



carers'

Spring 2011

news

***Welcome to Birmingham Carers Association
Newsletter – May 2011.***

Adult Social Care In Birmingham

I am sure that you have all heard by now that Birmingham City Council are going to have to reduce the amount they spend on Social Care and this will have a huge impact on service users and carers, especially as the criteria banding has now been changed to critical only. You can, of course, challenge any cut to the care and support that you receive and ask for a re-assessment if you believe the cut in services will fail to meet your needs or if you think the assessment process was unfair.



At Birmingham Carers Association we would welcome your comments on the proposed cuts and how this will impact on your lives. We would also like to thank you for your

support with our recent petition against the cuts. We collected 2,300 signatures in a very short time and we also took part in the protest and picket outside the Council House.

Note from our Chair, MAUREEN PARKER

I have spent the last 18 months in the role of Chair to Birmingham Carers Association, and I feel that during that time we have accomplished a lot.

As you will read our AGM is approaching and I will give a full report on all we have achieved, especially behind the scenes. We (the team) have recently been complimented on the work we have achieved and it is very satisfying to know that Birmingham City Council have confidence in us to represent all carers within Birmingham.

The Committee

As usual we have all been very busy

Enid Said, Vice Chair, is now on one of the admissions panels, along with an academic for interviewing prospective Social Work students. Enid is also involved with role play at the University, where Enid is given a case study and then asked to play out the role to Social Work students. These role plays take part prior to the Social Work student going out onto placements and therefore means students can be judged on their abilities before going out onto placements.

Enid was also recently invited to meet with David Cameron Prime Minister and was able to ask Mr Cameron when the revised Carers Strategy was due to be published.

Mr Cameron confirmed that the new strategy should be available towards the end of May. Enid was also able to put across her concerns over how the cuts will affect carers and that

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Birmingham Carers Association will be holding their AGM on **Wednesday 22nd June 2011** in the Banqueting Suite at the Council House from **11.00 am to 1.00pm**. We have recently written to all our members asking for nominations onto the Executive Committee and the result of the election will be given at the AGM.

Tea and coffee will be available afterwards at the **Carers Centre, 130 Colmore Row**. If you would like to attend please complete the form below and return to us as soon as possible:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Contact Tel No.:

Please return to:

Birmingham Carers Association,
FREEPOST MID 18897, Birmingham B20 2BR

, but here is just a snap shot of what we have been up to lately:

she felt more respite should be made available.

Following on from the publication of the Guidelines for relatives/carers of a patient staying overnight on a ward, Enid has been asked to be a member of the Carers Advisory Group being set up by the Associate Director of Patient Affairs for the NHS.

Maureen Parker, Chair, and Enid have also been taking an active role in the workshops taking place across the city on the Mental Capacity Act and Lasting Power of Attorney. A Lasting Power of Attorney allows someone else such as a family member or carer, to make decisions on behalf of a person who has lost capacity to make specific decisions themselves. It can be very useful for a carer to be an attorney, because this gives carers more rights to make decisions for the person they care for. If you have not been able to attend any of these workshops but would like further information on this and how it may affect you or the person you care for please contact us.

Elaine Winterbottom, Secretary, has recently taken up a place on the Service User Quality Board which is a new part of Adults & Communities Directorate's work to improve the experience of its customers. The Board's role will be to be part of a wider evaluation of the assessment support planning and safeguarding process, including looking at complaints and a quality assurance

process that includes views from individual service users and carers. Managers from Adults & Communities will provide the Board with reports and information on performance. Recommendations from the Board will be discussed, agreed and taken forward by operational managers to make improvements in the service.



FAIRER CHARGING

Birmingham Carers Association has now produced a guide to the Fairer Charging process. Copies are now available for carers so please contact us at:

**130 Colmore Row,
Birmingham B3 3AP**

Telephone us at:

0121 676 8176

or email us at:

Bhamcarers@gmail.com

and we will send a copy out to you.

CAN YOU HELP?

Chris Barber, a member of BCA Executive committee and a registered nurse for those with a learning disability has been asked to write a series of articles for the British Journal of Health Care Assistants around the needs of those with a learning disability and the articles will cover the following issues:

- Definition of learning disability
- Meaning and experience of learning disability
- Learning disability and spirituality
- Care of those with a learning disability in a general/acute hospital or primary care setting
- Care and support of family carers
- Disability and carer discrimination
- Learning disability and forensic care
- Learning disability and mental health
- Learning disability and sexuality
- Learning disability and end of life care

If you would like to talk to Chris about any of these articles or would like to share your experiences please contact Chris on **0780 7676 258** or email cfbarber@hotmail.com.



Website

Our Website at Birmingham Carers Association has recently been updated and improved so please take a look at www.b-c-a.org.uk.

We are hoping to improve the site further in the near future so watch this space.

Contact us



The Carers' Centre
130 Colmore Row
Birmingham B3 3AP
0121 675 8176
info@b-c-a.org.uk
www.b-c-a.org.uk

We welcome applications for Committee Members. We need people who can spare a couple of hours and have the enthusiasm to commit to improving the lives of all carers in Birmingham.

Office Hours: Monday – Friday – 10.00 am till 2.00 pm

Birmingham Carers' Association can now be found on Facebook
Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/birmingham.carers

