine, mother of Gary, who many of you will know has unfortunately been very ill of late. She underwent an emergency liver transplant in Birmingham's Q.E. hospital recently. After many weeks of slow recovery and feeling very unwell and further surgery she is now making good progress and feels much better. I am sure we all wish her a speedy and full recovery helped by both Ken and Gary.

One Powys Plan

A new draft of the One Powys Plan has been written following the consultation over the previous 6 months and has now been approved by the lead Local Service Board (LSB) partners. The Plan will now be sent to Welsh Government and published.

The Plan incorporates ten priority issues which have been identified through the consultation process as being issues where it is felt that a significant opportunity exists for joint activity between two or more partners to deliver 'transformational' change.

The priority issues within the Plan are:

Integrated health and adult social care

- Older people
- Carers
- Mental health and wellbeing

Children and young people

- Vulnerable families
- Healthy lifestyles

Transforming learning and skills

- Education
- Training and jobs for young people

Stronger, safer and economically viable communities

- Stronger communities
- Transport

Financially balanced and fit for purpose public services

- Organisation and Partnership Development

Action to address these priority issues will be overseen by the LSB and LSB Transformation Board.

They will be managed by the five new Partnership Boards established under the LSB with the actual delivery activity undertaken by 'Transformational Project' groups.

For further information on the One Powys Plan please go to the Powys CC website

The Human Rights Act & Home Care

This interesting piece was in the Powys Carers Service Newsletter which I thought might be relevant to you.

People receiving state funded care in their own homes will now be given additional protection by the Human Rights Act.

An amendment to the care bill in the Lords will be tabled to make sure the Human Rights Act covers people receiving care in their own homes, whether from the state or private body under contract to the state. It will not apply to self funded, privately provided care.

Campaigners for the reform such as Age Concern have said: "Without greater clarity, people who suffer indifference or abuse are doubly vulnerable, unsure of whether the law protects them. Equally, service providers, and particularly staff seeking to challenge poor practices, are left unsure of where they stand. Time and again inquiries such as the equality and human rights commission's enquiry into home care uncover serious, systemic threats to basic human rights of those receiving care services

Powys CC Funding for AWF

I am pleased to report that Powys CC has agreed to continue funding for my role with the All Wales Forum for the current financial year.

Lynne Booth

All Wales Forum

Email: lynne@allwalesforum.org.uk (please note the change of address)

Mobile: 07542 224516

Tel. 01938 810631