

## Shepway District Partnership Group Notes of meeting held on 6th June 2011

### Feedback from Kent Partnership Board May meeting

#### Changes to Charging for KCC Adult Social Services

From Autumn 2011 KCC will be changing the way they charge people for services. They are sending out a questionnaire to find out what people think about this.



#### Commissioning for Carers

The Board talked about what support carers needed most.

- Places to get information, advice and guidance.
- A simple way to get services they need.
- Carers assessments.
- Support services.



#### Future Ideas for Local Groups

The latest ideas on the future structure of the Kent Partnership Board and District Partnerships Groups was shared.



#### Changes to Benefits

Stuart Rayner from Job Centre Plus told us how changes will be made to benefits over the next few years. This will affect people who receive Incapacity Benefit or Income Support on grounds of health or Severe Disablement Benefit. The new benefit will be called Employment Support Allowance.



Most people will need to take part in a Work Capability Assessment. The company who will do these assessments are Atos Healthcare. They will look at what people can do not what you can't do. Nothing will change until a decision has been made on your case.



There are 2 groups within Employment Support Allowance. In the Work Related Activity Group people will help and support to prepare for and find work. You will need to attend work focused interviews. If you don't go to these interviews your money will be affected. You may also be able to claim job seeker allowance.



People placed in the Support Group will not be expected to go out and find work. However people can do voluntary work if they want to.



If your benefits change it may affect your housing and council tax benefits. Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will tell the local authority if your benefits change.



When it is your turn to be assessed you will get a letter in the post. The letter will ask if DWP have the right phone number for you. It will also give you a reference number for your case. You can have someone to answer questions on your behalf.



You will then receive a phone call to find out if you need any extra help. It is important that you tell DWP if you need help with the process. You can have someone to answer questions on your behalf.

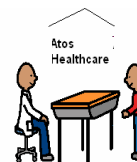


You will be sent a medical questionnaire to fill out. You can have someone help you with this form. You must put down all the information you can about each question, don't just answer



yes or no. If you are seeing a specialist doctor or attend an organisation that helps you (eg Cuppa's, DPG etc), they can write a letter to support your needs.

Atos will ring you to arrange an assessment. The nearest place for assessment is Canterbury. They will ask if you need any help at this meeting. You can ask for a different day and time. You must attend this interview as it will affect the decision made about your benefits. You can take someone with you and take them into the assessment. Arrive early, if you miss your appointment they will not see you.



You can claim back your travel expenses when you get there if you have your receipt or ticket. This will not be paid in cash it will go straight into your bank account. If you do not have a bank account you can ask for it to be paid to someone else.

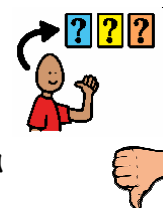
You need to take identification with you to the assessment as well as any hospital information, medication and medical aids eg walking stick hearing aid, glasses.

Your appointment will take between 20 and 60 minutes.

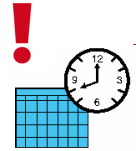
You will get a phone call telling you whether or not you will get Employment Support Allowance. Arrangements will be made for you to go to a work focused interview and the work programme.



If you are not entitled to Employment Support Allowance you can appeal the decision. It is important that you send any other information to support your appeal. You can tell them that you want to appeal on the phone when they ring you with a decision.



You only have one calendar month from the date of the letter to appeal. You must appeal in writing. You can get someone to phone on your behalf to appeal. You can ask them to explain and write to you to say why you have not been given Employment Support Allowance.



## **Folkestone Tri-ennial**

This is an art exhibition organised by The Creative Foundation run every 3 years. It is free for people to see with art pieces in different public places.



There are lots of artists involved. Some are famous people and some who are new artists. It is not just paintings, they are fun colourful pieces eg sculptures. There is a theme this year about travel called "A Million Miles to Travel".

The opening day is 25th June from 11am. There will be lots of activities happening throughout the day. The art will stretch from East Cliff to the Martello Tower.

There will be guided walks which can be booked by telephone or website. Group walks last about 2.5 hours and are for a maximum 15 people. You can ask for your own group booking if there are enough of you. The exhibition lasts for 3 months until 25th September.

