

Em.bold.en Newsletter – June 2017 – Number 3

Welcome to our 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 stronger voice to older families who have relatives with learning disabilities to influence decision makers, hold them to account and improve services.

Housing and Support Event - Didcot

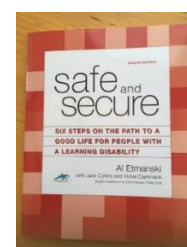
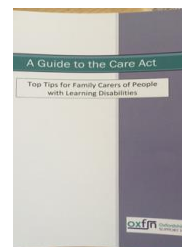


Our Housing and Support event was held in Didcot on the 7th of June. This was an opportunity for families and professionals to listen to speakers, local and national and visit information stands. We had two 'Question Time' panels with lead commissioners from Oxfordshire County Council following the presentations. There were some lively discussions! The first session with Robyn Noonan (Adult Social Care Manager, North Ox.) and Benedict Leigh (Deputy Director for Joint Commissioning) was streamed live on Facebook so others could view it and so we had some record of what was discussed. If you have access to the internet you can see the film here - <https://www.facebook.com/184383031600116/videos/1416270121744728/>



More pictures available on the Embolden page of our website – www.oxfsn.org.uk
Thanks to Ivor Sunman for these

We also handed out copies of our **Care Act guide** and Steve Raw from DOSH brought along copies of their **Safe & Secure book** – helping families to plan for the future



If you couldn't attend the event and would like a free copy of these guides please get in touch. Tel: 07891 734987 or email: info@oxfsn.org.uk



Together Matters have produced this useful planning guide for families. Unfortunately, like many things now, it's only available online <http://www.togethertatters.org.uk/resources-and-information/>

We are not able to print off for everyone as it's very long but perhaps you could ask a friend or relative to do this for you

Influencing and challenging: We continue to have the opportunity to influence and challenge at the highest level in the County. Gail is a member of the Transforming Care Partnership Board which consists of senior managers from the County Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Oxford Health. It's a great opportunity to raise all the issues that you tell us about and make sure the things that matter to older carers stays on the agenda. Gail also meets with Kate Terroni (Director of Adult Social Care) and her deputies four times a year. At the last meeting in June, Kate was very keen look at how better future planning could be achieved and tasked Natalia Lachkou (Commissioner for Vulnerable Adults) with writing a briefing paper, providing an overview of all the opportunities OCC currently have to identify older carers of people with learning disabilities (such as daytime support reassessment, respite assessments, the work of Embolden). We think this is positive step forward and long overdue so will be chasing them up on this. 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

In the news: We've been busy on the publicity front! - Embolden featured on BBC Radio Oxford, JackFM and BBC South Today did a piece on June 8th with Ian & Rachael Scott-Hunter and their daughter Alexandra. The clip is here for those of you with internet access <https://youtu.be/ULIHRVCc9yo> but, we can show at events/coffee mornings for those without.



Enormous thanks to the Scott-Hunters for taking part.

We are looking for more families to be filmed, recorded and interviewed, to share their stories. (N.B. not just for TV but for our website and raising awareness too) If you can help, please get in touch.



A fond farewell to Jan:

As many of you will know by now our lovely Jan has retired. We thank her for all the amazing work she has done on this project and the previous one, 'Changing Scenes'. We are sorry to see her go but wish her well with her well-earned retirement. The project is now being managed by Gail and supported by Kathy and Angeli. Although, Jan is still helping out as a volunteer, and so you will still see her from time to time. If you'd like to wish her well then OxfSN are having a goodbye celebration at our AGM on September 7th. Please let us know if you'd like to attend and we will send you details.



What's next?

We are planning our next round of activities and will be in touch as soon as we have dates. In the meantime please get in touch and give us ideas of topics you'd like to know more about.

That's it for now, best wishes. **Gail, Kathy & Angeli – OxfSN Embolden Team**