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Head of Network Services

It hardly seems possible that we are rapidly marching towards the Christmas period once again.

After a very active year filled with lots of opportunities for service user engagement, the New Year promises to be just as busy. Already planned in the first quarter of 2013 are a number of events including a Health and Wellbeing strategy consultation, the continuation of the 'Vision Ahead' workshops and a Swindon consultation (date to be confirmed) looking at how services for service users will be shaped in the future. There will also be further work on service user representation in the Safeguarding of Adults process.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members who have participated in various events and activities throughout the year. I hope you have a peaceful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

2013 dates for your diary

10th January 2013	Wiltshire Community Care Forum	Devizes Places are limited, please contact WSUN if you are interested in booking a place
14th January 2013	Health & Wellbeing Consultation Event	Devizes please contact WSUN if you are interested in booking a place
2nd February 2013	WIN Public Event	Full Details TBC
6th February 2013	Visual Impairment Workshop 3	Devizes please contact WSUN if you are interested in booking a place
21st February 2013	Wiltshire Community Care Forum	As above
28th March 2013	Wiltshire Community Care Forum	As above

For a full list of events please look at our website www.wsun.co.uk, they are updated on a weekly basis.

Information Feature



Do you pay for some, or all, of your own care? Or are you a Personal Assistant to someone who does?
You could receive a £30 shopping voucher for speaking to a member of the research team for 20 minutes.





ekosgen are working on behalf of Skills for Care to gather important information about how people pay for their care and the types of care and support services they receive.

If you pay for some of your care yourself, the researchers are interested in finding out about what advice or support you might need and what you consider to be the pros and cons of 'self-funding'.

If you are a PA working for a self-funder, the researchers would like to know about the care and support you provide and gather your views on training and development, employer-employee relations and terms and conditions.

Getting Involved....

 If you would like to take part in the study please contact Carolyn Bell or Laura Thorpe on 0114 275 1056.

 or Email: carolyn.bell@ekosgen.co.uk

Welfare Reform update

Back in July we held an event in Devizes on the Government's proposals for welfare reform. We looked in particular at the new PIP (Personal Independent Payment) and Universal Benefit. At the time not all the information about these new benefits was available. We said that we would hold another meeting when we had more detail from government.

We haven't forgotten that promise. After speaking to a representative from the Department of Work and Pensions we feel that another meeting in February would be useful. By then we should have much more solid detail to share.

We will contact you nearer the time with dates and invitation.

 **WSUN's Management Committee and staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!** 