

GENERAL

HOSPICE IS SET TO LAUNCH NEW OAK CENTRE

One of the borough's leading charities is set to launch a major new service helping Wiganers with incurable illnesses. Wigan and Leigh Hospice (WLH) will reveal its new Oak Centre to the public at a series of open days next week. The centre at its Hindley headquarters is a complete revamp of the old day hospice service following a large consultation exercise.

The aim of the new service is to enable people with life-limiting conditions to retain as much independence as possible and live a full life. Potential service users, their families and friends and health professionals are all being invited to three open events to meet the Oak Centre's team of staff and volunteers.

Questions can be answered, advice will be available on self-referring to the centre and complementary therapists will offer free taster sessions of Reiki, massage and creative events. Jacqui White, Oak Centre Manager, said: "When someone is diagnosed with a life-limiting illness they may feel afraid or no longer in control of their lives. At the Oak Centre we want to help people face what the future holds and feel in control of their lives.

"Wellbeing at the Oak Centre is more than about helping people with their medical needs, it is about helping them find skills for better living, adjust to their diagnosis, discover new interests and meet new people." Staff including a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, rehabilitation assistants and a creative therapies co-ordinator will work with Oak Centre service users to identify their physical, emotional and social needs and help them tackle the challenges they face.

The open days are from Monday January 15 to Wednesday January 17 from 10am until 3pm. To find out more, ring 01942 525566 or email oakcentre@wlh.org.uk

LGBTQ+

Every Wednesday 6 pm – 8 pm

Chapter One Tea Rooms Hindley Library, First Avenue, Hindley WN2 3EB

We are working together with BYOU+ to create at LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans+, Questioning and other Sexualities and Gender Identities) Social Group. Our aim is to create a supportive place for the LGBTQ+ community to meet new people and enjoy good company.

Feel free to join in with discussions, relax, chill and have a little mid week fun.

Also come and take part in Wigan Pride!

If you would like to join us give us a call on 07872 180162

Email BYOUPPLUSWIGAN@GMAIL.COM or go to www.wiganpride.com

DO YOU NEED A SPACE FOR A MEETING?

Hindley Library & Community Centre, First Avenue, Hindley WN2 3EB

Crisp CIC is offering a welcoming; warm, friendly spaces for

- Community Groups
- Presentations
- Craft Groups
- Exercise Sessions
- One to One's
- Drop In's
- Office Space

All rooms fitted with 50-60" HD TV's fully accessible for HDMI and Laptops

2 Rooms seating 12; 1 seating 6

For more details contact 01942 255287 or email info@crispcic.co.uk

CAN YOU GIVE SANTA'S SLEIGH A HOME?

Wigan Rotary Club need a safe and dry home for the sleigh until next December.

Can anyone help?

It's the size of a small car but is 7 ft 3" high." If you can help please ring 07813 471000

TIME TO TALK ABOUT BEING A DONOR

A campaigner who donated a kidney to a close relative is looking to set up a support group in Wigan.

Mark Fegan is concerned there is no local forum for patients to share their experiences of living with kidney conditions. Now he is looking to gauge interest in staging regular gatherings so affected people can give each other a lift.

Those interested in finding out more about Mark's plans can contact him on 07922 655725 or email mfegana5@yahoo.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

The twinning association in Angers organises a photographic contest between its twin towns. It's a good opportunity to show what you like about your city and above all, you can win a trip to Angers between the 25th and 27th May 2018!

Tell a story about your town in 10 pictures. Capture the story in an original or even funny way. PLEASE BE CAREFUL! The aim of the competition isn't to create a touristic documentary! The story must be lively and entertaining.

Young people aged over 18. It is important to underline that participants must be amateur photographers and not professionals. You can however, be a member of a photography club

Period of taking and editing photos and videos:

- From the 1st of December 2017 to the 10th of March 2018.

Photos and videos will be sent to the AAJ, by the 15th of March 2018 at the very latest. Please send all entries to the following email address: asso@angersjumelages.fr

If there are more than 5 entrants (per town), the AAJ will choose the best 5. Photos will be chosen based upon technical criteria and also, the originality of the story. Photos must be copyright free, with a resolution of: 3508x49612480x3508 (300DPI).

