



# Learning Disability Community Support Service Newsletter

## Friday Fun on the Radio

Our own weekly radio programme has gone live. The show is aired between 2pm and 3pm every Friday. It is being hosted by the internet radio station Radio Poplar who are based in Bramley. They have been given funding to support people with learning disabilities to broadcast their own show.

Customers from all areas of the city are taking turns to spin the decks and play their favourite music.

Alfred Orr enjoyed choosing tracks from his favourite CDs to play



You can listen to the programme by going to the radio's website at [www.radiopoplar.co.uk](http://www.radiopoplar.co.uk) and clicking on the 'listen here' link under Live Stream on the right.

## Skills for Care 2012

Our service was recently short-listed for a national award. The prestigious accolades are presented to organisations which improve the lives of customers through workforce development and innovation.

We were one of only three finalists who made the category for "most effective new approach to service delivery".

Alan Hicks who attends the SSE day services picked up the award and met Sherrie Hewson (Benidorm).



## Love is in the Air...

This years Valentine Fair opened with a free afternoon for all our customers. People swarmed from across Leeds to join in the fun. Caught on camera was Begum Boston on the ghost train!



Holmsley Green held a Valentine's party which was enjoyed by all the tenants. They had party food, a quiz and dancing competition and all the romantic trimmings. The party was also filmed and features in the DVD version of this newsletter

Congratulations to George Long and Pauline Green who got engaged on Valentine's Day. George gave Pauline a necklace instead of a traditional ring and they celebrated with a romantic evening meal.

## Water Water Everywhere

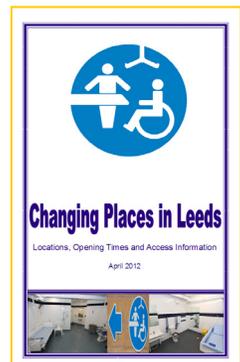
The rain did not deter customers and staff from embarking on a Christmas themed trip aboard a barge named "Endeavour".

They ate their lunch and sang Christmas Carols whilst enjoying the scenery along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.



## Changing Places

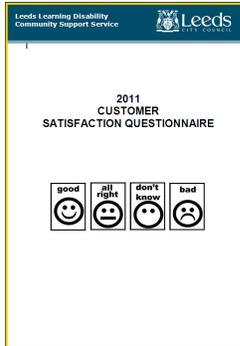
A new booklet will soon be available about the 12 Changing Places toilet facilities now open in Leeds. It includes information about locations, telephone numbers, opening times and equipment which is available. To receive a copy please ring 0113 214 3446.



## Consultation Feedback

Customers' and family members' questionnaires have previously shown very high levels of satisfaction with the service, and the latest annual surveys continue this trend.

Though this is excellent news we are aware there were some concerns raised, mainly related to addressing the needs of carers. We will include actions to address these in the 2012/13 Service Plan.



## Spreading the Word

Customers, staff and third sector partners have been involved in producing a short film for Adult Social Care. Entitled "Better Lives in Leeds", the film showcases the changes that are happening across our service and the benefits these are bringing to customers and their families.



Customers were filmed using the gym at John Charles Centre for Sport, undertaking a boxing session with police community support officers and attending salsa and zumba classes along side residents of Beeston.

Tony Dawson and Brian Richardson opened the recent series of Director's road shows by talking about their experiences in moving to the new community bases in the South of the city. More customers welcomed members of Leeds City Council's Cabinet to Hillside when they came to visit.

## Day Service Modernisation Update

The new community base at Richmond Hill has opened. Also work has begun on the new bases at Aireborough Leisure Centre, Morley Library, Calverlands and Rothwell Leisure Centre.

All the new activities which have been commissioned from third-sector partner organisations will be fully up and running in April. Numerous 'taster sessions' have been delivered so that customers can try out the activities being offered and choose the ones they enjoy.

Customers joined staff from Middleton Leisure Centre to receive a cheque from Sport England. The centre is being completely refurbished and will provide us with a new community base in 2013.



## Fund Raising

Congratulations to Steven Netherwood from Wetherby who raised £108 for the British Heart Foundation by holding a coffee morning and raffle. Steven organised the entire event himself and only needed support to design posters on his computer to advertise the event.



Also Ramshead Approach held a coffee afternoon complete with tombola, raffle and homemade buns. The event raised £230 for the Radio Aire 'Cash for Kids' appeal. David Bellwood and Joanne Kay took the money to the studios and appeal staff said they would use it to buy gifts for babies and teenagers.

## Events Coming Soon

- 17th March - St. Patrick's Day
- 20th March - Beautiful Octopus Club
- 6th to 9th April - Easter (Christianity)
- 7th April - Passover (Judaism)
- 5th May - Buddha Day (Buddhism)
- 7th May - May Day
- 5th June - Diamond Jubilee

### 18th to 24th June is Learning Disability Week

- Monday: Council chamber take-over  
ILP research conference
- Tuesday: Partnership Board AGM
- Wednesday: Safe Places launch  
Midsummer Nights Dream
- Thursday: Progress 4 Providers launch
- Friday: Picnic in the park

You can check for up-to-date information about these and other events at [www.through-the-maze.org.uk](http://www.through-the-maze.org.uk)