

CONSULTATION EVENTS

We have, together with Heather Parry, Powys County Council's Carer Services Co-ordinator, organised a series of consultation events for organisations providing support to carers. At these consultation events we hope to:

- Identify what future developments in services carers organisations would like to see,
- Identify ways in which we can make services more accessible and appropriate.
- Gather more information on carers needs and
- Establish a framework to enable us to plan and develop services in the future.

Whilst these sessions will be informal, it is hoped they will assist taking carers services forward.

Dates and venues are as follows:

Brecon

Wednesday, 2nd November 2005
10.30 am to 1.30 pm
Committee Room 2,
Neuadd Brycheiniog, Brecon

Newtown

Wednesday, 23rd November 2005
10.30 am to 1.30 pm
Plas Dolerw, Milford Road, Newtown
(www.plasdolerw.org.uk)

Llandrindod Wells

Friday, 2nd December 2005
10.30 am to 1.30 pm
The Pavilions, Llandrindod Wells

If you would like to attend, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact either Gyles on 01597 823800 or Heather on 01938 551826.

The Abuse Of Vulnerable Adults:

Do you know what it is and what to do about it?

Child abuse and domestic violence have become widely acknowledged and reported social problems over the last four decades. The abuse of vulnerable adults is less well recognised and understood.

Who is a vulnerable adult?

A vulnerable adult is a person over 18 years of age who 'is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation' (In Safe Hands, National Assembly for Wales, 2000).

People who may fall within this definition include people with learning disabilities or mental health problems, older people and disabled people, particularly when their situation is complicated by additional factors such as physical frailty or chronic illness, sensory impairment, challenging behaviour, social or emotional problems, poverty or homelessness.

What is abuse?

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons. Abuse may take many different forms and is one or a combination of the following.

- Physical abuse, including hitting, slapping, over or misuse of medication, undue restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

- Sexual abuse, including rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable adult has not consented or where there was pressure to consent.
- Psychological abuse, including threats of harm or abandonment, humiliation, verbal or racial abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.
- Financial or material abuse, including theft, fraud, pressure around wills, property or inheritance, misuse or misappropriation of benefits.
- Neglect, including failure to access medical care or services, negligence in the face of risk-taking, failure to give prescribed medication, poor nutrition or lack of heating.

Most abuse is committed by paid staff in health and social care services, such as on hospital wards or in care homes or by relatives in people's own homes. Investigations of abuse allegations are undertaken by specially trained police officers, social workers and Care Standards Inspectors, often working together.

If you have any queries about adult protection or would like to request a copy of the 2004/5 Powys Annual Report on the alleged abuse of vulnerable adults in Powys, please contact Mick Collins, Adult Protection Co-ordinator on mickcol@powys.gov.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

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Please note - Views and opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of Powys Carers Service or Powys Carers Service Editorial Group

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Next Issue

The next issue of
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will be for **February 2006**

Deadline for Articles, News,
Letters, photo's
is **27th January 2006**

Please send articles etc to the main
office address or Email:
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