Full details from Martin Pouvreau Ambassador from Angers Direct line: 01942 489 193

E Mail angers@wigan.gov.uk

FANCY A TRIP TO ANGERS ? THEN PLAN AHEAD AND SAVE THE DATE

Wigan and Angers will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Twinning between the two towns next year. We are proposing to take a trip to France to honour the occasion from

Thursday 6th – Wednesday 12th September 2018 to coincide with the annual Accroche-coeurs street festival.

If you have never been to our beautiful twin town – please consider registering your interest and joining us on the trip – individuals, groups and organisations welcome. If you have already visited Angers – then maybe you will want to renew your contacts and make a return visit. Also please pass this information on to your friends. Thank you.

Visit our website www.wiganangers.co.uk to find details of the itinerary, cost and booking forms. Or ring Phil Hasler on 01942 215412 – for further information.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS NEEDED FOR CITIZENS ADVICE RESEARCH ON NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE POLICY

The impact of the National Living Wage Policy on young workers under 25 is the topic of research that is being conducted by Citizens Advice Manchester. The research is trying to find out how young workers under 25 in Greater Manchester are affected by the fact that the National Living Wage Policy does not apply to them.

Young workers in Greater Manchester who are under 25 are invited to fill in the survey at the link below.

Findings so far suggest that 80% of respondents have borrowed money because of low wages and over 74% find it difficult to manage or just about manage to pay their essential expenses.

The survey will be open until the end of January 2018.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X8K2RP2>

OFFER OF CONTAINERS FOR STORAGE

We currently have a number of grey containers that we need to dispose. In the past we have been asked if we can donate them for schools, charities, or council facilities to use for storage, and as they have little or no scrap value we are more than happy to do this.

We can arrange to deliver the container, however once we drop it the recipient would need to be able to remove the legs to make it stable and to move it to wherever on the site it will be used– all 4 legs must be removed.

Measurements –

Height of legs (floor to base of container)

1.1 meters

Container

Width – 2.3 meters

Height – 2.2 meters

Length – 4.9 meters

We will donate these on a first come first served basis and anyone interested should contact Craig Clayton on 01924 834915.

YPO - Better value, delivered.

41 Industrial Park, Wakefield, WF2 0XE Tel: 01924 834897: Mob: 07872 422567 www.ypo.co.uk

ARE YOU A CARER IN THE WIGAN BOROUGH?

Then why not join in the activities that Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre have planned for January 2018.

As well as the regular weekly events and monthly groups, the Carers Centre has a variety of sessions and courses for you to come along to, have fun and learn something new including:

- Paint, Pastel and Palette Knives Six Week Course,
- Mindfulness Six Week Course,
- Stressbuster Session for Male Carers,
- Dementia Medication Awareness session,
- Get Digital; weekly one to one sessions and the Appy team are also in the centre once a month
- Kick off Your Shoes and Dance sessions with Hurst Dance Studios

All of the training is free to registered carers

Visit www.wiganandleighcarerscentre.org.uk; like WLCC's, Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/pat.millward.31> and click to receive notifications

or email gail@wiganandleighcarerscentre.org.uk

OVERCROWDED A&E IN 'STAY AWAY' PLEA

Health chiefs issued a fresh "stay away" warning to all but strict emergency cases as Wigan A&E faced overload again.

Doctors and nursing staff have complained of "severe pressure" on services and the WWL health trust is asking patients to think carefully about the best place to seek appropriate treatment. Casualty departments should only be used for serious illness. They are there to provide immediate emergency care for people who show the symptoms such as blacking out, bleeding you can't stop, severe chest pain, choking, loss of consciousness, stroke. These are all emergencies which require urgent hospital care.

Clinical Commissioning Group chairman Dr Tim Dalton explained how these A&E pressures can build. He said: "When people attend A&E, one of two things happen: they are either seen; given advice/medication and sent home or they are admitted in to the hospital and given a bed so further tests can be done.

If everyone who goes to A&E can go home afterwards, then A&E runs really smoothly. "If everyone who attends A&E needs a bed, then we have problems. After all we only have a finite number of beds in hospitals, and most of them are used for routine operations and ongoing care.

"Lots of things impact on whether a patient is admitted or sent home and therefore impacts on the pressure on A&E. The obvious one is the nature of the illnesses and injuries presenting that day. "Or it could be the age of the patient, the time of day they attend or even the member of staff that sees them.

