

Your local Welfare Champion

Victoria Collinson	Blackhall Community Centre	Tuesdays 11:30am-9:30pm
Leighann Bresnan Alison Fahey	Macrea House, Murton	Tues 10am—12pm Thurs & Fri 9am-4pm
George McKenna	Murton Resource Centre	Mon, Wed, Sat 9.30am—12pm Tue, Thurs, Fri 9.30am—1.30pm
John Wood	Donnini House, Easington	Wednesdays 10am-12noon
Jon Ferrie	Easington Welfare	Mon—Fri 9am—12pm
Edna Connor	Centennial Centre, Horden	Coming soon
Monica Christie	Eastlea Community Centre, Seaham	Thursdays 7pm—9pm
Jim Currie, Judi Briggs and Clare Bricklebank	Shotton IT Centre	Mon & Fri 9 am – 3pm Tuesdays 9am - 8pm Wed & Thurs 9am – 5:30 pm
Doreen and Alan Liversidge	Hazelwell Centre, Haswell	Wednesdays 1pm—3pm Thursdays 5pm—7pm
Evelyn Robson	Greenhills Centre, Wheatley Hill	Wednesdays 10am—12pm
Shannon Slee	Robin Todd Centre, South Hetton	Wednesdays 1pm—3.30pm Fridays 10am—12pm
Una Wilding Jack Warne	Fairclough Court, Howletch, Peterlee	Tuesdays 10am—2pm
Kris Richardson	Community House, EDT, Peterlee	Thursdays 1pm—3pm

Some Welfare Champions offer support on an adhoc basis in and around local communities . These are:

John Baxter – Seaham Area

Rona Hardy and Denise Brooks - Shotton including Shotton Community Centre

Katie Wotton and Victoria Laverick—Murton

Tracey Stanley—Horden

For more information contact East Durham Trust on 0191 569 3511



The newsletter of the East Durham Welfare Champions Project

Issue 4
Conference Special

More Welfare Champions in our community

A new wave of Welfare Champions have been trained to deliver advice to members of the public who have been effected by the Welfare Reforms.

14 new Welfare Champions have been trained making a total of 25 Welfare Champions supporting our community. We have drop in sessions across East Durham nearly every day of the week, including some evenings.

Leighann Bresnan who will be supporting the people of Murton said, 'Welfare Champions was a great course to do and I'm really looking forward to helping people with problems that occur in many peoples lives. I can't wait to help them.'



Welfare Champions continue to provide valuable support

Case Study One

In Easington a person had their Employment Support Allowance stopped and now couldn't afford to buy any food. The Welfare Champion referred them to the FEED project for an emergency food parcel and advised of local community groups where meals were provided for £1. They also looked at budgeting.

Case Study Two

Person was sent a questionnaire regarding Incapacity Benefit by the Department of Working Pensions. They returned the questionnaire then later found their benefit had been stopped. DWP claimed they had not received the questionnaire and the person would have to appeal to have the benefit reinstated. Welfare Champion helped person contact Welfare Rights who are now supporting them throughout the appeal.

Case Study Three

In Murton a person received a letter from Durham County Council saying the owe Council Tax and will now be taken to court. After speaking to the person Welfare Champion found that the person shouldn't pay any Council Tax at all so contacted Durham County Council and the issue is now resolved.

Here are some common questions that Welfare Champions are being asked:

- Will the 'bedroom tax' affect me?
- What is universal credit?
- How do I know if I'm getting the right benefits?
- What is Personal Independence Payment?
- Benefits won't be paid into the Post Office any more, how do I set up a bank account?
- How do I fill in a benefits form?

News

As many of you will already know one of our Welfare Champions, Margaret Girvan, very sadly passed away in October. Margaret was a very valued member of the Welfare Champions project who carried out lots of great work not just for this project but in our community as a whole over a number of years. She will be dearly missed by us all.



At East Durham Trust we have been inundated with great feedback from those who have been supported by Welfare Champion. This is what some of the people had to say:

They were absolutely brilliant and couldn't have helped me anymore. Panic Over!

I feel 300% better now

Really made me feel at ease at a very stressful time

They help me out loads, I wouldn't be able to fill the forms out otherwise. Invaluable support.

For information on Welfare Champions contact us on:

0191 5693511
info@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk
www.eastdurhamtrust.org.uk