

**Welcome to the latest edition of the micro provider newsletter. The micro provider project supports local people to provide local support in social care. Micro providers are very small local organisations that often provide flexible and innovative services around health and social care.**

**If you would like to make a contribution to the next newsletter please contact Lorna Reid, micro services coordinator on 01384 811744 or email:**

**[microservices.achs@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:microservices.achs@dudley.gov.uk)**

## **MICRO NEWS**

### **Micro Provider Forum**

The next Micro Provider forum will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014. It will take place at Clover Leaf Community Group, The Coach House, Rectory Road, Off Hagley Road, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, DY8 2HA at 4:30 – 7:00pm. Parking is available at St Mary's Church. Please send any agenda items to: [MicroServices ACHS@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:MicroServices.ACHS@dudley.gov.uk).

### **Green Team Coffee Morning in Aid of Action Heart**

You are invited along to a coffee morning at the Green Team. The Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley will also be attending. All proceeds will go to a very worthy cause, Action Heart based at Russells Hall Hospital. There will be fun, games, homemade cakes, competitions and much more.

When: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Where: Blowers Green Pumphouse, Peartree Lane, Dudley, DY2 0XP

## **FUNDING**

### **The Big Venture Challenge 2014**

The Big Venture Challenge supports ambitious entrepreneurs with access to business support, powerful connections and match funding to help raise investment and deliver social impact at scale. The Big Venture Challenge 2014 is launching soon and they are looking for 10 Midlands based organizations seeking investment of between £50,000 - £200,000. They offer match funding and readiness support. For further information and to apply, please follow the link: <http://unltd.org.uk/bvc/entrepreneur/>

## **MAKING IT REAL NEWS and EVENTS**

### **People Urged to get Involved with Community Forums (hosted by Dudley Council)**

Residents are being invited to discuss local issues at the latest round of community forums – from multi million pound budget savings to car parking and bin collections.

Dudley Council is running the 10 forums across the borough from January 28 to February 5.

They give people an opportunity to raise issues and concerns on any subject but could include the £60 million worth of savings the council needs to make over the next three years, car parking in town centres, the council's new waste or recycling scheme.

People can speak to councilors at each of the forums or raise issues with the council. Community groups can also bid for funding at the forums.

To find out when and where your local community forum is, please follow the link:

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/ascviews>

### **Centro Consultation**

Centro is consulting on the options and consequences of making a further £14 million of savings across the West Midlands over the next two years. They want your views on proposed changes to child fares, Ring and Ride, Metro and rail concession for elderly and disabled people, subsidized bus network and free bus after 11pm for elderly and disabled people. This consultation runs until 31st January. The full consultation document and online survey are at: <http://www.centro.org.uk/>

## **GENERAL NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### **Skills for Care Website**

Skills for Care has a new look website and e-news. Following feedback from their partners and users, they have developed a much better and improved user friendly website. It is designed to help you find the resources and information more quickly and easily. To find out more go to: [www.skillsforcare.org.uk](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk)

### **Personal Independence Payments (PIP) Update**

The Department of Works and Pensions has begun to reassess some West Midlands disability living allowance (DLA) claimants for PIP in the following circumstances:

1. When the DWP received information about a change in care or mobility needs.
2. When the person has a fixed term award due to expire on or after 17 March 2014.
3. The claimant is a child who reaches 16 on or after 7 October 2013 (unless they have DLA under special rules for terminally ill people).
4. A person chooses to claim PIP instead of DLA as they think they may get more PIP.

For further information, please follow the links overleaf:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-independence-payment-fact-sheets>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reassessing-existing-dla-claimants-for-pip>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pip-postcode-map-uk>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-personal-independence-payment-toolkit-for-partners>  
<https://www.gov.uk/pip>

## **New Personal Health Budget Sites Launched**

NHS England has rolled out seven new sites to help people who use mental health services to have personal health budgets.

The sites will be staffed by demonstrators who can show how personal budgets can improve quality of life and follow on a pilot programme, which was based at 20 other locations around the country.

The seven sites have all been tasked with rolling out personal health budgets at scale over the next 18 months. Another six sites, which want to use personal health budgets as an option will also be set up.

“We want everyone to have better care that is built around their individual needs”, said care minister, Norman Lamb.

For more information follow this link: <http://www.localgov.co.uk/New-personal-health-budget-sites-launched/35193>

## **Health and Social Care Bill**

The Voluntary Organisations Disability Group have this month published a clear and succinct update on key aspects of the Bill since May 2013, from a providers perspective. The briefing is very readable and contains a number of useful links to related publications that you may want to consult.

The government has published 18 factsheets and a glossary to accompany the Care Bill which can be located within the attached link:

[http://gallery.mailchimp.com/1515a030fe1edc6c643e054ae/files/Care\\_Bill\\_Briefing\\_January\\_2014.pdf](http://gallery.mailchimp.com/1515a030fe1edc6c643e054ae/files/Care_Bill_Briefing_January_2014.pdf)

## **OTHER NEWS LINKS**

### **How to Make Social Media Work for your Charity/Social Enterprise**

Something to Tweet About – A free guide to content creation and distribution aimed at charities and social enterprises, with or without a social media or marketing budget.

Download the full report: <http://www.aegismedia.com/~media/Files/A/Aegis-Group-Plc/reports/Something-to-Tweet-About-a-guide-to-social-media-content.pdf>

## Dudley Community Information Directory

If you haven't yet registered your organisation on the Community information directory, please follow the link [www.dudleyci.co.uk](http://www.dudleyci.co.uk)

New changes are being made to the directory to make it easier for people to navigate and access the appropriate service.

## Carer Aware Training course

This on line course aims to raise awareness about carers, their role and rights as well as support available within the Borough. Dudley MBC staff should take this course via the intranet so that this will appear on your Training Record <http://idudley.dudley.gov.uk/idudley/directorates/adult-community-and-housing-services/staff-well-being-and-training/hr-learning-and-development/e-learning/> The course is on the internet too and may be accessed by all. To access the course via the internet see <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/care-health/dudley-social-services/essential-guides-to-adult-social-care/carers-aware/> There is a lot of information in the course and the links from it- so please use it as a resource- you can access the information as many times as you like.

## The Essential Guide to Adult Social Care Course

This course is not just for carers but also for people who use services or are thinking about their future needs, staff and the general public. It aims to set adult social care in the wider community context and it provides links to other local and national information. It includes and explanation on how personal budgets work and who may be entitled to a budget. Dudley MBC staff should complete the course on the intranet at <http://idudley/idudley/directorates/adult-community-and-housing-services/staff-well-being-and-training/hr-learning-and-development/e-learning/> This will then be included on your training record Non-MBC staff can see the ( identical) course at [www.dudley.gov.uk/health-social-care/adult-health-social-care/essential-guide-to-adult-social-care/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/health-social-care/adult-health-social-care/essential-guide-to-adult-social-care/) You can work through it systematically - take the test and get the certificate- or just browse through the information as many times as you want. There is an evaluation questionnaire at the end but if you would like to make comments to me as well, please do so.

***Disclaimer:** While this bulletin attempts to provide useful and relevant information, it cannot be guaranteed that all source documents referred to have been checked and verified. Responsibility cannot be accepted for actions or omissions taken after reading this bulletin and nothing in this bulletin is intended as a substitute for expert, professional or legal advice*