

Wiltshire People 1st

Promoting the Self Advocacy of
People with Learning Difficulties
In Wiltshire



**Winter Newsletter
2011**



A Warm Welcome from the New Chair



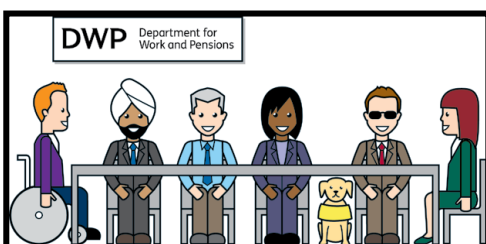
“Welcome to our winter newsletter.

Wiltshire People 1st is having a very busy few months so we have got lots to tell you about. We hope you enjoy reading this.

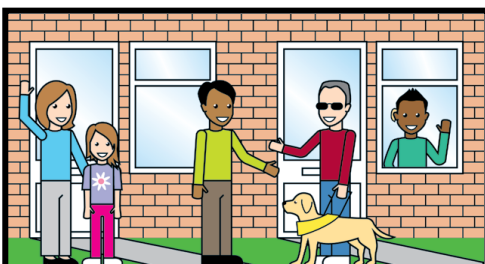
We are putting together a Wiltshire People 1st recipe book so please send or bring in your favourite recipes!”

Recent Events

Disability Living Allowance Consultation



Members at our January speaking up group meeting took part in a consultation about changes the government is planning for the Disability Living Allowance.



The new benefit will be called the Personal Independence Payment.

Our members talked about what they thought of the plans and gave their ideas about the best ways of doing things.

Our Big Meeting 2010



Our Big Meeting was held at the Devizes Sports Centre.

We watched a DVD showing what Wiltshire people 1st have done this year.

Our guest speaker, Phil Powell, spoke about getting involved in the Big Society in Wiltshire. Then people asked him questions.



We all took part in 3 workshops: "The Big Society", "Having your say" and "Getting involved in your area".

After lunch we enjoyed a line dancing session and David told everyone about some changes to our Management Committee.



"I thought the day went really well. It was a very good turn-out and everyone enjoyed themselves."
Niko Massouras

Jobs Action Event

The Learning Disability Partnership Board held a Jobs Action Event in January. We talked about the kind of jobs people have and the good things about having a job. WEST and Job Centre Plus told us about where to get help and support in getting a job. Some of the visitors from local businesses agreed to do important things that will help more people with learning difficulties find and keep a job.



Hospital Reviews



Sandra and Abbi attended a conference about the South West Hospital Reviews. Lots of improvements are being made and the report said all hospitals should have special nurses to deal with people with learning difficulties. Sandra said: "It was a good day. I took part in a question and answer session which I had some really good comments from."

Keyring event



Keyring held a drop-in day at Wiltshire Council. 7 members of Wiltshire People 1st went. They told us what Keyring is all about and provided lots of information. Keyring is an organisation that helps support people to live independently and meet new friends in their area.

Young Person's Group



At our January meeting we talked about youth clubs and social groups like Phab and Gateway.



Lots of members already go along to these but some people said they might join now too. Unfortunately our Young Persons Group is having its last meeting in March because of funding

cuts. It is important that people still speak up, keep in touch and socialise in different places.



Wiltshire Council are going to give us some money to continue working with young people.
Read more next time!

News from our Management Committee



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Christmas Party



The Management Committee had their Christmas Party in December. Everyone had a great time, games were played and we all had some mulled wine!

Welcome to our New Members



At our Big Meeting the new leaders of the Management Committee were announced. Sandra Wells is our new chair person and David Martin & Linda King are now our vice chairs.

We also welcomed 3 new members to the Management Committee. They are Angela Goff, Chis Chidzoy and Chris Hornby.

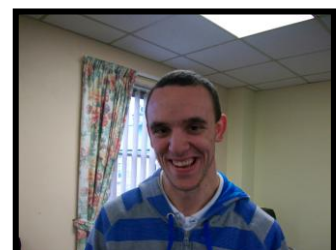
We hope they will all enjoy their new roles at Wiltshire People 1st!



Angela Goff



Chris Chidzoy



Chris Hornby

SISAG and Open Minds



SISAG



SISAG members had a busy December! We had a stand at Salisbury Library for 'No Barriers' Week and we sold Christmas cards made by a learning difficulty art group. We also had a lovely visit by Carla, our former Support Worker! Lastly we had our Christmas Party at a Night Club! Everyone enjoyed

dancing, the lights, the bar and making music requests to the DJ. We took our own party food and reindeer antlers! After the Christmas fun it's now back to the serious work of promoting self-advocacy and guarding against unfair cuts in funding.



Open Minds

'Open Minds', is a speaking up group for adults with learning difficulties in the Kennet area. We meet on the first Monday of each month in Marlborough at The Conservative club from 7.30pm to 9pm. We talk about issues which are important to our members.

Contact us at Voluntary Action Kennet Tel: 01672 564140



Dates for your diary in 2011

Speaking Up Group Meetings



10:00

until



12:00

Tuesday 15th March

Tuesday 12th April

Tuesday 24th May



Every month we have a **speaking up group** meeting.



At our meetings we meet up with friends. We have coffee and talk about things that are important to us.



Anyone with a learning disability who lives or works in Wiltshire can come along. We would love to see some new faces. Meetings are held at the Independent Living Centre in Semington.

Young Persons Group Meetings

Thursday 24th March

7:00pm to 9:00pm



This group is for young people with a learning disability aged between 16 and 25. We support young people to speak up about important issues. We also have lots of fun.

This is the last meeting of this group - we hope to do more work with young people in the near future!



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