

What's New for Carers



Do you find the *What's New for Carers?* e-bulletin helpful? How can we make it better for carers? [Share your thoughts and ideas with our quick survey.](#)

Highlights from this month's *What's New for Carers?*

- [April Events at the Centre](#)
- [Benefits Surgery is back!](#)
- [Get stuck into a good book with Carers' Reading Group!](#)
- [Meet the Alzheimer's Society at the Carers' Cafe](#)
- [Croydon celebrates World Autism Awareness Week: 2 - 8 April 2016](#)
- [Parents in Partnership Croydon - Could you be the next Chairperson?](#)
- [Stating of Caring Survey 2016](#)
- [Get green-fingered with Gardening for Disabled Trust](#)
- [Prescription charge increases to £8.40](#)

Remember to [like us on Facebook](#)/[follow on Twitter](#) for the latest updates!

Events



Every month we offer a range of free health, wellbeing and social activities for carers. Come along, meet other carers and have fun!



April Events at the Centre

Is it (finally) warm yet? Get ready for Spring with our [April Events Calendar](#)!



Benefits Surgery is back!

Benefits Surgery returns to the Carers Support Centre from 6 April. If you are a carer and have questions about your benefits or would like help with forms, the benefits surgery is for you. Appointments are available on a weekly basis - email appointments@carersinfo.org.uk or call 020 8649 5608 and leave a message to book your slot.



Get stuck into a good book with Carers' Reading Group!

Love settling down with a good book and a cuppa? Why not meet with other carers to discuss this month's great read over tea/coffee? To find out more about April's great read, call Ruth Laws on 020 8649 6280 or email ruthlaws@carersinfo.org.uk.

Leading the fight
against dementia

Alzheimer's Society

Meet the Alzheimer's Society at the Carers' Cafe

Come and meet the [Alzheimer's Society](#) at the Carers' Cafe on **Thursday 7 April**. Whether you're looking for more information and support, or you just want a chat, drop in between 10.30am - 12.30pm at the [Carers Support Centre](#).

Plus other exciting events for your diary...



- 6 and 20 April - Carers Singing Group
- 28 April - Family Fund visits the Carers' Cafe
- 29 April - Craft & Chatter at the Carers' Cafe



News and views from and around Croydon.

Croydon celebrates World
Autism Awareness Week: 2 - 8
April 2016



Croydon will be flying the Autism Awareness Flag on the Town Hall balcony to celebrate World Autism Awareness Week this week (2 - 8 April 2016). On Wednesday 6 April at 12.30pm the Mayor will be in attendance at the Town Hall to raise the flag and speak about the importance of autism awareness and the launch of Croydon Council's e-learning course on autism awareness. [Register for the course online](#).

Find out more about the week and what's going on nationally on the [National Autistic Society website](#).

Croydon Heritage Festival: 18 - 26 June

A date for your diaries! [Croydon Heritage Festival](#) organised by [The Whitgift Foundation](#) is returning for 2016 from 18 to 26 June. This year's festival brings together an incredible range of activities, as well as a [brand new art competition](#) in its theme *Undiscovered Croydon* to reveal hidden facts and stories of the town's past, present and future. Find out more at www.croydonheritagefestival.co.uk



Parents in Partnership Croydon - Could you be the next Chairperson?

[Parents in Partnership Croydon](#) is looking to recruit a Chairperson on the Board in a voluntary capacity. If you are interested in contributing to the work and governance of a local charity whose mission is to improve opportunities for families and have the desire to help shape our strategic aims and objectives

for the future, they would like to hear from you. In addition they are looking to expand our current number of Trustees on the board. Visit [PIP Croydon](#) or contact Agnieszka Gebka on 020 8663 5626 or Agnieszka.gebka@pipcroydon.co.uk to find out more.



Join the Croydon Conversation: Get your questions answered on health care in Croydon

John Goulston, Chief Executive of Croydon Health Services NHS Trust, is opening the doors to talk to patients and the local community about their care. The next Croydon Conversations event will be **Tuesday 19 April 2016 5.30pm to 7pm** at the Oasis Restaurant, Croydon University Hospital. No need to book - come along and have your say.



Hear our Voices - DPACT

DPACT is pleased to present Hear Our Voices. This Lottery funded project is designed to boost the confidence of those who find speaking for themselves - or on behalf of a loved one - a frightening experience. Workshops are free and transport can be provided for anyone who is disabled and needs support with travel. DPACT hopes to run 20 Workshops in the next 12 months.

If you would like to find out more about Hear Our Voices, please contact DPACT on the free phone number - 0800 689 7474 - or email mandy.dpact@yahoo.co.uk. Please allow 24 hours for a reply. DPACT would like to thank Awards For All (part of the Big Lottery) for funding Hear Our Voices.

National News



A selection of relevant news items from across the country.



Stating of Caring Survey 2016

Carers UK's annual survey of carers is now open for you to have your say. This year's survey is particularly important as the government is launching a new carers' strategy: [Take the survey](#)

The [survey](#) takes around 20 - 30 minutes to complete, so grab a cup of tea before you begin! The [survey](#) closes on 15 April.



Get green-fingered with Gardening for Disabled Trust

Love to garden, but finding it harder to get out? [Gardening for Disabled Trust](#) provides grants to help people can keep enjoying gardening despite disability, age or illness: [Read more](#)



Prescription charge increases to £8.40

The prescription charge has now increased to £8.40 as of 1 April 2016 for those not exempt from charges. The prescription pre-payment certificate (PPC) will remain at £29.10. Check with your pharmacist or visit the NHS website to find out if you might be eligible for help

with prescription costs: [Read more](#)



News and views round up

Delays to Disabled Facilities Grant process have major impact on people's lives, says

Local Government Ombudsman: [Read More](#)

Almost three million hospital bed days lost between June 2010 and January 2016 due to a lack of social care provision, according to Age UK: [Read more](#)

Carers UK responds to Budget 2016 Find out what the 2016 Budget means for carers: [Read more](#)



Facebook



Twitter



Website



Pinterest

Copyright © 2016 Carers Information Service, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Carers' Information Service
Carers Support Centre
24 George Street
Croydon, CR0 1PB
United Kingdom

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)



The Carers' Information Service was set up by the Whitgift Foundation in 1997, and provides information, advice and support to Croydon's carers.

[Find out more about us.](#)

The Carers Support Centre is a partnership between Croydon Council and the Whitgift Foundation.

The Centre is open Monday to Friday, 10am – 4pm, and carers are welcome to drop in for information and advice on their caring role.

[Find out more about us.](#)

We also have rooms to hire for very competitive rates. For more information call Victoria Rivera on 020 8663 5600, or email victoriarivera@carersinfo.org.uk.