

DAN News

Issue 6 Winter 2007

Plymouth
Disability Action Network

DAN

Plymouth Disability Action Network (DAN) was formed in 2000 to support and empower local people with disabilities. The aims of the group are to encourage a greater understanding of disability issues and to challenge discrimination and inequalities in society.

The group meets monthly for discussion, information exchange and also provides a networking opportunity. We have a guest speaker at each meeting to talk on a subject our members have expressed an interest in.

For information on joining, contact Georgina Thompson (details on the back).

New Survey of People with Sight and Hearing Loss

It is estimated that at least a quarter of a million people in the United Kingdom have a combined sight and hearing loss. **These people may be entitled to support.** Many of these will be older people whose sight and hearing has started to fail as a result of the ageing process.

Loss of sight and hearing makes it difficult for a person to take part in the things they like doing – visiting friends, spending an evening at the pub, playing bingo, watching television, going to church, enjoying a walk in the park or going shopping. Most people take these activities for granted. Deafblind people can't.

RNIB South West has found that very simple support can give people back their independence and quality of life.

This is often by providing someone to help by reading the person's letters to them, making appointments or going shopping with them.

Plymouth City Council and RNIB South West are working in partnership to find people in Plymouth who might benefit from support.

If you know of someone who has a combined sight and hearing loss or if you want to help with this project or learn more about it you can contact:

Philippe Cazalis
Plymouth City Council
Sensory Team
Chaucer House
83 Chaucer Way
Plymouth PL5 3EQ
philippe.cazalis@plymouth.gov.uk

or telephone him on 01752 305 639.



Disabled Ramblers organise and run a programme of supported disabled rambles each year. They also campaign for better access by encouraging those responsible to remove inaccessible man made barriers and if appropriate, to address the surface quality of the path. Their policy is to seek access while fully preserving the character of the countryside. They have covered over 1,000 miles of off-road trail so far, and are committed to sharing their knowledge and experience gained with others.

The group holds regular rambles across England and Wales from the New Forest to the Thames path, North Yorkshire Moors to the Gower peninsula to name a few. These rambles vary from easy where the surface is level to challenging which will be uneven, with some steep gradients and probably a rocky surface. The distance covered is usually about eight miles.

The subscription fee is £11.00 per year.

To find out more, visit their website at: www.disabledramblers.co.uk

Or write to:

The Disabled Ramblers
Orchard Cottage
Uplands
Ashted
Surrey
KT21 2TN

Plymouth City Council Appoints Disability and Inclusion Officer

Anthony Newson has been appointed as the new Disability and Inclusion Officer and joins the Council having worked previously with Penwith District Council as their Social Inclusion Officer. Anthony has a great deal of experience and knowledge of disability related issues and has previously worked as a volunteer for two charities representing people with disabilities. Anthony has been busy introducing himself throughout the City to disability related organisations and is now a permanent member of Plymouth Disability Action Network (DAN).

He is responsible for ensuring the targets set under the Disability Equality Scheme published by the Council are met. He is very keen to see more disabled people attend the Disability Equality Scheme implementation group, so if you would like to go along and have your input please feel free to contact him. Expenses will be reimbursed for attendance.

Anthony would also like to obtain peoples views on citywide services. If you have a query or if you have encountered a problem and need some help or advice, give him a ring or send him an email.

Anthony Newson
Disability & Inclusion officer
Tel: 01752 305447
Or Email:
Anthony.Newson@plymouth.gov.uk

Football for Blind People?

Yes it's true; many blind and partially sighted people have a passion for football and follow their team's performance on and off the pitch every week.

Soccer Sight is a project run by the Royal National Institute of the Blind. They work with football clubs to improve access and services at football venues and provide better opportunities for blind and partially sighted spectators to enjoy their team's home games. This can include anything from 'match day buddies' who act as guides for blind and partially sighted fans, through to specialist audio commentary, delivered by our volunteer commentators.

Soccer Sight is also helping to launch community based football teams to allow blind and partially sighted people in England and Wales the opportunity to play football locally.

Soccer Sight in Devon

Love football? Can't wait for Saturday? Soccer Sight are working with Plymouth Argyle and Exeter City football clubs, and are looking to recruit volunteers to help us when we launch in March 2008.

They need volunteers for the following roles:

Match Day Buddies - become a sighted guide for blind and partially sighted fans

Football Buddies - to help set up, manage and run local community football teams for blind and partially sighted children

Football Coaches - they need assistant coaches to help run community teams - coaches will receive specialised training

For more information please contact:
Kalle Hogh on Mobile: 0790 8527476
or Email: kalle.hogh@rnib.org.uk



PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

www.special-mates.co.uk

Online disability support:

- Specialist disability information on causes, treatments & management
- Support networks
- Online disability videos
- Books & DVDs
- Counselling services
- Psychological tests
- Specialist equipment
- Disability articles by other parents
- Grants & benefits
- For older children – disabled employment services

This service has been developed by a team of Clinical Psychologists – to support parents of children with disabilities.

For further information – visit
www.special-mates.co.uk

Planning Your Home for Safety and Convenience – Practical Advice for Disabled and Older People

Making decisions based on informed choices will help people live more easily in their homes. This guide contains useful recommendations for disabled and older people on how to make their homes safer and more suitable for both their present and future needs. Price £7.50

For more information or to order online visit:
www.cae.org.uk

Or contact:
Centre for Accessible Environments
70 South Lambeth Road
London SW8 1RL

Tel/textphone: 020 7840 0125
SMS: 07921 700098
Email: info@cae.org.uk
Fax: 020 7840 5811

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If you require this newsletter in a different format, please contact Georgina on
Tel / Textphone: 01752 201766 or
Email: deta@plymouthguild.org.uk
to discuss your needs.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

On 1 October 2007 the three equality commissions,

- Commission for Racial Equality (CRE)
- Disability Rights Commission (DRC)
- Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) merged into the new Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC):

The websites of these commissions have also been incorporated into the new Equality and Human Rights Commission website: www.equalityhumanrights.com

The Equality and Human Rights Commission hope you will find whatever you are looking for in their new website, but they have also made available archived snapshots of the legacy commissions' websites. These archives are no longer 'live' sites, but include all the content from the previous websites.

The disability helpline has special facilities: if you are a British Sign Language user or have a learning disability, and would prefer to contact them face-to-face, they can arrange a videophone call with you. Contact:

Telephone: 08457 622 633
Textphone: 08457 622 644
Fax: 08457 778 878

Disclaimer

Although every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of going to publication, Plymouth Guild will accept no responsibility for the accuracy of text. Views expressed in articles in the DAN News are not necessarily those held by Plymouth Guild.



Plymouth Guild
Providing Support, Advice and Volunteers