

NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE D.I.A.L.

Registered Charity No. 1053933

THE BULLETIN

Spring Issue
2005

Community
Legal Service



Welcome

Spring is in the air, welcome to this our 5th edition of The Bulletin. We hope that you are finding its contents useful? Please remember that the information provided, is included only as a direct response to what our readers ask for. If something is featured it is because people have requested it. So get your thinking caps on, what would you like to find out about? We will do our best to provide it.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to send back their feedback forms for the last edition. Accompanying the Bulletin is a new feedback sheet, if there are any issues you would specifically like us to cover in the next issue, please send it back to us. If you would prefer you can ring, our free phone Helpline and leave a message on 0800 970 7202. We look forward to hearing from you and providing you with useful information and contacts.

Naidex 2005

This year The Naidex Exhibition is taking place from the 24th - 26th May at the NEC Birmingham. This 3 day event is one of the best homecare, disability and rehabilitation exhibitions in the country.

Hundreds of organisations take part, showcasing the latest products and services designed to help individuals achieve independence in their homes and community. It's a great way of finding out about the huge range of aids and equipment that can make everyday tasks more comfortable and which don't have to cost the earth.

I am also reliably informed by members of our team that it's a great day out.

Entrance to the show and taking part in the activities scheduled is totally **FREE**.

To find out more about NAIDEX call free phone **0870 429 4428**

You can also pre-register your ticket via their web site **www.naidex.co.uk**

If transport to the event is a problem, call **TRIPSCOPE on 08457 585641** they will be able to advise on accessible transport and rail links to the NEC.

Special points of

interest:

- Disability Equipment
- The Blue Badge Scheme
- Useful Contacts

DISABILITY EQUIPMENT

There are many sources of information on and suppliers of aids and adaptations that might be useful to aid tasks of daily living, items as small as jar openers and tap turners to powered wheelchairs and hoists can make a huge difference to peoples independence. Locally there are a number of commercial retailers that supply items both large and small (ring DIAL for our list of local suppliers). The Naidex exhibition is a great way to find out about the wide variety of available equipment, however if your not going to be able to make the trip, Disability Answers in Worcester 01905 619219 hosts a permanent display of equipment as does the Centre for Independent Living in Birmingham 0121 464 4942.

- The Disability Living Foundation is an excellent charitable organisation. It provides a variety of services to clients. If your not sure what equipment is available or what you need this is a great place to start . The Helpline Advice Service is where the public can be put in touch with experienced equipment advisors. Enquiries requiring more extensive consideration are referred to their occupational or physio-therapists. The helpline is also able to give you the contact details of suppliers of any type of equipment you feel you need. The helpline is open 10.00am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday 0845 130 9177 (charge at Local Call Rate) Text phone 0845 130 9177 (charged at local rate) In writing - DLF Advice Services, Disabled Living Foundation, 380 - 384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU by email – advice@dlf.org.uk
- The Disability Living Foundation also produce fact sheets on how to choose a huge range of equipment i.e., choosing walking equipment, choosing and fitting grab rails, choosing a powered wheelchair etc. Facts sheets can be downloaded free from there website or you can call and then send postage to receive the fact sheets via the post. Website www.dlf.org.uk
- The market in second hand disability equipment is growing from year to year and this can also be a cost effective way of purchasing and selling items. The Disability Equipment Register is a not-for-profit organisation providing a service for disabled people and their families to enable them to buy and sell items of used disability equipment on a direct One-to-One basis. The Disability Equipment Register Monthly Magazine has helped many people to do this since 1991. The largest single source guide of used secondhand equipment nationally, a disability Exchange and Mart. People advertise and buy equipment via there website. You can also request a paper version monthly by sending a letter of request with a book of 6 first class stamps.
- Disability Equipment Register, 4 Chatterton Road, Yate, Bristol , BS37 4BJ
Best time to telephone: 9.00am - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday; answer phone at other times. Tel: 01454 318818 Fax: 01454 883870
Website: www.disabilityequipment.org.uk
- When purchasing any Disability related equipment, for the use of a person who is “chronically sick or disabled” you are entitled to VAT exemption. Often people are not aware of this and it is not automatically deducted. To find out more about this and how to apply before you purchase equipment contact DIAL for our new fact sheet

The Blue Badge Scheme

The Blue Badge Scheme (parking badges for disabled people) provides parking concessions both nationally and in Europe, for people with a permanent and substantial disability, whether that person is the driver or a passenger. The blue badge last' up to 3 years, you need to contact the relevant department when it needs re-issuing as they don't send out reminders. You should request new forms and reapply 6 weeks before your badge is due to expire. The way the scheme is operated is about to change. From 1st April contact or visit your local Hub/ Customer service centre for forms/ advice. Dial also hold a stock of forms.

