

news

*from the Independent Living Association (ILA)
West Sussex*

August 2006

CARE SCHEMES TO BE PILOTED ACROSS WEST SUSSEX

Demand for personal assistants continues to grow

Two care schemes are to be piloted across West Sussex following consultations with disabled and elderly people who employ their own staff through West Sussex County Council's Direct Payments (DP) scheme.

The pilots are being set up by the Independent Living Association (ILA), the Worthing-based charity which supports and represents disabled people in the county. Both pilot schemes are designed to help DP clients arrange temporary cover when the regular people they employ – known as personal assistants (PAs) – are on holiday or ill.

They will also help DP clients and PAs to develop links and benefit from mutual support.

ILA project officer Roger Lightbown, who is currently seeking DP clients and PAs to take part in the pilots, believes the schemes have many benefits, both for disabled people and for the PAs who work for them.

"We are continually working to improve the service to DP clients," he said. "This includes an ongoing recruitment drive to find part-time and full-time PAs to provide care for the hundreds of people in West Sussex who currently qualify for the DP scheme.

"This is a really flexible and rewarding job opportunity that many people don't know exists. You can take on as much or as little work as you want according to your own lifestyle and choose which hours to work. There is work available locally, and the pay rates are good.

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“It’s ideal for students, retired people and mothers who want a job they can fit in around their childcare responsibilities. The pilot schemes also seek to make it easier for someone to work as a full-time PA if they wish.”

DP clients or PAs who would like to take part in the pilot schemes, or anyone interested in finding out more about PA job opportunities, should contact Roger on 01273 454100.

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Media enquiries: Ray Chandler – 01273 461950

About the ILA

The ILA helps hundreds of disabled people in West Sussex to organise and run their own care under the county council's Self Directed Support service. The charity also campaigns on disability issues and takes a leading role in disability service development.