

The logo features a stylized green sailboat with a yellow sun in the background. The word "NORFOLK" is written vertically in blue along the mast. The words "Disability", "Information", and "Service" are stacked horizontally in black, with the "D", "I", and "S" of each word respectively placed inside the sailboat's sail.

# Disability Information Service

Newsletter  
May/June 2011  
Issue no. 75

 **Norfolk** County Council  
@ your service

**Hello and welcome to this the latest edition of NDIS. This is your newsletter Let us know what you would like to see mentioned in the newsletter, or send us your comments on things you have found helpful or not. Write, email, phone or fax us**

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## **Disability Issues**

### **Disability Living Allowance to be replaced with new benefit**

Disabled people will continue to be able to rely on a non-means tested cash benefit as Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is replaced with a new Personal Independence Payment.

The new benefit will continue to help disabled people live independent lives and will for the first time include regular reassessments to ensure that people are getting the right level of support when they need it most.

This follows one of the biggest ever consultations at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) with more than 5500 responses from disabled people and disability organisations. Responding to the consultation today, Maria Miller, Minister for Disabled People said:

“Disabled people are at the heart of our welfare reform plans and severely disabled people who need extra help and support will always get it. That’s why we have spent the last few months working closely with disabled people and disability organisations to make sure we are making the right changes to DLA.

“We’ve listened to what they have told us and we will be working with them to make sure that the new Personal Independence Payment does what it should.

“We have also said that we won’t remove the mobility component from care home residents in 2012 and instead we are reviewing the mobility component as part of our wider reforms of DLA.”

- DLA is paid to help people who cannot do things like walk or wash and dress themselves. It provides a

contribution to the extra costs severely disabled people incur.

- DLA is claimed by 3.2 million people at an annual cost of £12bn.
- Currently more than 2 million people get the benefit indefinitely which means there is no way of knowing if their condition has changed or if they actually need more help and support.
- Nearly a quarter of all working age people on DLA have not had any review of their claim in 10 years.

The Personal Independence Payment can be claimed by disabled people whether they work or not. It will also:

Introduce a more objective assessment of need, which will be developed with the help of disability organisations and disabled people.

Allow disabled people to be reassessed over time – something that is lacking in the current system - to ensure everyone receives the correct support if their needs change.

## Incapacity benefit crackdown begins after pilot scheme

The one-and-a-half million people who claim incapacity benefit will start to receive letters this week asking them to be tested on their ability to work.

The new assessments are part of government plans to reduce the number of long-term claimants in a rolling programme through to 2014.

Almost 30% of those who took the test during pilot schemes in Burnley and Aberdeen were declared fit to work.

However, disability charities say many of the assessments are unfair.

#### Potential

But Work and Pensions minister Chris Grayling said: "My message to people who are worried about this process is that this is all about helping those who can return to work.

"It's not about forcing people to return to work, but unless we do the assessments, unless we identify who has that potential, we'll never be able to offer that help."

During the pilot scheme, a further 39% were assessed as able to work but needing the right support to do so.

#### **Benefit Changes**

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**April is the time when you should find out your new rate of benefit will be. You will receive a letter from the DWP with details of increase, Some of the new rates are as follows:**

#### ***PENSION CREDIT GURANTEE***

Single — £137.35

Couple— £209.70

## ***ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE***

Higher rate — £73.60

Lower rate — £49.30

## ***CARERS ALLOWANCE — £55.55***

### ***DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE***

Care component:

Highest — £73.60

Middle— £49.30

Lowest— £19.55

Mobility component

Higher — £51.40

Lower— £19.55

## ***STATE PENSION***

Category A or B— £102.15

Category B (lower)

spouse/civil partner— £61.20

Category C or D

non contributory— £61.20

## **Planned Changes 2011 - 2013.**

I found this online and thought it might be interesting to some of you who aren't sure what the plans are.

