

Em.bold.en Newsletter – March 2017 – Number 2

Welcome to our 2nd Em.Bold.en newsletter. This is a regular update to let you know what we've been doing and what we have planned.

The Embolden project was started to give a strong voice for older families who have relatives with learning disabilities to influence decision makers, hold them to account and improve services.

'You said, we did' event – Jan 2017

Last year we held a series of coffee mornings throughout the county as well as a 'meet the decision makers event to gather your views. You gave us a number of tasks, so in January we ran an event in Oxford to let you know what we have done.



One of the things you wanted was some simple, easy to read guidance on the Care Act. This you told us would help you challenge decisions you feel are unfair and to inform you of yours and your relative rights under the Act.

We tested the draft version with people who attended the event and the final version will be available soon

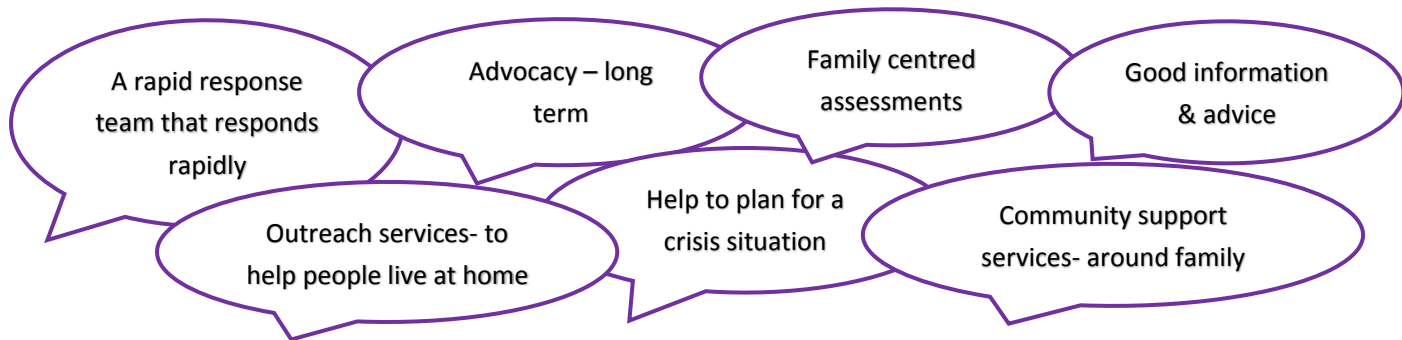
Coffee mornings

We held another series of coffee mornings around the County and we were really pleased that some new people came along (Please keep spreading the word!) The latest coffee morning was at Jo McGee's house in Witney and we thank Jo for her generous hospitality. Not only was her house packed with people, the BBC were also there to film us for Comic Relief.



More pictures available on our website - <https://www.oxfsn.org.uk/older-carers/embolden/>

Family carers had the opportunity to discuss issues and talk about what good support would look like. Here's what they/you said



We also had the chance to listen to Liz Williams, Programme Director for Learning Disabilities and Autism with Oxford Health. Liz has been a regular attendee at these events and we thank her for giving up her time to come and listen to families. County Councillor, Laura Price, also attended so we are reaching the politicians too!

We hope the film will be aired on Red Nose day March 24th, so watch out for us then.

Influencing and challenging

Jan and Gail now have regular meetings with key decision makers in Oxfordshire and always take the opportunity to raise the issues you have told us about. We are determined to finally get older carers issues on the agenda and keep it there. In February we met with Kate Terroni – new Director of Adult services for Oxfordshire County Council and have agreed to meet with her 4 times a year. We meet with Robyn Noonan, Area Service Manager - Learning Disabilities regularly and Liz Williams from Oxford Health every month and often on a weekly basis at other meetings such as the Transforming Care Board. If you have any burning issues you want us to raise at these meetings please get in touch with Gail: Tel 07891 734987 or E-mail:

Gail.Hanrahan@oxfsn.org.uk

Can you help?

We want to build a better picture of what is happening to older family carers at this time of significant changes in services. We are looking for volunteers to be interviewed about the level and nature of social care support they are currently getting. The interview is in a questionnaire form and should take approximately one hour. All the information we receive will be treated anonymously.

If you are able and willing to help then please contact **Jan – Tel: 07596 784947**

What's next?

We are planning a '**Housing and Support Event**'

Key Commissioners from Health and the Council have already agreed to attend this event and there will be a chance to listen to speakers and visit information stands.

JUNE 2017						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

Date: June 7th

Location: Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11

Time: 10am -3.30pm

This event is FREE but booking is essential - so please let us know you will be coming along by telephoning **Kathy** on **07786 731634** or kathy.liddell@oxfsn.org.uk. To keep costs down we are sadly unable to provide lunch so please bring your own

That's it for now, best wishes. **Gail, Jan, Kathy, Angeli and Alex – OxFSN Embolden Team**