"A&E is there for serious, life-threatening illnesses and injuries; emergencies in other words. A good proportion of people who go to A&E don't really fit this description. "They could have seen their GP or gone to a walk-in centre in the borough. Or frankly, some of them could have spent a day in bed resting up. That is the truth. And if they did that, A&E would rarely be under pressure."

CYBER CRIME

The first link to the National Cyber Security Centre provides a host of downloadable pdfs dealing with things from protecting your passwords, to cyber security for small businesses, to managing information risk:

https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/LoOYQ_OuXtF0msWrsH-3dj4qi7zKBvhoostlg2hVcvM=?d=y5ZSZqgdca5oGYQXnlkQu7CnBo5KnDSt2O_ms_rbts84yu8r_q5CQX8vk6ZT_a833Z1tUrieJeVBU_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2_X8XF_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GoIMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99_s-

[Tj_30IjB1pNd_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULwytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCgwAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhZLb_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBwa5QwcqHdEjQaxGhXTjdgDFS5olegKoDfQd462ZfF8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncsc.gov.uk%2Finformation%2Finfograp hics-ncsc](https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/QksB4boAzl-Ll-udCjhVw5APIPXJkMDQMrVNzXuPuQ8=?d=y5ZSZqgdqc5oGYQXnlkQu7CnBo5KnDSt2O_ms_rbts84yu8r_q5CQX8vk6ZTa833Z1tUrieJeVBU_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2_X8XF_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GoIMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99_s-Tj_30IjB1pNd_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULwytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCgwAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhZLb_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBwa5QwcqHdEjQaxGhXTjdgDFS5olegKoDfQd462ZfF8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncsc.gov.uk%2Finformation%2Finfograp hics-ncsc)

The second link is to a document devised by the City of London Police and outlines the 12 Online Frauds of Christmas outlining ways to stay safe online over the festive period:

https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/QksB4boAzl-Ll-udCjhVw5APIPXJkMDQMrVNzXuPuQ8=?d=y5ZSZqgdqc5oGYQXnlkQu7CnBo5KnDSt2O_ms_rbts84yu8r_q5CQX8vk6ZTa833Z1tUrieJeVBU_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2_X8XF_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GoIMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99_s-Tj_30IjB1pNd_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULwytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCgwAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhZLb_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBwa5QwcqHdEjQaxGhXTjdgDFS5olegKoDfQd462ZfF8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.actionfraud.police.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F12%20Frauds%20of%20Christmas%20Leaflet_0.pdf

CALLING ALL VETERANS

Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh is the independent consumer champion for local users of health and social care services. We are here to make your services better by listening to your experiences and influencing improvements in the way health and social care is provided locally.

We are working with local veterans to find out their views and experiences of health and social care services and how these services can be improved for veterans in Wigan.

This is your chance to have your say and help us make sure that every member of the ex-services community across this Borough receives the treatment they deserve.

Please help us by completing this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WFFK9HT>

It only takes a few minutes and everything you tell us will be treated with the strictest confidence.

If you'd like to find out more visit www.healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk phone 01942 834666 or contact karenw@healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OUR HOMELESS

A new and improved approach to homelessness is helping to keep thousands of residents off the streets of Wigan. The approach, which sees Wigan Council working more closely with the voluntary and private sector, is helping to deliver more effective support and rehabilitation for the borough's homeless and rough sleepers by identifying and supporting those at risk as early as possible to prevent them reaching crisis point.

In addition to the current day time programmes offered by a number of groups, the new approach will implement a borough wide outreach provision, which will operate out of hours and at weekends. Two rehabilitation and support hubs will also be created, bringing together all relevant services to help rough sleepers.

The Leigh hub, based at Leigh Court House, will be operational at the end of January 2018 and the Wigan hub will be operational in summer 2018.

There will be emergency access beds available for the homeless and borough-wide services will be available seven days a week.

If you see a homeless person on the streets, please email roughsleep@wigan.gov.uk with as much information as possible (including their location) and our officers will investigate. You will also receive an update on the situation. Those who find themselves on the streets can also ring our out of hour's service on: 01942 828777

DATA PROTECTION: GDPR HOTLINE

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has launched a dedicated advice line to help small organisations prepare for a new data protection law.

