

Essex & Southend LINK

Weekly e-bulletin

Issue 28

16th April 2010

Reminder Social Care Seminar – Dignity Challenge, Monday, 19 April, 2010, 13.00-15.00, St Cedds Hall, Chapter House, Chelmsford, CM1 1TY: E&S LINK Seminar. Jan Lockyer, Dignity lead at Essex County Council will be sharing information on how ECC has responded to the dignity challenge. Please see attached flyer for details and booking details.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission welcomed the passing of the Equality Bill, which received Royal Assent on 8th April. It contains a series of measures for tackling inequalities which the Commission considers will help Britain to become a fairer society. Some of the specific measures in the bill, which the Commission has supported, include:

- Making the law easier to understand and implement by simplifying 116 pieces of equality legislation into a single Act for individuals, public authorities and private organisations.
- Giving people the right not to be treated less favourably by public authorities because of their age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or transgender status; as well as their disability, gender, or race which were already covered.
- Extending anti-age discrimination rules to include goods, facilities and services, thereby stopping people being unfairly refused insurance or medical treatments based on what age they are, for example.

You can find more information about the Equality Bill on the Commissions website: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/equality-bill/>.

Activities for over 60's and disabled adults: Please see attached poster for Brentwood Borough Council's 'Generation Games on 30th April and four page leaflet for their new 'Young at Heart' social club, starting in May 2010. For further information contact Sarah Lawrence, Health Promotion Officer, T: 01277 312801, E: Sarah.Lawrence@brentwood.gov.uk

VitaLinks for older people's befriending (newsletter attached): VitaLinks is the national network of befriending schemes for older people. Helping older people, their families and carers to locate a nearby scheme and helping befriending schemes to connect with each other. It is a project of Council and Care – the national charity working with older people, their families and carers to get the best care and support. www.counselandcare.org.uk/networks/vitalinks

'Lifting the Lid on Stress' a national mental health conference on the subject of 'Post Traumatic Stress Disorder', 23 June 2010, Park Inn Palace Hotel, Southend on Sea: Please note that there is FREE exhibition space, but there is a charge for attendance, therefore if you wish to attend this would need to be agreed with your Co-ordinator. Please see attached for further details.

Members' Expenses: As some members are requesting BACS payments please find attached a revised expenses form for members. You can either use the new form or continue to use the 'old' form and, if you would like BACS payments, provide your information on the bottom of the form.