

# - INSIDE LA -

Leeds  
Advocacy

A NEWSLETTER FROM LEEDS ADVOCACY FOR ADVOCATES AND VOLUNTEERS  
APRIL/MAY 2009

"Speaking out for people with learning disabilities ..."

## Volunteering News

Training: I am pleased to tell you that we have recently completed another weekend Advocacy Induction Training course for volunteer advocates. Very soon we will have another 7 people adding to our growing team of skilled and experienced advocates working hard throughout Leeds. This will make a valuable and long awaited difference to several people, some of whom have been on our waiting list for a long time. We do still need more volunteers to help us reduce the list further, so if you are an experienced advocate and have some spare time to do additional work for us then please let me know, or if you know of anyone who you think has the necessary qualities and time available then please pass my contact details onto them. Alternatively they can attend our next Volunteer Induction Session which will be on *Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> from 6pm till 8pm.*

2 Year Plan: With spring having sprung, the daffodils in full bloom and the birds twittering we at Leeds Advocacy embark upon the start of an exciting two year plan for Volunteering. In short, this is leading towards us gaining the 'Investors in Volunteers Award' and the recruitment, training and retention of a larger pool of skilled and experienced volunteers to support all the aspects of our work, and the varied projects that Leeds Advocacy do.

Support and Supervision: I'm still working my way through the list of all of our volunteers to phone and have a chat with, to introduce myself and to see how things are going. If I still haven't got around to you then hopefully I will do in the near future. In the meantime if you need any help with any aspect of your volunteering then please contact me at the office. If you would like to be informed of additional events and training that we get offered from time to time then make sure I have your email address by sending me an email.

National Volunteering Week June 1 - 7<sup>th</sup> 2009: To mark this years national week of volunteering June 1 - 7<sup>th</sup> we will be holding a Volunteers Get-Together on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June starting at 6.30pm and ending at 8.30pm. The evening will include a chance to meet with other volunteers and a short information session on Abuse/Safeguarding Adults with relation to new local procedures. Please let me know if

you would like to attend so that I can make sure we have enough tea bags and buns! During that week make sure you celebrate your achievements and spread the word about the many benefits of volunteering.

*And finally:* If you would like to help out at any of the events we will be attending throughout the summer to promote Volunteering for Leeds Advocacy then please let me know at the office.

Karen Hood Volunteer Co-ordinator  
[karen@leedsadvocacy.org.uk](mailto:karen@leedsadvocacy.org.uk) or 2440606

### IMCA Contract awarded

Under European Community rules on commissioning public services, contracts have to be publicly offered for tender. So although we have successfully run the Leeds IMCA (Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy) service for two years, Leeds Advocacy's subsidiary

Articulate Advocacy cic, has recently had to tender for the next three years IMCA work.

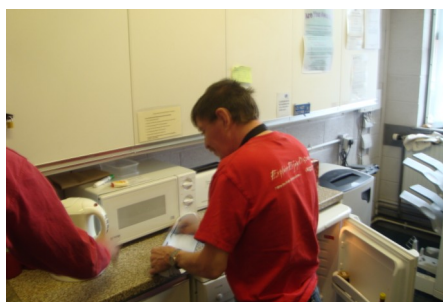
We have been told that we have been successful with our tender. A new contract will be running from 1st April 2009 for three years.

Paul Seccombe said "We are very pleased and somewhat relieved, that we have been successful in our bid. This means that we will be able to continue this very important work which helps safeguard the rights of very vulnerable people who lack capacity to make particular important decisions."

The work is undertaken sessionally by a team of specially trained advocates, it is a statutory obligation for the NHS and local authority to consult an IMCA in particular circumstances. Recently the role of IMCA's was added to with the introduction of amendments to the Mental Capacity Act in relation to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

Articulate Advocacy cic will be producing its annual report on the Leeds IMCA service activities for the last year. Additionally the Department of Health have to produce an Annual report on the implementation of the IMCA service across England - we will let people know when these reports are available.

## George cleans up!



Leeds Advocacy are pleased to welcome George Long as their new office cleaner.

George has taken over from Chris Braime who left at Christmas. Chris had cleaned for Leeds Advocacy for a number of years and is still involved with Leeds Advocacy in other ways.

George has worked as a cleaner at Bramley Annexe for the past four years and he has also worked at Burley Willows for older people where he covered a range of domestic duties.

George is also a keen gardener and looks after the garden at Bramley Annexe. He loves horses and goes riding regularly.

George is enjoying his new work at Leeds Advocacy and is doing a great job keeping the office clean.



## Let us know your hobbies

We know that plenty of people have lots of hobbies and interests that they tell us about. We think it would be great for other people to hear about these hobbies so we would like you to tell us what you do!

We want you to tell us what you do during the day, are you studying at college, do you work and if so what is your job like? Maybe you help somewhere as a volunteer and can tell us about that. Or do you have a hobby that you do in your own time that people might be interested in? Perhaps you ride a horse, make models, collect beer mats or are interested in trains? Do you have photos of you doing your activity or photos of any models you have made or pictures you have drawn? We would like to have a regular column in this newsletter to tell others what people enjoy doing, it might give someone an idea for a new hobby!

Please ring Katie on 2440606 if you have an idea that can go in the newsletter, she will take details and arrange to chat about your hobby.

## Gemma helps People First

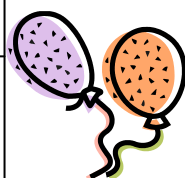


Gemma (3rd from right) with members of People First.

Hi, I'm Gemma Evans and I'm the new support worker for People First. I have 8 years experience supporting people with learning disabilities and have worked for 6 years in a supported living hostel in Wetherby. I am working now at Wetherby

Fulfilling Lives, supporting people in daily activities and have done this for 2 years. I have done advocacy training and have lots of experience supporting groups. I am working 1 day a week with the People First group and am enjoying the challenges of my new role. At the moment the group are looking at what people do during the day and we are arranging to meet with colleges to see what courses are available for people with learning disabilities across Leeds. The group are also giving information around health and the services they have received for the animation workshop.

If you are not already a member of People First and would like to be then please get in touch with me, I am in the office on Thursdays or you can leave me a message and I will get back to you.



## 20th celebration update

Here is another reminder that Leeds Advocacy's 20th Birthday party will be held on **Saturday 16th May 2009 at St Bartholomew's Social Club**, Wesley Road, Armley. Invitations have now been sent out so if you haven't received yours then please contact Katie as it may have got lost in the post.

We still need your memories and any thoughts you have, including photographs to display on the day—please put your name and address on anything you want returning after the event. We would also like people to collect any unwanted presents or gifts they may have so that we can organise a tombola/raffle.

Please send any ideas, memories, thoughts and photos you may have to Katie at the office (address below). Any items for the tombola can be delivered to Katie at the office or brought along on the day.

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### LEEDS ADVOCACY

Unit A4, 26 Roundhay Road, Leeds LS7 1AB

Tel: (0113) 244 0606 Fax: (0113) 224 0178

E-mail: [office@leedsadvocacy.org.uk](mailto:office@leedsadvocacy.org.uk)

Web: [www.leedsadvocacy.org.uk](http://www.leedsadvocacy.org.uk)

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