

# **BORDERS DIRECT PAYMENT AGENCY NEWS**

**December 2007**

## **Christmas and New Year Holidays 2007/2008**

The office will close on **Friday 21 December 2007** for the holidays, and re-open at **9.30am** on **Thursday 3 January 2008**.

A BIG thank you to those of you who managed to support our event in September. For people who didn't make it, here is a brief summary for everyone.

Jean Maclellan presented the new Self Directed Support (direct payments) Guidance. A copy is available from the office.

Mr Fish from Fish Insurance came up from Lancashire to tell us about a new Fish Insurance policy which will soon be available. We haven't got the final version yet (Yes, the new policy is that new)! It will be more expensive but gives a whole new area of cover around employment. As soon as it is available and your policy is up for renewal you may wish to discuss your options with us or them.

The outcomes from the workshop time were:

1. Generally people enjoyed the opportunity to talk to other employers.
2. Some of you would like key bullet points for being an employer.
3. Another opportunity to discuss issues with other employers in a similar situation.
4. Small packages of care don't allow time for staff supervision.
5. Techniques for troubleshooting would be useful.
6. Request for BDPA to provide some employer training.

We will address as many points as we can over the next few months.

After lunch Jim Bull, who is a trainer from ACAS updated the audience on employment law. His was a lively performance so stopped us from taking an afternoon nap!!

Finally Annette Scobie from BVCCF and Heather Bastch from The Bridge ran through the proposed changes in 2008 to BDPA. We now have a Working Party meeting regularly to take us through to becoming a company limited by guarantee and also register as a charity. This will not affect the work we do with clients.

Finally a number of people found the acoustics in the room made it difficult to hear. We will look at other venues for future events.

Niccy Kershaw

Nov 2007