



Short Breaks Update

Adults with Learning Disabilities

ISSUE 5: Short Breaks Update February 2010

We are continuing to work to transform Short Breaks for adults with learning disabilities. In this issue we will update you on developments and there is a feature to tell you more about your options for short breaks.

Development of a new Short Breaks unit

The new building

This has now got a name! Congratulations to Matthew Gay, who is 19, for winning the prize with his suggestion of **Clarence Gardens**. This reflects the surroundings opposite the part of Thornes Park known as Clarence Park. The designs, which are shown again below, have now been given planning permission and the builders' tender process has finished, with the contract being awarded to Irwins. They are due to start on site on 1st March.



Main Entrance



Side Perspective



Rear Perspective



Front Perspective



Lawefield Lane Respite Unit

Not to Scale



There will be potential for some site visits by arrangement later, subject to the site being safe enough, so current service users and their families can see the new building as it goes up.

Support Provider Tender-Cypress Road and Clarence Gardens

The tender process for the support provider is now underway and a number of organisations have expressed interest. Whoever wins the contract will provide support to both Clarence Gardens and Cypress Road in the future. Service users from Batley Road and their families were consulted on changes to the staff team and with their help a service specification was drawn up about what kind of support provider they would like. An event was also held at Cypress Road and there was a follow up event arranged for early in the New Year for service users and carers of both Batley Road and Cypress Road but this had to be cancelled because of the snow. However we managed to speak on the phone to people who had planned to attend and the questions, for interested support providers to answer, were submitted at the end of January.

If you would like more information on the new short stay unit, either the building or the tender for a support provider, please contact:

Rebecca Squirrell 01924 303164

rsquirrell@wakefield.gov.uk

Changes to the Short Stay Unit at Normanton

The new bath has now been installed and other works completed. These changes will give people more choice, and access to more suitable facilities, during their stay. The front garden still remains to be planted at the appropriate time of year.



Short Breaks **What are my options?**

Short Break Units

There are two residential Short Break Units in Wakefield, one in Normanton and one in Wakefield city. We are moving towards **locality based provision** so you can use the unit which is nearest to where you live, as both will support people with varying degrees of learning disability to have a break away from their family home.

The units are modern buildings and each will provide for up to four people to stay overnight. Each bedroom has its own en-suite facilities.

Shared Lives

The Shared Lives service offers planned short breaks to adults with a learning disability in the home of the Shared Lives carer. All Shared Lives carers have been approved by Family Services. Carers can be people from a variety of backgrounds who all have an interest in supporting people who have a disability.

‘Contract Carer’ schemes

These schemes are available in many neighbouring Local Authorities; however most are developed as part of Children’s Services, perhaps using foster carers. So our development in Wakefield to adapt the idea for adults is very innovative.

In Wakefield, we are working to develop a Contract Carer Scheme which we hope will provide a flexible, high quality, family based resource. A contract carer provides care within their own home. The name Contract Carer is taken from the contractual agreement that states a commitment to provide a certain amount of nights. They are potentially matched with a number of service users who are placed at different times each month for Short Breaks.

Individual Budgets and Direct Payments

Individual Budgets and Direct Payments are available after an assessment and are where payments are given to people to buy their own care as an alternative to care arranged and provided by Family Services. This can be an excellent way of having more choice and control of the short breaks, so that both carers and people with learning disabilities get the type of break they choose.

For more information on all of the above short breaks please contact your Care Manager.

***Community Teams for Learning Disabilities- Normanton 01924 302400
Community Teams for Learning Disabilities- Outwood 01924 303485***



Wakefield Carers
25 King street, Wakefield WF1 2SR

Learning Disabilities Carers Support Worker

Are you caring for an adult with Learning Disabilities? Do you need someone to talk to? Do you feel you would benefit from help and support/ Lucy Horobin writes:

I am able to offer one-to one advice, guidance and support to carers looking after someone with Learning disabilities inn the Wakefield area. I can visit you at home, at our office and/or talk over the telephone with you.

My role is flexible according to a carer's needs, so please don't hesitate to ring me should you want to talk things through or find out more about how I may be able to help you

Please ring Lucy Horobin on 01924 305544 or email

lhorobin@carerswakefield.org.uk

“My Time” Carers’ Breaks and Support

This scheme is funded by the government and enables carers to apply for a maximum of £200 per year to get a break from caring. Essentially it is up to the carer to decide what would give you a break; this could be a weekend break, a holiday, a college course or social event.

To be eligible you need to be caring for someone on an unpaid basis for an average of 35 hours a week. You need to have lived in the Wakefield District for at least 12 months and be a Wakefield resident.

For more information on this scheme and eligibility for applicants contact Carers Wakefield on: 01924 305544 or email info@carerswakefield.org.uk