

# Disability Equality Duty Involvement Events

The new "Duty to Promote Disability Equality" which takes effect from December this year, requires all public bodies to produce a Disability Equality Scheme and publish it by December 4, 2006.

This scheme will set out how the council will:

- Promote equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons
- Eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under the Act
- Eliminate harassment of disabled persons that is related to their disabilities
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons
- Encourage participation by disabled persons in public life; and
- Take steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled persons more favourably than other persons

Powys County Council are required to involve people who consider themselves to be Disabled, in the formation and development of their schemes. This will ensure that they drive forward with a scheme that reflects Disabled people's needs. They need to consider issues such as;

barriers to service provision, barriers to employment, how they can help to empower disabled people's lives, and how they can improve the practices and policies they currently have in place. Powys County Council can't achieve everything overnight, and they will have to work within the constraints of their current budgets, to make improvements over time. They will however need to prioritise, and you can help them to achieve that effectively.

Initially, they have arranged 3 involvement events to take place in early June. These events will aim to gather Disabled people's views from across Powys, about what they believe should be the priorities for their schemes, and where the most significant barriers exist within society. After these events, they will shape a Disability Equality Scheme based around the information that they collect at the events - supplemented by other advice we receive from Disabled people. They will then put a draft scheme forward for public consultation, where they will seek views about changes which may need to be made to the draft, prior to adoption.

There are 3 full-day events taking place in the north, mid and south of the county as follows:

**Monday 5th June - The Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells**

**Tuesday 6th June - The Chamber, Neuadd Brycheiniog, Cambrian Way, Brecon**

**Friday 9th June - Hope Community Church, Dolfor Road, Newtown**

The events will consist of a brief introduction and presentation, followed by workshops throughout the day. They will aim to finish at approximately 4pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided to delegates, and we will reimburse travel expenses and other reasonable expenses accumulated in order to attend the event.

We really do hope that you are able to attend, as this will be your opportunity to feed directly in to something that should help to improve equality for Disabled people. If you are able to attend, then please call Rhian Jones on 01597 826158.

If you are not able to attend, please make sure that you still provide your views by calling or e-mailing Rhian Jones, or visiting [www.powys.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.powys.gov.uk/consultation). If you would rather express your views in person, please do not hesitate to call Rhian to make an appointment".

## CEREBRA'S GRANT SCHEME

**Cerebra has increased their budget this year to give more grants to help children who have disabilities because of a brain related condition or injury.**

The condition may be of a physical nature or a learning difficulty or both. The equipment or resource requested must improve the child's quality of life and not be available from statutory agencies like social services or the NHS. The child also must be aged 16

or under. Some examples of grants made are touch screen computers, holidays, approved therapies, power wheelchairs and sensory toys.

Parents and carers can request an application form by calling 0800 328 1159 or by email at [debbieg@cerebra.org.uk](mailto:debbieg@cerebra.org.uk). It can also be downloaded at [www.cerebra.org.uk](http://www.cerebra.org.uk). Decisions on completed applications are made weekly.