

Agenda

Newsletter of Age Concern Kingston upon Thames – 2007 Issue 1

Changes to Local Day Services

Families face a growing burden of care for elderly and disabled relatives and, as the state's role shrinks, most people will have to pay for their own support services in old age, according to a recent Government report.



Will Kingston Council restrict care for older people in the future?

A fundamental shift in responsibility is taking place as councils respond to spiralling demand by concentrating resources on fewer people with greater needs, CSCI, the Commission for Social Care Inspection reports. While the NHS has had a 90% increase in funding in the last decade, government grants to local authorities has risen by just 14%.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart, Chair of the Local Government Association, says that councils are effectively having to ration care by raising eligibility criteria and that that must be wrong. Pressure on services is set to worsen in coming years, as numbers of over-85s are predicted to increase from 1.2m now to 4m by 2050.

Providing Community Care assessments and services to adults is a statutory responsibility for local councils. Access to services is governed by the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) guidelines issued by Government, which gives councils discretion over the level of need at which they offer services.

There are four categories of risk and need: critical, substantial, moderate and low.

Kingston Council is proposing to change the eligibility for adult social care services in response to financial pressures and to the challenge from Government in its White Paper on the future of health and social care: 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say'.

Possible service reductions?

It may adopt the same approach as many other councils, offering services only to people in the 'critical' and 'substantial' categories and to commission preventative services to support those in the two lower risk categories, services that they can access directly themselves. The Council is keen to stress that any change would apply only to *new* users.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Kingston Hospital Backs Age Concern’s ‘Hungry to be Heard’ Campaign



Kingston Hospital NHS Trust has pledged to support Age Concern’s national, year-long campaign to end the scandal of malnutrition in our hospitals. A Communications Manager from the hospital said: ‘We welcome the launch of the Hungry to be Heard campaign and will continue to raise awareness amongst staff and improve the delivery of nutrition to our elderly and vulnerable patients. The Trust has been taking a very proactive approach over recent months and will be working with Age Concern on this very important issue.’

Earlier last year Age Concern Kingston urged the hospital to adopt a series of very simple measures to address this problem. These include: hospital staff listening to older people, their relatives and

carers, and acting on what they say; all ward staff becoming more ‘food aware’; older people being assessed for the signs of malnutrition on admission and at regular intervals during their stay.

Kingston and Surbiton MP Ed Davey continues to lend his support to the campaign, and his Early Day Motion launched last December now has 129 signatures.

To find out more about the campaign, look on our website: www.ageconcernkingston.org.

Age Concern Kingston can supply leaflets containing helpful hints for ensuring that elderly people are properly nourished. Contact the Advice Team on 020 8942 8256.

Bradbury Centre: An Open and Shut Case?



We are pleased to confirm that a revised planning application has been submitted to the Royal Borough of Kingston (RBK) to extend the opening hours at the Bradbury Active Age Centre.

We are calling on all the Centre’s supporters to write to the council in favour of the application as soon as possible, quoting planning reference 07/12005. You can register your comments on RBK’s website at www.kingston.gov.uk or send an email to dc@rbk.kingston.gov.uk. Reasons for our application include: consistent feedback from users that they’d like access to the centre **on Sundays**; older people **who are still working** would be able to attend the centre if it could open until 9pm; we could use the Centre for **much**

needed fundraising activities if we had permission to open on the occasional Friday evening until midnight; as the Centre has no visitor parking, there will most likely be **NO increase in traffic in the surrounding roads**; being older, members and guests of the Centre are **unlikely to contribute to noise levels or litter nuisance** in the surrounding area. More details of supporting arguments can be found on the Age Concern Kingston website. Just click on the ‘What’s New’ link, then on ‘Bradbury (Revised) Planning Application’.

If the council receives a significant number of adverse comments, there will be a public meeting on 14 February. Details of this meeting will be posted on the RBK website.

Advice and Advocacy: Calling Time on Ageism

Since 1 October 2006, new age discrimination legislation has been introduced, and it is hoped that this will end discrimination towards older workers under 65.

The laws give workers a range of new rights, among which are the right to be given at least 6 months notice of a retirement date, and the right to request working beyond their normal retirement age, which employers have a 'duty to consider'. All retirement ages below 65 will be abolished, except where the employer can objectively justify keeping them lower.