**Source: Disability Alliance UK (United Kingdom) - timetable of forthcoming changes**

### **From 2011**

Social fund budgeting loans can be used to help families to buy maternity items or items for a new baby or to help them towards meeting some of the costs of a relative's funeral from late 2011 [Source: Hansard 6 Dec 2010 : Column 9WS].

### **From April 2011**

- Crisis loans will no longer be paid for items such as cookers and beds. There will also be a reduction of the immediate living expenses rate from 75% to 60% and awards for general living expenses will be limited to three per year using a rolling twelve month period.
- Start of removal of the default retirement age from 6 April.
- The extra payments made to disabled children's Child Trust Fund accounts will be £100 a year or £200 if he or she is entitled to the highest rate of disability living allowance care component. These payments will only be made during the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 tax years. After 5 August 2011 these payments will cease.
- Housing benefit claimants with a disability and a non-resident carer will be entitled to funding for an extra bedroom.

- Local housing allowance(LHA) changes - LHA rates will be capped at £250 per week for a one bedroom property, £290 per week for a two bedroom property, £340 per week for a three bedroom property and £400 per week for four bedrooms or more. These rates will also be set at the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile of local rents. The £15 weekly excess that some customers can receive under the local housing allowance arrangements will be removed
- The Government contribution to discretionary housing payments will be increased by £10 million
- Deductions for non-dependents will be uprated on the basis of prices. This will reverse the freeze in these rates since 2001-02.
- The Government will work with local authorities to freeze council tax in England in 2011-12.
- The standard minimum income guarantee in pension credit will increase by the cash rise in a full basic state pension.
- The level of in-year rises of income that will be disregarded from calculations of tax credit entitlement will decrease from £25,000 to £10,000
- The second income threshold for the family element of the child tax credit will reduce from £50,000 to £40,000.
- The first and second withdrawal rates for tax credits will increase to 41%.

Payment of a Sure Start maternity grant for where children are born on or after 11 April 2011 will be restricted to the first child only (or children where the first is a multiple birth) where there are other children aged less than 16 years in the family.

- The rates of child benefit for the first and subsequent children will be frozen for three years.
- The baby element will be removed from the child tax credit. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) will be used for the indexation of all benefits, tax credits and public service pensions

- There will be automatic eligibility for the disability element in working tax credit for those with a limited capability for work moving into work from employment and support allowance.
- • People over 60 years of age will qualify for the WTC if they work at least 16 hours a week (rather than 30 as currently is the case).
- From 3 April additional paternity leave and pay will be introduced. This gives fathers the right to take up to six months of additional paid paternity leave during the second six months of a child's life, if the mother has returned to work
- Benefit restrictions on A8 nationals ceases from 30 April 2011.
- Grandparents and other family members will be able to gain National Insurance credits toward the basic state pension for caring for their grandchildren or members of their family aged 12 or younger, for 20 hours a week or more.  
The child element of the child tax credit will increase by £20.
- The higher rate mobility component of DLA will be paid to people with serious sight loss.
- Child Support Agency cases start transferring to Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (C-MEC).
- By April 2011, no pensioner aged 75 or over will pay any tax until their income reaches £10,000.  
Prescription charges in Scotland abolished.

## **From October 2011**

- Final phasing out of the default retirement age.

## **From December 2011**



- The proposed date for the transfer to child tax credit of claimants who receive income support/income-based jobseeker's allowance child additions is 31 December 2011. Previously the date of transfer was to have been 31 December 2008.

## **From January 2012**

Lone parents whose youngest child is aged 5 or above will be eligible for jobseekers allowance rather than income support.

