



Billings: working together

John Smyth of Ealing Council's Financial Assessment & Income team met with carers on 23 July 2010, to answer questions and listen to comments on the council's charging policy for services. His visit was in response to concerns raised by carers at the conference held at the Centre in June.



John Smyth

It was a very informative and lively discussion and John has promised to make a return visit. He emphasised that if you do have problems with charging, don't hesitate to call the Finance team and they will arrange a face to face chat with you at Perceval House. Phone 020 8825 5000 and ask for Adult Services Finance.

Help us campaign for carers

Ealing Mencap's carers action group would like to invite all carers to a meeting at the Carers' Centre on 7 Oct, 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Carers have very few rights and the government's recent promises of more support in the national carers strategy have not materialised.

The carers action group has written a charter for carers of people with learning disabilities, and think it would be a good idea to extend it to make it relevant to all carers in Ealing. We can then use it to tell the council very clearly what we need to give carers the support they deserve.

If you are unable to come, we would still like to hear from you, so please write, telephone or email the Carers' Centre – contact details at the bottom of the page.

Caring with Confidence cancelled



On 1 July the care services minister Paul Burstow announced his decision to terminate the Department of Health's Caring with Confidence training scheme, on the grounds that "it was not delivering value for money."

The free course was due to return to the Carers' Centre in September but has now been cancelled. Paul Burstow has pledged "we can now ensure that the money does much more to benefit carers on the ground."

The Carers' Centre will be monitoring this and we'll keep you informed.

An Ace day out!



The Carers' Centre's first outing to the Ace Café, the world famous 'Mecca' for bikers, was turbo-charged fun.

The breakfasts are big and delicious, as are the fabulous motorbikes outside.

Pictured is Michael, one of our carers, with ECIL Chair Wendy Starkie and a Harley Davidson motor trike... very cool! The Ace Café is accessible and friendly, and we're looking forward to the next visit.

Watch this space!

Back-up for carers

Pictured are carers at the manual handling and back care workshop held at the Centre in July, led by chartered physiotherapist Marion Kirkley (front). Afterwards Jan, one of the carers, said "I now have a much better idea of how to move someone around without hurting them or myself".

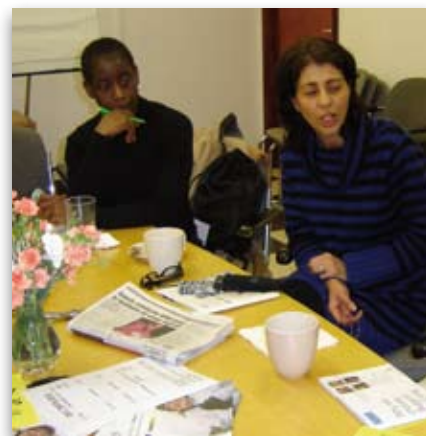
Let us know if you'd like us to repeat this workshop.



Keep in touch at Carers Central

Fridays

10.30am - 12.30pm



Drop in to our weekly get together over coffee and cake and relax with some like-minded people. If your birthday falls that week, give us a few days' notice and we'll lay on a cake and candles for you!

Invited for 10 September is Kimberley Bailey, NHS Health Trainer, who will offer free advice for carers on staying healthy, including blood pressure and body mass index (BMI) checks. Places are limited, so please contact the Centre to reserve a slot or to find out more.