



# THE DISABILITY FOUNDATION

# NEWSLETTER

The Disability Foundation is a Registered Charity Number 1076761

**ISSUE NO. 1, SPRING 2001**

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### **TAY-SACHS CARRIER TESTING**

**Anyone can now go to the NHS fully funded walk-in clinic held every Monday between 9.30 - 11.00 am at**

**7th Floor,  
New Guys House,  
Guy's Hospital,  
St. Thomas Street  
SE1 9RT**

**Tel. 0207 955 4648**

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I wanted to welcome you all to our first Newsletter. In April last year, we moved our premises to Stanmore, and are now based at The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust, where we have our new bright offices and therapy rooms.

We have introduced many new services and are happy to offer reflexology, aromatherapy body and face massage, Shiatsu face and body massage, Acupuncture, Osteopathy, Counselling, Hypnotherapy, Indian head massage and therapeutic massage. As you may know, our prices are kept as low as possible so that you can derive the maximum benefit of complementary therapies without the usual exorbitant costs involved. Many of these therapies have really proven to be of great benefit to numerous disabled people, their families and carers.

Our clientele is growing steadily and the demand for our services is great. We also offer advice and guidance, making use of our database, which is one of the largest disability databases in the UK.

We are in the midst of setting up a brand new website, so do try to look us up (details will follow shortly). There will be interesting information, competitions, celebrity interactive pages, your views, and links to other disability organisations plus much more.

So, please don't hesitate to give us a ring to see if we can help you in any way or book in and treat yourself to a fabulous body treatment!

If there is anything that we do not offer which would be of interest to you, please do let us know. We are always interested in our members' views so that we can offer exactly what you want. Looking forward to welcoming you here soon, and thank you for your continued support.

MICHELE FREEDMAN, CHAIRMAN

### **GET IN TOUCH...**

**if you have any ideas for the next newsletter, a fundraising event, or would like to know more about our work!**

## NEW BENEFITS FOR THE DISABLED

The Direct Payment Scheme (DPS) is a relatively new benefit for disabled people.

DPS supports disabled people in living in a fully independent lifestyle by offering Personal Assistants (PA) in your home, taking into account your daily and social needs. This benefit can support a PA for as little as 5 hours per week or as much as 24 hours a day, 7 days per week!

DPS must look at your daily needs, for example; washing, dressing, cleaning, cooking, going food or clothes shopping, as well as your social needs. If you wish to go to the pub or club and meet friends 2 or 3 times a week for example, they have to take that into account as well.

Once you have agreed the hours with the council, they will then give you the money to pay the wages for your PA. You are in

charge of the interviews and appointments. This means that you are the one making the decision as to who your PA should be, not other people making that decision for you. You also have to pay their wages and TAX and NIC, but do not worry as there are support groups who will show you the ropes. If you still feel unsure, they will even do all of the financial side on your behalf.

If you wish you can choose to have 2 or 3 people job sharing the position and to make matters easier there are agencies out there that specialise in supplying fully qualified PA's.

For further information contact your Social Worker or the Social Work Team at your local Social Services. They will be the ones that will come and assess you and your needs.



## PARKING BADGES

**Do you know about the change from Orange to Blue Badges for parking concessions?**

From 1st April 2000 disabled people will be issued with a Blue Badge to replace their existing Orange one. There is no change in the Badge's status; all existing rules apply.

Those who currently hold Orange Badges will still be able to use them until they expire. They will then be issued with the Blue Badge automatically upon reapplication. The reason for this change is to standardise parking concessions with other European Com-

munities. You will then be able to park in any EU member state using your Blue Badge. A word of caution here, each state will still be able to determine its own policies. For example in the UK the Blue/Orange Badge is not recognised in certain parts of London. So if you are driving in the EU, it's best to find out any local regulations beforehand!

**For maps of London showing all the parking areas which recognise the Blue/Orange Badges, please contact us at TDF and we will send you one for free!**

## BENEFIT UPDATES

**Children aged 3 and 4 will be eligible for DLA (Disability Living Allowance) higher rate mobility component as of the 9th April 2001.**

**From 1st October 2000 Working Family Tax Credit (WFTC) can include a disabled child credit. This will be paid when a child included in the claim is registered blind or receiving DLA at any rate. The extra credit is worth £22.25 per week.**

**However, because tax credits awards are made for fixed periods of 26 weeks, those already in receipt of WFTC and who qualify for the new credit will not be able to get the extra money until they next renew their claim.**

