DON’T SLEEP ON IT! THINK OF THE CARER
(Full story on Page 3)

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
‘Commissioning Strategy for Carers to 2026’
You may be aware that at the moment there are several consultations taking place throughout our region that will affect the services we receive,

How are BCA involved?
Birmingham Carers’ Association are currently involved with The Birmingham Carers’ Partnership Board which was formed in 2006 to oversee the implementation of the Commissioning Strategy for Carers’ Commissioning to 2012. The board address issues such as the delivery of resulting services, and report to Birmingham City Council on how effectively the strategy and services are meeting the needs of all carers in Birmingham.

When will the consultation take place?
The consultation began on Monday 26th March 2012 after which the document and questionnaire will available to view online at: www.birmingham.gov.uk/carers2026. Alternatively you will be able to request copies by phone on: 0121 303 5154, or by emailing: carers2026@birmingham.gov.uk

How can YOU get involved?
As carers this is your opportunity to have your say and put forward any suggestions you have about the services you receive and the future of your entitlements. While it may seem unimportant now, if, as carers we do not provide any feedback once the consultations have finished you will not have the opportunity again. When the Commissioning Strategy is finalised this will contribute towards the Birmingham 2026 Sustainable Community Strategy. The consultation closes on Sunday 24th June 2012.
WORKING TOGETHER
Commencing in May, BCA working in partnership with Birmingham City Councils’ Adults & Communities will be giving carers an opportunity to meet your local Social Work Team at a new event for local carers. Over the course of the year, events will take place across the three areas of Birmingham and will create a prime opportunity for carers from the local area to learn about some of the services available and voice their concerns.

The first event will involve carers from the south side of the city and will be held at The Kenrick Centre in Harborne. Subsequent events will then be held at The Norman Power Centre in Ladywood and The Perry Tree Centre in Kingstanding. An invitation will be going out to local carers to attend in their local areas.

Carers will be able to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and access a wealth of information on everything from Enablement services, to Complaints and Telecare. You will also be able to speak to a panel of senior managers of the social work service and staff from other parts of Adults and Communities. There will also be social workers available with whom you can discuss any specific issues you may have. We hope that, by working in partnership with Adults and Communities, we will be better able to address the problems and concerns faced by carers in their local area. We will be asking those that attend to evaluate these events and tell us if they think we are helping to improve the way in which carers can access help and support.

We will be writing to Carers in due course in order to give them details of their nearest, “Meet Your Social Care Team Event”.

Call for applications to the Executive Committee/ Call for volunteers
Birmingham Carers’ Association are looking for new applicants to join our Executive Committee. If you are interested in joining us and feel that you could add to the Association then please contact the office on 0121 675 8176. We are also looking for new carers to come forward to become Executive Members.
Beds for Carers

The University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust’s Task and Finish Group, made up of carers and professionals looked into the facilities that were needed to support visiting carers and approached the charity Friends of Queen Elizabeth Hospitals for funding for provisions which included:

- Beds and linen
- Toiletries pack and towels
- Shower
- Refreshments including tea and toast in the morning

These facilities were successfully set up for each of the 27 wards across the University Hospitals. Enid Said and Maureen Parker, Birmingham Carers Association, have been working as part of the Task and Finish Group, and are hoping to get beds at other hospitals around Birmingham including West Heath and Moseley Hall. Maureen and Enid are still working to establish beds within the rest of the hospitals in Birmingham. It is also hoped that there will be 8 beds at Good Hope Hospital in the near future.

The beds fold into a mock chest of drawers and are stored in the Waiting Rooms.

Toilets Update
We are in the process of speaking to the Bull Ring, who are on course to finishing their toilet with a hoist. Also, we are in the process of contacting John Lewis, New Street Station, shopping malls and larger supermarkets, about updating their toilet facilities.

Hospitals
Good Hope’s Stroke Ward have taken steps to improve the feeding of patients to make sure that the patients are fed by introducing a Red Tray to highlight that the patient needs help to be fed and to ensure that they get enough fluid to stop them dehydrating.

Charts will be on show to carers and relatives so that they can see what intake of food and liquids the patient are having. This practice will be implemented in all other wards.
**Movers**
Sheila Rochester who was Birmingham City Council’s Director of Health and Well-being has retired from her post and has been replaced by Alan Lotinga. Glynis Hovell who was an Assistant Director for Adults and Communities at Birmingham City Council has now left her post and has been replaced by Steve Wise.

We wish Sheila and Glynis every success in the future.

**Twitter Account**
Don’t forget you can now follow Birmingham Carers Association on our Twitter account which can be found @BhamCarersAssoc. Follow us and keep up to date with all the latest information affecting carers.

**Important information about the Carers Forum - 24th April 2012**
As you may be aware we have now vacated the Carers Centre at Colmore Row and are now temporarily based at Louisa Ryland House. Unfortunately due to circumstances surrounding our re-location we regret to announce that we must **cancel** our next forum which was due to be held on the 24th April. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and ask that should any carers have any particular issues of importance that they were hoping to raise then they contact the office.

**Contact us**
OUR TEMPORARY ADDRESS IS:
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We will let you know of our next move to the Pitman Buildings in due course. Our cases are packed and ready to go!

Tel 0121 675 8176
Email: bhamcarers@gmail.com
Website: www.b-c-a.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook/birmingham.carers

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 10.00 am – 2.00 pm