## **From April 2012**

- Abolition of youth ESA for new claimants. Existing claimants at that date will be able to continue claiming, but entitlement will be limited to 12 months. Time spent on youth ESA prior to April 2012 will count towards the time limit.
- Couples with children must work 24 hours a week between them, with one partner working at least 16 hours a week in order to qualify for the WTC.
- Contributory ESA time limited to one year for those in the work related activity group. See DWP website.
- The Government contribution to discretionary housing payments will be increased by £40 million in each year from 2012-13.
- The family element of the child tax credit will be withdrawn immediately after the child element.
- The period for which a tax credit claim and certain changes of circumstances can be backdated will be reduced from three months to one month.
- The 50 plus element will be removed from the working tax credit
- A disregard of £2,500 will be introduced in the tax credits system for in-year falls in income

## **From 2013**

- A new £500 a week cap on welfare benefits will apply to combined income derived from benefits including jobseekers allowance, income support, employment support allowance, housing and council tax benefits, child benefit, and carers allowance. benefits like social fund loans and free school meals are not affected, and people with disability living allowance and war widows will also be excluded
- Child benefit withdrawn from households paying tax at the higher rate

## **From April 2013**

Working age disability living allowance (DLA) to be replaced by a new Personal Independence Payment.

- The level of in-year rises of income that will be disregarded from calculations of tax credit entitlement will decrease from £10,000 to £5,000.
- Local housing allowance rates will be uprated in line with consumer price index (CPI).
- Housing entitlements for working age people in the social sector will reflect family size.
- Housing benefit awards will be reduced to 90% of the initial award after 12 months for claimants receiving jobseekers allowance.

## **From May 2013**

Universal credit pilots begin.

## **From October 2013**

National roll out of universal credit.

## From March 2014

Migration of existing incapacity benefits claimants (incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and income support on disability grounds) onto employment and support allowance should be completed by the end of March.

## From April 2015

- Post Office card account (POCA) to be reviewed.  
From April 2020
- State pension age for both men and women increases to 66.

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Disabled Motoring UK

are pleased to announce that Mobilise has changed its name to Disabled Motoring UK. The change, adopted overwhelmingly by the membership, reflects more accurately the aims of the charity and avoids confusion with other organisations.

The name may have changed but the commitment and zeal to represent our members and to supply accurate and relevant information remains unchanged. We will continue in the tradition established by the Disabled Drivers' Association and Disabled Drivers' Motor Club over the last 80 years as THE organisation representing

disabled drivers, Blue Badge holders, wheelchair and scooter users.

Our continuing campaigns will include: the abuse of disabled parking bays, the reform of the Blue Badge scheme, accessibility of city centres, and the lack of parking at healthcare facilities. Disabled Motoring UK will continue to co-ordinate the successful Baywatch campaign, which surveys the abuse of disabled parking space in supermarkets across the UK and encourages retailers to improve their provision and enforcement of Blue Badge bays.

To further raise awareness of the many issues that affect disabled motorists, we are re-creating the epic journey made by one of our founders, the late O. A. Denly, in an "Argson Invalid Carriage." Having contracted polio whilst serving in the navy, "Denny" made his incredible trip in 1947. Now his original three-wheeled Argson trike has been restored so that it can repeat this epic journey in 2011. The trike will be driven in a relay from the England to France and across the Alps by members of Disabled Motoring UK, disability campaigners and members of the UK armed forces, before returning to the finish line at the Houses of Parliament.

Following the trike's return home, Disabled Motoring UK will be hosting an inaugural award ceremony at the Goodwood Revival on Friday September 16<sup>th</sup>. These awards will celebrate the advances made for disabled motoring and the achievements of both individuals and organisations in various fields including accessible accommodation, parking provision and disability sport.

We will be re-designing our website over the next few weeks so please bare with us whilst the changes are made.

## **Housing benefit cut to hit 450,000 disabled people**

Government figures show about 450,000 disabled people will see their incomes cut under one of the changes planned to housing benefit.

Campaigners fear thousands will be forced from their homes.

From April 2013, housing benefit for working age people in social rented homes will be linked to the size of property councils believe they need.

Ministers say they want housing benefit claimants to choose to rent properties they can afford when in work.

### **'Recipe for chaos'**

An assessment from the Department for Work and Pensions shows the change will leave 450,000 disabled people an average of £13 a week worse off.

Ministers want to encourage housing benefit claimants to move out of council and housing association properties that are too big for their needs, and to make savings in a housing benefit bill that has almost doubled to £21.5bn in a decade.