The phone service is aimed at people running small businesses or charities and recognises the particular problems they face getting ready for the new law, called the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The GDPR replaces the current Data Protection Act and comes into force on 25th May 2018.

Regulated by the ICO, the GDPR strengthens the rules around personal data and requires organisations to be more accountable and transparent. It also gives people greater control over their own personal data.

There are already resources on the ICO website (<https://ico.org.uk/>) to help organisations employing fewer than 250 people prepare for the GDPR. But the new phone line will offer additional, personal advice to small organisations that still have questions.

People from small organisations should dial the ICO helpline on 0303 123 1113 and select option 4 to be diverted to staff who can offer support.

As well as advice on preparing for the GDPR, callers can also ask questions about current data protection rules and other legislation regulated by the ICO including electronic marketing and Freedom of Information.

Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham said: "All organisations have to get ready for the new data protection rules, but we recognise that the 5.4 million small organisations in the UK face particular challenges. "Small organisations want to be ready when the new law comes into force in May 2018, but they often struggle to know where to start. They may have less time and money to invest in getting it right and are less likely to have compliance teams, data protection officers or legal experts to advise them what to do. "Our new phone service and all the other resources already on our website plus even more advice and guidance yet to come will help steer small businesses through the new law."

In addition to the new phone service, the ICO has also announced plans to simplify its popular "12 steps to take now" graphic in response to calls from small and micro businesses that they need access to targeted information about how to prepare for the GDPR.

And the ICO is revising its simple-to-use SME toolkit – a resource used by around 9,000 businesses a month since January 2016 – into a GDPR resource that will allow businesses themselves to identify gaps in their own preparation for the new law.

Organisations that have yet to begin preparing for the law change can access a range of resources on the ICO's dedicated data protection reform web pages.

The "12 steps to take now" graphic has been viewed 73,000 times since it was updated in May and is the most downloaded document on the ICO website:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1624219/preparing-for-the-gdpr-12-steps.pdf>

ICO staff have spoken at nearly 100 stakeholder events where "getting ready for the GDPR" has been a key theme and around 10,000 people have viewed sector-specific webinars highlighting GDPR issues. By the end of the year, the ICO will publish a Guide to the GDPR. It expands the content of the current overview to make it a comprehensive guide along the same lines as the current Guide to Data Protection. For further information, visit: <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/news-and-events/news-and-blogs/2017/10/new-data-protection-advice-service-aimed-at-small-organisations-preparing-for-the-general-data-protection-regulation/>

WIGAN ROTARY CLUB COMMUNITY DAY 2018

Many will know about the Rotary Club of Wigan sponsored Community Day. To be held in Standishgate on Saturday 7th July 2018 this will be the 5th year of this event and is an opportunity for charities and local good causes to promote their cause, recruit volunteers and members, raise funds, sell merchandise to the many thousands of people who will be in Wigan on that date.

All this at no cost to the organisation.

If organisations would like information on the event can they send an email with the words 'CD info reqd' to mervyn.reeves@blueyonder.co.uk

HANDY PERSONS SERVICE FROM AGE UK WIGAN BOROUGH

Need some support doing odd jobs around the house? Our Handy Persons Service may be the place to turn to. With our experienced and helpful staff along with a competitively priced service, no job is too small:-

- Installing grab rails and hand rails
- Making bespoke steps for easier access in and out of your property
- Hanging pictures, blinds, curtain rails etc
- Building flat pack furniture or moving furniture round the house
- Installation of Keysafes
- And much more

Ring our friendly team for further information or call at the office to discuss further

Visit: 68, Market Street, Wigan Call 01942 241972

LEAN ON ME

Is a new independent advocacy service from Wigan Churches Association for Family Welfare

It offers short term support to over 18's.

For more information ring 01942 867888 or visit the office at St Catherine's House in Scholes

BOOK A PLACE ON ANY OF OUR NEW WEEKEND WALKS

We have a variety of walks across the borough, perfect for exploring the amazing green spaces Wigan and Leigh has to offer. Get the exercise and fresh air your body needs. We have a variety of walks across the borough, perfect for exploring the amazing green spaces Wigan and Leigh has to offer. Get the exercise and fresh air your body needs....

