



# Putting People First update

Edition 5 February 2010

## Have you visited our exhibition yet?

The Putting People First exhibition is still on display at the Mall Gallery, Shute End for a few more weeks. It's been organised not only to show that the changes to adult social care are working, but also to provide those who may be eligible for adult social care currently, or in the future, with easily understandable examples of the kinds of services Personal Budgets have been spent on so far.



Sheila McHale from Crowthorne (pictured left) suffered a broken neck and head injury as the result of a car accident in 2007. She uses her Personal Budget to pay for regular hydrotherapy sessions to provide relief from the discomfort caused by her injuries. Sheila uses a wheelchair to move about in when outdoors as she doesn't have a lot of stamina walking. As a tetraplegic, both of her hands have been affected and don't

function very well. She finds it very difficult to relax because of her injuries, and the pain sometimes stops her from sleeping well at night. The hydrotherapy sessions, purchased through the use of her Personal Budget, has helped her recovery no end.

The Putting People First exhibition will run until Friday March 12 at the Mall Gallery (based within the Council's Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham). It is open to viewing during normal office opening hours.



## Choice Champions training gets underway

Training for Personal Budget users, who want to help people understand what it's like to self-direct their support, begins this month. The course is designed to help develop many skills in those taking part, including listening, mentoring and taking part in presentations. The course also leads to employment and volunteering opportunities. There are currently spaces for the second round of training, which begins in April 2010.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Choice Champion, please contact Community Care Development Officer Marlena O'Donnell at: [marlena.o'donnell@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:marlena.o'donnell@wokingham.gov.uk) or call (0118) 974 6773.

## Wokingham Information Network (WIN)

Everything you need to know about the Wokingham borough will be just a click or a phone call away with WIN. WIN provides instant access to a huge range of up-to-the-minute information; such as what's available in the borough and where to find support services in the community.

The service is particularly aimed at those who are vulnerable or need help to find services available in the community. It's also a useful tool for people who support residents such as carers, social care staff and local health workers.

To make it easy for people to find what they need, WIN's website is divided into two sections: a Family Service Directory, and an Adult Information Directory.

WIN can be found at: <http://info.wokingham.gov.uk> and the Adult Information Directory can be contacted on (0118) 974 6772.



Go online and access the WIN database - available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and updated regularly with new information and contacts.