But Labour's work and pensions spokeswoman Karen Buck said the changes would unfairly affect disabled people.

She said: "If you are going to try and force them out with really proportionately swingeing cuts to their weekly income but you can't even guarantee that you're going to be able to offer them an alternative, then we are looking at a recipe for chaos."



Are you an unpaid carer for someone who lives at home, in a care home or in hospital?

## Drop in to the **Carers' Café**

at the Vauxhall Centre

### What's on the menu?

- Free refreshments
- Information and advice
- Internet tuition
- Company and support
- Memory boxes for loan and ideas for using them
- Relaxation treatments

Stuart Haydon  
Vauxhall Centre  
Johnson Place  
Norwich NR2 2SA  
Tel: 01603 626 014

 **Norfolk** County Council  
at your service

**4th TUESDAY EVERY MONTH**

**1 – 3PM**

**REGULAR SPECIALIST  
THEMED SESSIONS**

### **Carers Café Future Dates**

<b>April 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Royal, Tea &amp; Biscuits – Wear something Red, White and/or Blue</b>
<b>May 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Relaxation Techniques – Anita Martin – WEA</b>
<b>June 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Art Session with Clare Mills</b>
<b>July 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Unconsciousness – what to do in a crisis Anne Lewis The Red Cross</b>
<b>August 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Carers Forum – Liz Radford</b>
<b>September 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Homesheild, Teleshopping &amp; Assistive Technology</b>
<b>October 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Gardening – Speaker to be confirmed</b>
<b>November 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Crafts with Helen</b>
<b>No December café</b>	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012</b>	<b>Reiki - Tessa Hardie Beauty Within</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Life thru a lens of Butterflies, Dragonflies &amp; Birds</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Pathways of Reflexology – Angela Sellens Drake</b>

## **Parkinson's Disease - Education and Training**

Does your work bring you into contact with people with Parkinson's? Would your team benefit from receiving Parkinson's awareness training? Parkinson's UK (formerly Parkinson's Disease Society) can provide training tailored your needs. As well as learning about this complex, fluctuating condition, attendees with find out about local services provided by the charity. For information about Parkinson's UK and training in the Norfolk area please contact Debbie Chinman 0844 225 3611 email [dchinman@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:dchinman@parkinsons.org.uk).

### **New service launched to help disabled entrepreneurs set up their own businesses**

#### **Mentoring service also offered**

National disability charity Livability has launched a new service, the Livability Enterprise Agency, to help disabled and disadvantaged people set up their own businesses. The service will provide one-off workshops to help people start thinking about self-employment, as well as longer courses covering business planning, book-keeping and marketing. Attendees can also receive advice on the benefits and other financial help they are entitled to while making the transition to self-employment.

Once a client becomes self-employed, the Enterprise Agency an also provide business mentoring for up to 18 months in order for the business to have the best possible start.

The project is being run in partnership with job centres, local authorities, other charities and individuals to help disabled people access self-employment all over the UK. According to the charity group, it is crucial that people with disabilities receive all the support and advice they



need to help set up their own businesses in order to achieve their potential.

Mike Smith, chief executive of Livability, said that the purpose of the new scheme is to give people with disability “the tools, support and advice they need to turn their ideas into reality.”

Disabled people in the UK are twice as likely to be unemployed as those who are not disabled, with one in five people with a work-limiting disability struggling to find employment.

Alice Morris, head of Livability, said: “I have worked with disabled people for many years and have helped them to set up and develop extremely successful businesses.

“I now look forward to bringing this wealth of experience to this new Livability service. In a tough economic climate where jobs are hard to come by, being pro-active and starting your own business might be a real possibility for many.”

## ***SPORT***

### **London 2012 unveils disabled ticket scheme**

With the London 2012 Games drawing nearer, excitement among British residents is set to reach fever pitch.

Organisers of the showcase are eager for all fans to have the same opportunity to see the first Olympics on British soil since 1948.