Although reactions to the legislation have generally been positive, Age Concern is disappointed that the Government has allowed the continued use of Mandatory Retirement Ages (MRAs). This

means that as long as employers follow the correct procedure, they can ask people to retire below normal retirement age. 'Heyday', Age Concern's membership organisation for people at or nearing retirement, has launched a legal challenge questioning the Government's decision. This has now been referred to the European Court of Justice (EJC) and Heyday hopes the EJC will find that the European Directive regarding age discrimination has not been fully implemented. If so, it may end MRAs and introduce further legislation to protect workers older than 65.

The Advice and Advocacy Team can help you find out your rights in the workplace. Ring the Advice Line on 020 8942 8256 Monday-Friday, 10am-12pm.



Real People, Real Lives

Finding out your rights can feel impossible. Mrs H is disabled and uses her Blue Badge wherever she goes by car. She admits to finding the rules around Blue Badge use hazy, but was surprised to get a ticket for parking on a double yellow

line where she had parked before. The team managed to advocate with the parking firm on her behalf, and got the ticket written off, saving her £30. Mrs H was very grateful for our help.



Raleigh Centre: New Activities

The Raleigh Centre is planning a whole range of exciting new activities. The coming year will feature more entertainment at the Centre and outings to places of interest. Members are invited to suggest ideas and the most popular will be organised. It is rumoured that karaoke is high on the list!

A monthly series of talks on health and well-being will start on 7 March.

The first talk, given by a district nurse, will be on blood pressure. Future topics include: nutrition and skin care, diabetes, blood sugar monitoring, Indian head massage and bereavement.

Of interest to film fans will be the launch of a cinema club; we are hoping to install a large flat-screen television and show a wide variety of films at the Centre.

Changes to Local Day Services

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The Council is conducting a three-month consultation to seek the widest possible range of views from partner agencies, stakeholders, users, carers and staff.

Age Concern Kingston's Chief Executive, Shane Brennan said: 'Age Concern Kingston will participate in this consultation and ensure that the wider needs and issues of older people are represented.' The outcome will be reported

to the Council's Executive Committee in March.

Full details for how to respond to the Council consultation can be found on either our own website, or at the RBK website www.kingston.gov.uk.

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Can you help us reduce our costs by viewing Agenda on line?

Reading the newsletter on our website would save the cost of printing and mailing, so if you are interested please send an email to agenda@ageconcernkingston.org. We will notify you by email when the latest issue can be downloaded from the site.

500 Club Winners

Congratulations to our December winners:

- A Dupille
- M Emerson
- R Sparrow

The results of future draws will be published in this newsletter and on our website.

The next draw takes place at the end of February. It costs only £1 to enter – and the profits support the work of Age Concern Kingston upon Thames.

Please ask friends and family to join in the fun - the more people who take part, the bigger the prizes! Application forms are available from Femina Makkar.

Volunteers Wanted!

Do you have regular spare time?

- Are you a skilled surfer? A confident emailer? A Word or Excel person? Then we have the job for you! Come and hold IT workshops for our Centre users
- Are you a great communicator who will be in tune with our members? Write now for more details!
- Good food and company! Help to serve the food and provide the company at our lunch clubs.

We have many opportunities for volunteers, so tell us where your interests lie and what you would like to do. Call Femina Makkar on 020 8942 8256 and find out more.

Christmas Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our Christmas raffle:

1st prize: Mrs Cherry, Billericay (ticket no. 01728813)

2nd prize: Mr B Rollings, Worcester (ticket no. 14441475)

3rd prize: J R Beard, Dorset (ticket no. 01503439)

Dates for Your Diary**Volunteers' Tea with Trustees**

Thursday 9 March - 10.30 am
 Raleigh Centre, New Malden
 Contact Jyoti Patel on
 020 8942 8256.

Volunteer Speed-matching

Thursday 29 March - 4-8 pm
 Market House, Market Place,
 Kingston.
 Come along and find out about all the exciting volunteer opportunities that exist at Age Concern Kingston and other local groups.
 Contact Femina Makkar on
 020 8942 8256.

Need to Talk?

Our Later Life Counselling Service is now operating, so if you would like to find out more about it or to make an appointment with a trained counsellor, please contact the coordinator on 020 8942 8256.

Tesco Collection

We raised £240.95 in just four hours on 8 December. This was a great effort by our volunteers who braved the cold and busy shoppers, so thanks to you all!

For above activities, contact Femina Makkar on 020 8942 8256.