

Disability Organisations working together

On November 3rd Fran Williamson, Paralympic swimmer, officially opened the new centre for three disability organisations that are moving in together. The new arrangement will help them to cope with the cuts while at the same time offering more accessible facilities.

The organisations are Disability Cambridgeshire, Disability Huntingdonshire and the Cambridgeshire User Led Organisation (ULO). The move is possible thanks to support from their landlord the Varrier-Jones Foundation.

Between them these organisations offer advice, information and advocacy support to disabled people throughout the County of Cambridgeshire.

Disabled people, their carers and the parents of disabled children can drop in, get advice over the telephone or make an appointment to visit the centre. They can also ask for a home visit. In addition the ULO offers training and awareness sessions countywide for those who want to manage their own care budgets.

Anyone wanting to help can volunteer. During the last three years the Opportunities for Volunteering project offered voluntary staff; work experience, training and NVQ qualifications. They hope to build on this next year by offering disabled people, not eligible for the Government's Work Programme, activities to improve their job prospects.

“These are financially challenging times and we urge local authorities and other donors not to abandon their support of small voluntary organisations like ours. These charities perform vital services for local people in a flexible and responsive way that large-scale bodies cannot hope to replicate.” said Sandy Ferrelly (Chairman of Disability Huntingdonshire)

Disability Cambridgeshire

- empowerment through information
01480 839192

Disability Huntingdonshire

- achieving independent living
01480 830833

Cambridgeshire User Led Organisation (ULO)

07507 473813