As a result, a new ticket scheme has been announced that allows disabled sports fans to enjoy the Games comfortably.

Ticketcare will focus on those who are not wheelchair bound but need a carer or personal assistant as part of their health plan.

Under the programme, if disabled people obtain tickets through the normal application process at [www.tickets.london2012.com](http://www.tickets.london2012.com), they can also get a free additional ticket for their carer by contacting London 2012's ticketing customer services team.

Spectators have been told to point out when applying what their specific health needs are, so that any problems with using stairs, being seated at the end of a row or needing extra room can be taken into account.

Where possible staff will also try to put deaf or hearing impaired fans in seats with a direct view of video information screens.

London 2012 added that free blue badge parking spaces will be provided at all venues for the different events.

There will also be accessible shuttle buses, a free mobility service to loan out manual wheelchairs and scooters, facilities for assistance dogs, audio description, induction loops and adult changing toilets including a hoist at all venues.

London 2012 chairman Lord Coe hoped that disabled people would find the ticketing services tailored to need, rather than a one size fits all approach.

"We want to ensure that disabled spectators have as great a Games experience as anyone else," he said.

The ticketing website has videos to help deaf people through the system and an Easy Read document is

available to help simplify the process. Screen reader technology is also available online.

Paper application forms can be collected from a local Lloyds TSB branch, or Bank of Scotland in Scotland only, and local libraries in Northern Ireland. Braille or large print forms can also be requested from London 2012



Supporting young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, into employment.

**Ring: 01603 763 111**

or email: [mintenquiries@ocn.ac.uk](mailto:mintenquiries@ocn.ac.uk)

## Autism Support Group for parents of children with Autism and Aspergers.

Children are welcome, as are adults with Autism. The library has a very positive attitude and welcomes the group, in fact it was the idea of the manager of the library who identified a need for a group in Wymondham.

We meet on  
**Tuesdays at 10am**  
at Wymondham Library  
Back Lane, Wymondham NR18 0QB

Contacts for the group are myself,

Kathryn Ward on 01953 600148  
and Mark Goldspink the library manager on 01953  
603319



**BUILD** is a Norfolk Based registered charity that supports adults and young people with learning difficulties and other disabilities. We offer a wide range of services that promote equality, confidence and opportunity to help people have an active community life.

For further information look at our website:

**[www.buildnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.buildnorfolk.org.uk)**

**IPS Volunteer Training  
Autumn 2011**

**The Professional Development Centre,  
Woodside Road**

A FREE six day course on  
Wednesdays, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>  
and 19<sup>th</sup> October

If you are interested in special educational needs and  
would like to support parents please ring Norfolk Parent  
Partnership for more information.

**Tel: 01603 704070**

**Email: [parentpartnership@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:parentpartnership@norfolk.gov.uk)**

## Welcome to the North Norfolk Workout Project!



The North Norfolk Workout Project programme up to the end of June has some exciting FREE scheme where volunteers can become fitter and healthier by taking part in conservation activities to improve our local environment –

The North Norfolk Workout Project. You do NOT have to be fit or experienced to join us, in fact we welcome people who have a variety of physical and mental health conditions, and/or limited mobility

**Sessions start at 1pm and last until 4pm. All timings approximate.** For more information contact:: Mark Webster

North Norfolk Workout Project Officer  
Countryside Section, North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN.

T: 01263 516 336 M: 07843 069 567

[www.btcv.org/norfolk](http://www.btcv.org/norfolk)

## **NORWICH AGE UK ACTIVITIES**

### ***FREE ART CLASSES***

This is an opportunity for  
complete beginners or  
improvers wishing to  
develop skills in drawing  
and painting led, by a local artist.  
Every Thursday 10.30am–12.30pm  
Ashby Court Sheltered Housing  
Scheme, Ashby St, Norwich, NR1 3PH  
(Just off Queens Rd). A small donation  
will be charged for refreshments.  
Please contact Claire on 07786 900685.

