



Hello, this is my 4th Newsletter and I hope I can bring you some good news over the year. I need some good stories for the newsletter over the year and if you have got one to tell can you email or call Just Advocacy and they will put you on the list. The details are on Page 2.



Meet the Staff:



Emma Pick is a Support Broker in Surrey. She helps people prepare their support plans as part of the new way of managing their own care - Self Directed Support. She works with people to research activities, care and services. The aim is for people to have choice and control in their lives and improve people's independence.



If you are interested contact Emma on: 01483 527759



Latest News



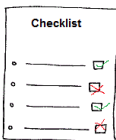
Just before Christmas I did some interviewing for new staff at Just Advocacy. This was for a person to support Self Advocacy Groups and do one-to-one Advocacy in Surrey. We interviewed 5 people for the job. The interview has 3 parts - an interview with Jennifer, a presentation and interview with the Advisory Group and a computer test. It is good for people with learning disabilities to interview because they are the ones that people will have to work closely with.

Learning Disability Partnership Board in Surrey Update:

The Partnership Board has recently talked about:

January: Changes to Benefits, The Big Society, Commissioning

February: Public Value Review, Supporting People, Census



There is currently a Consultation on Disability Living Allowance (DLA) that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have put out. The Self Advocacy Groups are filling them in but it is also important for other people to get their views heard. The deadline is 15th February 2011.

It can be seen on the DWP Website here:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2010/dla-reform.shtml>



Drop-in Advocacy Sessions at Guildford Library with Darren and Tom:

Session 1: Thursday 24th February, 2pm - 4pm

Session 2: Wednesday 2nd March, 11am - 1pm

Session 3: Thursday 24th March, 2pm - 4pm





News Continued:



Dionne Dsa (Senior Advocate) and Alison Dowd (PCP Facilitator) went along to the 'Life After School' event at Kennel Lane School in Bracknell. The event was for students at the school aged 14 upwards. There were lots of different stands there advertising the services that would be available to help them as they approach adulthood. Lots of people were interested to learn how Advocacy and Person Centred planning can help people with Learning Disabilities when they are going through changes.



Self Advocacy Groups at the South East Regional Forum

Holly and Wayne went to the South East Regional Forum in London on 29th November 2010. This was a day for Advocacy Groups in the South East of England to get together and talk about the good and bad things going on across the country for Advocacy and people with a learning disability in general. There were about 50 people from different places and presentations from many different groups.



Holly was representing Advocacy Groups in North West Surrey and Wayne was representing Advocacy Groups in South West Surrey.

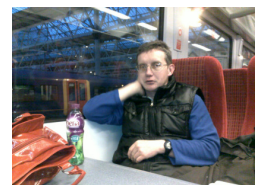


What Holly and Wayne thought about the day:



"It was a really good day, and worth going to."

"We have a lot going for us in Surrey in terms of Self Advocacy, but need it to keep going."



"There are good projects around the Region – Kent Parenting Action Group and South East Jobs Network."

"It is important for people with learning disabilities to keep being safe."



"We liked working in groups and we all need to work together in the future."

Have you got a story to tell?



Phone 01483 527759 and we will come out and talk to you.

Write an article yourself and email it to staff@justadvocacy.org.uk



Write an article yourself and post it to: Just Advocacy, Dunedin House, 2 The Mews, Wharf Street, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1NN

Send us a drawing or photo to put with it.

We will keep your name and address private.