

**Liz Morgan
Information Manager**



**Introduction to the
Disability Resource
Centre**

Aims

- Enable disabled people, their families and carers to have access to the information and equipment they require to live independently
- Encourage disabled people to be involved in the provision of services
- Promote awareness of the needs of disabled people
- Encourage collaborative services for disabled people
- To help all disabled people regardless of age or disability

About the DRC

- Unique in that it involves disabled people as trustees, staff and volunteers
- Charity set up by disabled people to be focal point for disability services for all of Bedfordshire and Luton
- Gives free information and independent advice on equipment and large range of topics

Reception



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Services

- Information Service
- Equipment Service and large Equipment Display Area
- Benefit Surgeries **by appointment** for Form Filling in Dunstable and Bedford-A.A and DLA
- Direct Payments in Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes
- Training and consultancy on Disability Awareness, Equality, Access audits and Building design

Information Topics

- Advocacy
- Benefits
- Care & Carers
- Disability Rights
- Education
- Employment
- Grants
- Holidays
- Housing
- Insurance
- Shopping
- Sport & Leisure
- Support groups & Services
- Transport

Information Service



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Publications

- Information Handbook (also available on tape and CD)
- Mental Health Directory for Luton and Bedfordshire
- Contacts for Families with disabled children
- Contacts for Sport and Leisure for people with Disabilities
- Contacts for Carers
- Contacts for Holidays for people with disabilities
- Contacts for Sport and Leisure

New titles in production will include air, road and rail travel for people with disabilities

Equipment Service

- Independent advice on equipment from a teaspoon to a stair-lift with examples to look at and try
- Second-hand For Sale Board
- Wheelchair hire
- Bathroom, Kitchen, Bedroom and Living Room areas
- Scooters to try before you buy

Equipment Display Area



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Carers

- Last year nearly 800 carers contacted us for information
- Increase in Carers under 25
- Carers booklet is most popular booklet we produce
- Many of the staff, trustees and volunteers are carers or have carers to help them

Statistics

- 5,000 enquiries are received every year
- Main disabilities of people are arthritis and stroke
- Main enquiry from all enquirers including Carers is about benefits
- Nearly 1,500 ages of carers were recorded last year through enquiries
- 19 paid staff and 10 volunteers

Did You Know?

- Wheelchair hire £10 per week
- Direct Payments Service for local area and Milton Keynes
- National and Local database of 6000 entries for disability and advice organisations
- Some small equipment items for sale

Opening Times

- Information Service is open Mondays to Fridays 10am - 12.30 and 1.30-4.00
- Equipment Display Area have a Wednesday Drop- in- Day or by appointment at the above times
- Can contact by phone, email, letter or in person. No referral necessary.
- Free service for **all** ages, **all** disabilities in Bedfordshire and Luton

Contact details:

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