### **CRAFT CLUB**

Crafts, writing, tea and talk  
or just tea and talk!  
Every Monday 10.30am—12.30pm  
Seabrook Court, Cloverhill,  
Bowthorpe, NR5 9NQ

### ***ACTIVITIES MORNING***

Draughts, crib, chess, cards  
Every Monday 10am—12pm  
Vauxhall Centre

### **ST AUGUSTINE'S AFTERNOON CLUB**

Membership £1.00 per week  
Social afternoon  
Every Thursday 2pm—3.30pm  
In the hall behind St Augustine's  
Church, St Augustine's Street

### ***FUN AFTERNOON***

Puzzles, cards, dominoes, raffle, etc.  
19<sup>th</sup> April and 17<sup>th</sup> May 2—4pm  
Heartsease Pub, Plumstead Road

### ***CROCHET CLUB***

Meet in the café area of the Mile Cross  
Methodist Church  
For information contact Rev Sharon  
Willimott on 01603 411295.

### ***COFFEE MORNING***

Wednesdays  
10.30am—12.30pm  
Plumstead Road Library  
For information call 01603 433455

### ***PHOENIX CENTRE LUNCH***

Two course meal for £3.75  
Various social activities  
Every Tuesday 11-2pm  
The Phoenix Centre  
For more info call Sarah  
or Christine on 01603 626014

## **Norwich Age UK Advice Surgeries**

Can we help?

Information & Advice

Drop-In

Monday — Friday 10.00 — 4.00

Except Wednesday 10.00 — 2.00

Tax Advice—T.O.P.S – monthly

surgeries held—ring 0845 6013321

to make an appointment

## **Free Specialist Surgeries:**

Legal Advice – Wednesdays

Pensions Advice - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday & 4<sup>th</sup>

Thursday each month

Phone 01603 496333 to book

Advice & Information Drop-in

sessions around Norwich :



Earlham Library: 1<sup>st</sup> Mon 10.30 -12.00

Marion Road: Weds 10-12

Bowthorpe Surgery: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 10-  
12.30

Norwich Community Hosp: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed  
10 - 12

Norman Centre: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues 2-4

The Forum: 1<sup>st</sup> Wed 10 - 12.00

Boardman House, Redwell Street,  
Norwich, NR2 4SL 01603 496333

Where to find us

Boardman House, Redwell Street,

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## **Giving Green Paper**

The Government is currently consulting on the Giving and Social Action Green Paper which was published shortly after Christmas. It sets out initial ideas for building a stronger culture of giving time and money to start a national debate on our society's attitude to giving.

[Download a copy of the Green Paper here](#) or contact [Ruth Gripper](#) to request a copy.

## **Cuts website**

'Voluntary Sector Cuts' is a collaborative project mapping the impact of public sector budget cuts on voluntary groups. Just complete an online form to help build a wider picture of the scale of the challenges ahead at community, regional, or national level.

**Details:** <http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk>

## **Charity Backroom - A single point of contact for back office services**

Charity BackRoom can help with support services such as:

- HR and Employment Law support
- Payroll service
- CRB Disclosures
- Accounting support
- Jobs website
- Insurance
- Training
- Meeting and training rooms

For more information about any Charity BackRoom services, contact us by phone, email, or through the website.

| **01603 756726** |  
[enquiries@charitybackroom.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@charitybackroom.org.uk) |

<http://www.charitybackroom.org.uk/>

## **Are you ok for switchover?**

It's not too late to get help

Switchover Help Scheme provides practical support for those who need it most until October

Older and disabled people struggling with switchover in parts of the Central TV region are being reminded this week that they can still get help with switching to digital TV.

Switchover is underway for the Lark Stoke transmitter serving Stratford upon Avon, the Bromsgrove transmitter serving the Bromsgrove area, the Ridge Hill transmitter serving Herefordshire, south Shropshire and parts of Gloucestershire and The Wrekin transmitter serving North Shropshire and south Cheshire.