Keep an eye on our Facebook page @getactiveoutdoors for all the walks being added in the events section, as we also have a Waggy Tails Walk for you and your four-legged friend on the 3rd December at Pennington Flash.

You can book at www.inspiringhealthylifestyles.org or turn up on the day

Lilford Park (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am
Amberswood Nature Reserve (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am
Pennington Flash (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am
Haigh Woodland Park (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

HAVE YOU BEEN DISCHARGED FROM A MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE?

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh is looking at people's experiences of being discharged from a mental health in-patient unit, A & E/RAID service or from the Home Based Treatment Team, to make sure people get the right support following a mental health crisis.

Whether you have been in hospital under section or voluntarily, and whether you had a positive or negative experience we want to hear from you.

If you have had several experiences, please tell us about your most recent experience by following the link to our survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WD9QJLR>

This survey should take no more than five minutes to complete. It's ok if you don't remember all the details of your experience – please just tell us what you can.

Thank you for your support and co-operation. If you would like more information about Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh visit www.healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk or email info@healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk

HEALTHIER WIGAN PARTNERSHIP - CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE SERVICES NEED YOUR HELP

The Healthier Wigan Partnership are currently working with Advancing Quality Alliance (AQuA) to improve the services they provide to people diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) across Wigan

The aim of this work is to improve the use and awareness of available services to treat people experiencing problems with their COPD condition.

As part of the first part of this work we are spending time making sure that we understand the current steps that patients with COPD take and their experience of that care.

In order to achieve this we need your help. We need to understand what it is currently like to be a patient or carer using the current COPD services across Wigan.

COPD services include GP's, Community Services, Accident and Emergency Departments, Hospital Out Patients and Clinics and Hospital COPD services.

If you have used any of these services or been a carer of someone using these services, we would like to give you the opportunity to speak with Wendy Bell and Carl O'Loughlin who are AQuA patient and carer representatives. Both of these people have lots of experience

of being patients of the NHS and have been trained to support other patients and carers.

If you would be willing to share your experience of using Wigan COPD services and want to have a conversation with Wendy or Carl then please get in touch with Kirsty Ratchford on 01942 828111 or K.Ratchford@wigan.gov.uk to share your contact details.

DAA UPDATES

Wigan DAA - Twitter Account

Did you know we have a twitter account? If you are on twitter please follow @WiganDAA and use the account to advertise your organisations and activities/services.

Trading Standards - Call Blockers

Trading Standards are promoting the launch of free call blockers available for people living with dementia. The blockers are free and very easy to install, and are available direct from the scams team.

Please see more information by visiting <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/callblocker>

Dementia-friendly cinema

Alzheimer's Society has worked with the UK Cinema Association and the British Film Institute to create a Dementia Friendly Screenings guide for cinemas. It aims to spread awareness of dementia-friendly screenings and encourages cinemas of all sizes to get involved. It also gives best practice advice on the practicalities of dementia-friendly screenings alongside some helpful case studies.

The guide is being launched today at Hackney Picture house and will be available to download shortly afterwards at: alzheimers.org.uk/cinema

Dementia-friendly dentistry

The Faculty of General Dental Practitioners, British Dental Association, Public Health England and Alzheimer's Society have created standards for dementia-friendly dentistry. This guide is the first comprehensive resource to guide dentists to support both people with dementia and their carers in all aspects of their treatment. It provides guidance on care management and care provision as well as support materials. To find out more, please visit: www.fgdp.org.uk/guidance-standards

“Memories with Grandma”

We're excited to share our new animation, 'Memories with Grandma'. It's aimed at young people aged 7-11, so we're encouraging schools and youth groups to use the animation to help us create a dementia-friendly generation. To learn more about the animation, please visit:

www.alzheimers.org.uk/memorieswithgrandma

THE CHARITY GOVERNANCE AWARDS 2018

The Charity Governance Awards is an exciting not-for-profit initiative created to celebrate outstanding governance in charities both small and large.

The awards recognise and reward charities achieving great governance. They shine a spotlight on the trustees, staff and volunteers who make change possible day after day by showcasing the stories that demonstrate how effective governance can transform lives.

There are seven categories covering every kind of charitable organisation. The winning charity in each category will receive £5,000.

