

Professional Awareness Bulletin – January 2012

WELCOME to this special edition containing information about the Bradford Carer's Personal Budget Scheme (formerly the Carer's Small Grants Scheme). A full edition will be published in February 2012 and we would welcome any suggestions for topics to include or information to circulate to others. Please contact Julie Rainer at Carers' Resource on jrainer@carersresource.org or by calling 01274 449660.

We also regularly produce a newsletter for carers and professionals called 'Choices'. If you would like to receive a copy of this please let us know by emailing us at choices@carersresource.org. Please include contact and your job details.

NEWSFLASH

Bradford Carer's Personal Budget Scheme is open for applications.

Anyone within the Bradford district who looks after a family member, relative, friend or neighbour with a physical or mental health problem, drug or alcohol addiction or simply due to frailty and old age is eligible to apply.

The scheme offers carers the chance to apply for up to £200 for something which will make their lives a little easier or give them a break. It could be a gym membership or signing up to an art class, some exercise or relaxation videos or maybe a laptop to keep in touch with friends further afield.

One example from last years successful applicants was Keith, who is a full time carer for his wife. Her debilitating health problems mean she is reliant on Keith for a lot of her personal and mobility needs. When Keith has some time to himself his lifelong passion is walking - and he has spent many hours on the hills with friends enjoying the breathtaking views and peaceful surroundings. However his walking gear was largely worn out - his coat had lost its warmth and waterproofing; the soles on his boots were wearing thin and their leather was beginning to crack.

Due to being a carer reliant on state benefits for his income, Keith only had enough money to cover the essentials - with nothing spare to spend on luxuries or things that he would like.

Keith applied for a grant from the scheme in the hope he may be able to buy some new walking equipment - and was awarded the full amount of £200.

He said: "The grant has made a real difference to me and improved the quality of my life. It's enabled my love of walking to continue, helping me to relax and improve my health and well-being. I encourage other carers to

follow in my footsteps and use the money available under the initiative to improve their lives as well."

Anyone who would like to apply for a grant should contact The Carers' Resource on 01274 449660 for full details and the application form.

Preference for grants will be given to carers who have not benefited from the Carer's Small Grants scheme in the last 3 years.

The deadline for applications is 17th February 2012 and carers will find out if they have been awarded a grant before the end of March 2012.

Attached is a poster you can use to display if appropriate.

Want to know more?

To find out more about resources:

- to support your working with carers
- for the carers themselves
- or to suggest topics for future bulletins

Please contact Carers' Resource.

Carers' Resource offers a district wide specialist tailored information service and emergency planning service.

Contact us at

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