By the time switchover is complete, the BBC-run Switchover Help Scheme will have written to more than 1.6 million eligible people in the Central region to offer everything to switch one TV set to digital.

Most eligible people managed the first stage of switchover which happened 6 April without a problem. But some people may have found it more difficult than they expected. The important thing to remember is that it's not too late for eligible people to get the help they are entitled to.

The Switchover Help Scheme is open for applications until October 2011, a month after the last transmitter in the region switches. Tens of thousands of older and disabled people in the Central region have already benefitted from the Help Scheme.

The Switchover Help Scheme has been especially designed around the needs of older and disabled people and can make switching to digital TV easier for them. If someone is eligible for help, the Help Scheme will have already written to them at their home address. But did you know:

- People can still take up the offer of help now even if they contacted the Help Scheme to opt out earlier this year
- The Help Scheme can convert a second TV set in your home even if you already have digital on your main TV set.
- The Help Scheme will set up and install everything you need to make the switch to digital.
- All installers are approved and no one will call without an appointment
- A free 12 month aftercare line is provided which offers help with retuning.

Ed Jezard, Help Scheme Regional Manager said: “We know that some people only realise at the last minute that they could do with some help – even if up until now they thought that they were going to be OK for switchover. “We’re still here to help any eligible older or disabled person make the switch to digital and provide everything they need to convert their TV. If you someone you know needs help please contact us on 0800 40 87 654 before October.”

### **People are eligible for help if they:**

- Are aged 75 or over, or
- Have lived in a care home for six months or more, or
- Get (or could get):
  - Disability Living Allowance (DLA), or
  - Attendance or Constant Attendance Allowance, or
  - Mobility supplement, or
- Are registered blind or partially sighted

Most people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard option of help. For eligible people who are also on pension credit, income support, income-based

jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance, it's free.

All eligible people in the Central region can also choose from other digital options. These include Freeview and Freesat amongst others, some of which cost extra.

Eligible people need to respond to get the help. To make it easier to get help by switchover we are urging people to call the Help Scheme free on 0800 40 87 654.

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## **Grants to Help New, Innovative Visual Arts Projects (UK)**

The Elephant Trust offers grants to artists and institutions (priority is given to small organisations and galleries) for new, innovative visual arts projects based in the UK. The Trust's aim is to make it possible for artists and those presenting their work to undertake and complete projects when confronted by lack of funds. The Trust supports projects that develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the fine arts. Priority is now being given to artists and small organisations and galleries who should submit well argued, imaginative proposals for making or producing new work or exhibitions. Arts Festivals are not supported. The Trust normally awards grants of up to £2,000, but larger grants may be considered. The next deadline is the 4th April 2011.

For more information visit:

<http://www.elephanttrust.org.uk/docs/intro.html>

## **Call to Artists for Big Summer Exhibition**

Elements: Material Worlds is a high profile, open art exhibition for the Eastern Region, to be held at The Forum in summer 2011.

There is a 'call to artists', offering the chance to win a place in the exhibition, which will run for two weeks in July.

Artists are being asked to submit works that involve engagement with habitat, the environment and both the natural and man-made worlds in their creative process. A selection panel will decide which of the entries will be shown in the exhibition and one of the exhibits will also be awarded the £1000 Bayer Prize.

Artists need to submit their works by Friday 15 April 2011. All the details, including a downloadable application form, are on The Forum website <http://www.theforumnorwich.co.uk/events/elements-material-worlds>

This year's event is being organised by The Forum Trust in partnership with the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society (NCAS), who will curate the exhibition.

Further information  
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## Call for Entries Fakenham Contemporary Art 2011

The second biennial Fakenham Contemporary Art exhibition will be held from Thursday 8 September until Sunday 18 September 2011 at Fakenham Parish Church, Upper Market, Fakenham, NR21 9DB and is aimed at emerging and established artists and makers in Norfolk working in a range of media, including: ceramics, collage, drawing, installation, painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture and textiles.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 17 June 2011.

### **CONTACT**

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