



# Hastings & Rother Disability Forum Update

October 2007

## Introduction

Welcome to our latest Update, in it we intend to keep you informed of the key things HRDF has been doing.

We would like you all to know that we no longer have our office due to funding and practical issues, but fortunately we're able to continue as normal with the help of Committee Members. Our phone number and address will remain the same.

We try very hard to involve our members in the work of HRDF and we're always looking for ideas and suggestions of how to do this best. Recently we've held two open meetings, which weren't as well attended as we'd hoped. We'd like to appeal to you – our members – to give us your thoughts and ideas. What are the issues that would make you come to a meeting? What sort of events would you like to attend? Which organisations would you like to put on the 'hot spot'? Please let us know as we desperately need your ideas to make your forum a success! If you have any contributions we'd really like to hear from you - just use the contact details shown at the end.

## Cycling Trial Open Meeting

HRDF members were able to raise issues with Hastings Borough Council about the Cycling Trial, which will take place in the New Year in Hastings Town Centre. Many concerns were raised about safety issues for disabled people. Issues were also raised concerning irresponsible cyclists riding too fast and the affect this could have on disabled and older people and how it would be handled in the event of an accident.

## Join Us for a Celebration!

**International Day of Disabled People  
3rd December 2007**

We'd like to invite all our members and anyone else who'd like to help us celebrate International Day of Disabled People (IDDP) to come along to the Pig In Paradise Pub on Hastings Seafront (opposite the old Ice Skating Rink) on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 at 7.00pm. The Pig in Paradise is our favourite local accessible pub.

## Prize Draw for New Members

As part of IDDP activities we plan to launch a membership drive. We know there are many disabled people in Hastings and Rother who have yet to join our Forum. We'd like to build our membership so our voice can be louder and stronger in tackling the issues that affect disabled people.

Using the membership forms enclosed we'd like all our members to encourage others to fill them in and join HRDF.

All new members who join the Forum between 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 will automatically be entered in to our **New Members Prize Draw!** First prize is £20 Marks and Spencer vouchers, Second prize £10 Marks and Spencer Vouchers, third prize is a bottle of wine. Remember - you can always contact us if you need more forms to hand out!

## Hastings & St Leonards Made Easy

HRDF is currently working with Hastings Borough Council to up date their guide to accessible attractions. This time round the publication will be even bigger and better!

## **Help Improve Services Provided by East Sussex County Council and the PCT**

East Sussex Disability Association Inclusion Enterprise is working with East Sussex County Council Adult Social Care and Children's Services, and the Primary Care Trusts to set up new ways for disabled people to tell the County Council and PCT what you think about their services and to help shape and improve their services. They are setting up a reference group of disabled people and want you to tell them how you would like to be involved. To find out more, please contact Theresa Hodge on 01424 205414 or at [research@eaconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:research@eaconsultancy.co.uk).

### **Closer to Home**

Planning health and adult social care services in your area based on local need

East Sussex County Council Adult Social Care and the NHS primary care trusts are working together to provide health and social care services in your county.

They want to involve you in making sure that health and adult social care services in your area meet local needs. Five events are being held across the county (two events in the Hastings & Rother area) to discuss how best they can plan their services now, and how best to talk to people about planning future services. The two dates in our area are Tuesday, 6th November 2007, 10.00am - 3.00pm at High Beach Hotel, St Leonards; and Friday, 16th November 2007, 10.00am - 3.00pm at Ashburnham Place, Battle.

To attend one of these events, please contact Sally Hepburn as soon as possible on 01273 481214 or at [sally.hepburn@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:sally.hepburn@eastsussex.gov.uk)

### **Hearing Resource Centre News Don't Miss The Bus!**

East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre and Adult Social Care are working to provide a mobile information and advice service (Deaf Outreach) for Deaf,

deafened, hard of hearing and deaf/blind people in East Sussex. The bus is accessible to wheelchair users and representatives from East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre and Adult Social Care will be available to provide information and advice on all aspects of hearing loss. Contact 01323 722505

### **Deaf Or Hard Of Hearing? Living In Hastings?**

The East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre holds a Communication Group to aid Deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people and their families.

The meetings give an opportunity to chat in an easy-to-communicate atmosphere. We explain communication tactics, display/demonstrate environmental aids and give advice, information and support.

The meetings are at Hastings Voluntary Action, 31a Priory Street. All welcome.

**For information please contact  
Teresa Davis at East Sussex Hearing  
Resource Centre, 8 St Leonard's Road,  
Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 3UH.  
Tel: 01323 722505 (voice, text, fax).  
E-mail: [mail@eshrc.org.uk](mailto:mail@eshrc.org.uk).  
Website: [www.eshrc.org.uk](http://www.eshrc.org.uk).**

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### **Contact Details**

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