Bromsgrove Customer Service Centre/ Hub

Dolphin Centre

01527 881288

Redditch Customer Service Centre / Hub

Town Hall

01527 64252

Wyre Forest

(Details are still being finalised, please contact DIAL for confirmation)

You automatically qualify for blue badge

If you are registered blind.

If you are receiving the **High Rate Mobility Component of DLA**.

If you receive a **War Pensioner's Mobility supplement**.

If you receive a Government grant towards your own vehicle.

You **may** qualify for blue badge if you meet **all** of the following criteria:

If your disability is permanent. If your disability is substantial and means you are unable to walk or you experience very considerable difficulty in walking. If you cannot walk more than 50 metres without severe discomfort, stopping or receiving support from another person.

or

If you have a severe disability in both upper limbs and regularly drive a motor vehicle, but cannot turn the steering wheel by hand even if the wheel is fitted with a turning knob.

You will not qualify for blue badge if:

If you do not meet any of the above criteria.

You have a temporary disability.

You experience a psychological disorder that does not cause you severe discomfort.

You only experience walking problems when carry objects, such as shopping.

Your condition does not **continuously severely** limit your ability to walk.

Children under the age of two do not qualify, because they would not normally be expected to be able to walk independently.

The blue badge belongs to the person whose name is on it, and it can be used in any stationary empty vehicle as long as the holder is using that vehicle, either as a driver or a passenger.

The blue badge must be displayed on top of the dashboard or facia panel of a vehicle with the front of the badge facing forwards so that the expiry date is visible. The badge should only be displayed when using the parking benefits under the scheme, unless the vehicle is being driven by some one other than the blue badge holder, for the purpose of picking up or dropping off the blue badge holder.

Abuse of the blue badge either by the holder or by others could result in it being withdrawn. It is the responsibility of the badge holder to ensure the badge is used properly.

Continued overleaf

Useful Contacts

Alzheimer's Helpline	01905 763322
Autism Helpline	0845 0704004
Parkinson's Disease Society Helpline	0808 8000303
The Princess Royal Trust for Carers	020 7480 4729
Sense (National Deaf Blind and Rubella Association)	020 7272 9648
Hearing Dogs for Deaf People	01844 348100
British Kidney Patient Association	01420 472 021
Family Crisis Line	01483 722 533
National Organisation of Disabled Lesbian & Gay Men (REGARD)	020 7688 4111
National Centre for Independent Living	020 7587 1663
Worcestershire Association For the Blind	01905 723245
VEET Deaf Centre	01562 745984

The Blue Badge Scheme Continued

It is a criminal offence for a non-disabled person to use a disabled persons car badge if caught they are liable to a fine of up to £1000. It is also a criminal offence to drive a vehicle displaying a blue badge unless the vehicle is being driven by some one other than the blue badge holder, for the purpose of picking up or dropping off the blue badge holder.

The Blue Badge is not a license to park anywhere. You must not park:-

- Where you could cause an obstruction.
- At school entrances, bus stops.
- On a bend or near the brow of a hill.
- Where it would make it difficult for others to see clearly.
- Where emergency vehicles go in or out.
- Where the kerb has been lowered.
- On a pavement.
- Where there are double white lines in the centre of the road.
- In parking places reserved for specific users i.e. taxis, cycles.
- On or near pedestrian crossings.
- During the time a ban on loading is in force.
(denoted by two or one yellow marks on the pavement).

NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE D.I.A.L.

NW DIAL can help with your queries about all manner of issues related to impairment / disability, access, holidays, support organisations both local and national, discrimination, transport etc. We can also refer you to our benefits service which undertakes benefit health checks, form filling and representation at appeals.

Helpline: 0800 970 7202
Fax & Minicom : 01562 68248

Office: 01562 60241
Email: northworcs.dial@dsl.pipex.com

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