



BROMLEY COUNCIL ON AGEING

February 2010

FREE SWIMMING FOR OVER 60'S

We took our petition with 2,989 signatures to the Civic Centre calling for Bromley Council to provide free swimming for people aged 60+. 81% of all Councils across England are now offering free swimming for people aged 60+ and Bromley Council is one of two London boroughs who declined the offer to participate in the scheme. Maureen Falloon, Chair Council on Ageing, said "In reaching its decision, Bromley Council has taken a 'worse case' scenario in terms of the take up of free swimming to arrive at how much it would cost had they joined the scheme which is not fully funded by the Government."

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION REPORT

The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. The commission reported that Bromley Council Adult and Community Services were performing adequately during 2008-2009, which means that they were only delivering the minimum requirements for people. For more information visit the Care Quality Commission website www.cqc.org.uk. Bromley Council on Ageing together with Age Concern Bromley and Carers Bromley will be holding a meeting on Thursday 22nd April 2010 at Community House, South Street, Bromley, to discuss this report with Bromley Council.



TRANSPORT REVIEW

The council transport review has highlighted various difficulties for older and disabled people travelling around the Borough. The review, still in draft form, has made several suggestions for improvements to be implemented including-

- Develop a Bromley Transport Access Guide
- Establish a Mobility Forum

The issues and recommendations can be viewed in full in the Transport Review which is available at www.bromleypartnerships.org under the Partnership Board meeting reports 25th Jan 10.

What is Bromley Council on Ageing?

Bromley Council on Ageing is the forum for voluntary and community sector organisations and for individuals with an interest in older peoples issues that work with or on behalf of older people in Bromley. Now in our fourteenth successful year, the forum is invited to participate in increasing numbers of partnership activities, and involved in delivering more consultation with our voluntary sector members and with older service users. The work we do to promote the involvement of older people as service users and carers is particularly in demand due to new national policy agenda.

OLDER PEOPLES PANEL

At our December review meeting we looked back over 2009 and considered what impact the Older Peoples Panel had made.

- **Patient Transport Service (PTS)**
The suggestions made at our September panel meeting for quality standards for Patient Transport Service contracts have been taken forward by the Patients Forum (Ambulance Services) London. The objective is to substantially raise the access to and quality of PTS services for all Londoners who use this service to get to hospital and clinic appointments.
- **Physiotherapy** When the panel met back in March 2009, the waiting time for a physiotherapy appointment following GP referral was 22 weeks—this has now increased to 23 weeks due to staff vacancies and rising demand for the service.. We shall continue to monitor this situation, but meantime, if you do need a physiotherapy appointment, you should request that your GP's referral gives a detailed account of how your injury is affecting your every day life and independence.
- **Free Swimming for Over 60's** We are still awaiting a formal response from the council regarding free swimming for Over 60s.



DIAL-A-RIDE— Bromley Council wants to hear from people who use Dial-a-Ride. They want to know about how the service is working for you—please contact Evelyn Collington, details below.

INDEPENDENCE

Life is a challenge without visibility
Sight gives ability, agility and stability
But one must adapt and also be adept
To bring about change
This could be the precept for me to accept
Life must go on
Though one cannot see
Lots of determination and imagination
Highlights the need for creation
Which can fill time
And life can be sublime.

Elsie Warrack, 2009

Contact Bromley Council on Ageing

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 8th March

Older Peoples Panel Meeting
10-30am until 12-30pm followed by buffet
lunch

Topic—**Advanced Care Plans
End of Life Care**

Care Quality Commission Report

Joint meeting with Age Concern Bromley,
Carers Bromley

Thursday 22nd April

2pm until 4pm

All meetings will be held at
Community House, South Street, Bromley

WE NEED YOU!! - are you an older person who is interested in bringing the perspective of older people to various working groups and committees? Why don't you join our Older Peoples Panel? There is no charge. For more information please call Evelyn Collington on 0208 325 9788

**Visit our website for more
information at
www.bromleycoa.org.uk**