Award categories

- Board Diversity and Inclusivity
- Embracing Digital
- Embracing Opportunity and Harnessing Risk
- Improving Impact – charities with 3 paid staff or fewer (including charities with no paid staff)
- Improving Impact – charities with 4–25 paid staff
- Improving impact – charities with 26 paid staff or more
- Managing Turnaround

Entry is free and you can only submit one entry across all seven categories per charity.

For further information and to enter, visit: www.charitygovernanceawards.co.uk

Deadline: **Friday 12 January 2018**

INTRODUCING THE NORTH WEST SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

The North West Sector Partnership (NWSP) is a partnership of NHS organisations working across Bolton, Salford and Wigan. Together they are working to transform a number of specialist hospital services to make sure that the same high quality care is provided at all hospitals and that services are sustainable for future generations.

To find out more about the work of NWSP please follow the link below to view the first edition of their online newsletter.

<http://mailchi.mp/39110245b2b0/north-west-sector-partnership-bulletin-01-nov17>

JRF UK POVERTY 2017 REPORT SHOWS SHARP INCREASE IN CHILD AND PENSIONER POVERTY

UK Poverty 2017, a new report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, has found that almost 400,000 more children and 300,000 more pensioners are now living in poverty than in 2012/13. Since that year, there have been continued increases in poverty, across both age groups. Very little progress has been made in reducing poverty among working-age adults.

The report examines how UK poverty has changed over the last 20 years, providing the most comprehensive and up to date picture of the challenges and prospects facing low income families in modern Britain. It highlights that overall, 14 million people live in poverty in the UK – over one in five of the population. This is made up of eight million working-age adults, four million children and 1.9 million pensioners. 8 million live in families where at least one person is in work.

Over the last 20 years, the UK has dramatically reduced poverty among people who had traditionally been most at risk – pensioners and certain types of families with children. But that progress is beginning to unravel; poverty rates for both groups have started to rise again.

The analysis highlights that the three factors which have led to a fall in poverty and are now under question; state support for many of those on low incomes is falling in real terms, rents are increasing, and rising employment is no longer reducing poverty. As a result, JRF is calling for a national mission to transform the prospects of millions of people living in poverty in the UK.

A summary of the findings and a full copy of the report can be found on the JRF website - <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2017>

ESF - Working Well Provider Appointed

On Wednesday 23rd November 2017 Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) formally announced the appointment of InWork GM Alliance as the provider of the Working Well (Work and Health Programme) contract in Greater Manchester.

InWork GM Alliance is a partnership between Ingeus and The Growth Company and includes Pathways CIC and Pluss as specialist health, wellbeing and disability support organisations.

Working Well will be formally launched at the end of January 2018 when InWork GM will start taking referrals onto the programme from Jobcentre Plus.

ABOUT WORKING WELL

Working Well aims to provide a holistic approach to supporting people into work with a particular focus on supporting individuals who face compounding and complex barriers such as: mental health needs, long term health conditions, musculoskeletal conditions, and issues with addiction.

The programme will offer people fifteen months of on-programme support and up to six months in-work support to aid their transition into employment and support longer term sustainable work.

Working Well in Greater Manchester

Greater Manchester was in a unique position in commissioning the provider for Working Well having been devolved powers from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Through these devolved powers, the GMCA extended the scope and the reach of the Working Well (Work and Health Programme), bringing a funding package of £52 million for the programme to support over 22,000 individuals in Greater Manchester between 2018 and 2024. The programme is part-financed by the European Social Fund.

To read the full announcement go to

https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/222/gmca_appoints_working_well_work_and_health_programme_provider

PLAY YOUR PART IN GREATER MANCHESTER'S DIGITAL AMBITIONS

The second GM Digital and Tech Summit was held on the 8 December 2018. The Summit forms part of the crowdsourcing approach taken by the GMCA to develop the GM Digital Strategy and measures.

This crowdsourcing took form through five working groups, made of volunteers. All of these have all produced draft action plans.

To support the stated ambition for Greater Manchester to be a recognised as a top global digital city region and top five in Europe by 2020 these draft action plans, proposed measures and Digital Strategy are published for your review and comment.

After the Summit the draft documents will be taken through the city region's governance including the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Board.

To view and comment upon the draft documents and to read the draft GM Digital Strategy

Full details go to

https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/234/play_your_part_in_our_digital_ambitions

'100 VOICES' PROJECT AT THE CHRISTIE HOSPITAL

Referrals are now being accepted into the '100 Voices' Project at The Christie, which has been developed with support from the Christie charity and The Whitworth Art Gallery.

Any patients or carers who meet the following broad criteria can apply to participate in this project:

- Affected by or caring for someone with cancer
- Treated at least once at The Christie
- At least 12 months from diagnosis

Initial sessions will be run as follows:

11th / 12th Jan at 12.30pm; 1st Feb at 12.30pm; finishing no later than 3.30pm and will be held at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Meeting Room 1.

20 patients will be accepted into each workshop, with further sessions being arranged for March and April. A member of the Christie Patient Reference Group and Ben Hayworth, MacMillan Survivorship Network Manager will be supervising each session. Patients can also self-refer and should be instructed to email Ben Hayworth securely on 100voices@christie.nhs.uk in order to make themselves known.

Patients can come from any disease group and the project is looking for a diverse and inclusive cohort. Support will be provided for patients for whom English is not spoken and/or other access issues as part of this work, and welcome patients from diverse backgrounds. Travel expenses can also be claimed by people participating in this project.

To find out more, contact Ben Heyworth at 100voices@christie.nhs.uk or on 07917 628 672

ARE YOU GOING DRY THIS JANUARY?

Christmas may be approaching but it's not too early to plan to go drink-free in January as a way to kick start a healthy new year.

Last year 79 per cent of participants of Dry January saved money, 63 per cent had better sleep and more energy and 49 per cent lost weight. January 2018 is expected to see over 3.1 million people in the UK ditch the booze for Dry January, according to a YouGov poll commissioned by the charity Alcohol Concern.

The national Dry January campaign has launched in what will be one of the busiest periods of the year for the emergency services as Christmas parties lead to alcohol-related injuries and violence. Alcohol costs the NHS an estimated £3.5 billion each year, which amounts to £120 for every taxpayer.

Two-thirds of people who attempt Dry January make it through the month without drinking, while 72 percent maintain lower levels of harmful drinking six months later than before Dry January.

Professor Kate Ardern, Director For Public Health at Wigan Council said: "Christmas can easily be a time for excess, particularly for those who enjoy a drink to celebrate. So why not kick start a healthy new year by taking part in Dry January."

Dry January is run by national charity Alcohol Concern, which merged with Alcohol Research UK in April to become an even stronger advocate for a world in which alcohol causes no harm. To sign up to Dry January and get support every step of the way go to www.dryjanuary.org.uk

YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS NEEDED FOR CITIZENS ADVICE RESEARCH ON NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE POLICY

The impact of the National Living Wage Policy on young workers under 25 is the topic of research that is being conducted by Citizens Advice Manchester. The research is trying to find out how young workers under 25 in Greater Manchester are affected by the fact that the National Living Wage Policy does not apply to them.

Young workers in Greater Manchester who are under 25 are invited to fill in the survey at the link below.

Findings so far suggest that 80% of respondents have borrowed money because of low wages and over 74% find it difficult to manage or just about manage to pay their essential expenses.

The survey will be open until the end of January 2018.

Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X8K2RP2>

HAVE YOUR SAY ON SOCIAL HOUSING

Tenants across England are being given the opportunity to have their voices heard about social housing through an online questionnaire.

The government is asking tenants in Wigan Borough to share their views on social housing before the deadline closes on 31st January 2018 to understand what is important to residents and any concerns they may have. The questionnaire aims to give tenants a more effective voice following the Grenfell Tower tragedy last year.

Wigan Council's tests on the cladding on their seven high-rise flats have shown they are not the same as those used at Grenfell and do not pose a safety risk, however, the local authority's cabinet have agreed to install sprinklers in all blocks anyway, costing around £2m.

Councillor Terry Halliwell, cabinet member for housing and welfare at the council said: "Our main priority is the safety and welfare of our tenants. We conduct fire risk assessments weekly in each of our blocks to ensure any necessary changes are flagged in the earliest stages.

"We have already chosen to press ahead with installing sprinklers in all our tower blocks in light of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. "We would encourage tenants to have their say and share their views as part of this national questionnaire."

The questionnaire responses will inform the Green Paper on social housing in England, which the government aim to publish in spring.

To fill out the questionnaire, head to: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/tenants2017