



Cambridgeshire User Led Organisation

c/o Speaking Up
Ground Floor
Mount Pleasant House
Huntingdon Road
Cambridge
CB3 0R
E: info@cambsulo.org.uk
W: www.cambsulo.org.uk

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Your Voice

READY TO MOVE AHEAD

Welcome to the first issue of **YOUR VOICE** from the **Cambridgeshire User Led Organisation (ULO)**.

The Cambridgeshire ULO today is both a Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee. Our mission is to support:

- Any person living with a disability or impairment, whether temporary or permanent aged 18+
- Informal or family carers, including same sex partners
- People on direct payments, those who receive personal budgets and those who fund their own care and support

The overall aim of the organisation is to enable any one with support needs to shape and direct the services they need to live the life they choose.

In order to realise this goal the ULO will:

- Build a stronger collective voice – from grassroots actions through to getting heard at higher strategic levels
- Enable greater choice – supporting people with the decisions they make to manage and develop the services and informal support they need for independent living

Since April 2009 we have been putting in place the building blocks for the future. As an organisation we are now in a position to move forward with many of our plans knowing that we have sound management, effective governance and solid financing in place.

We very much look forward to working with you in the future and we hope you will support the ULO in its work across Cambridgeshire.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER NEEDED

We are pleased to announce that we will shortly be recruiting a part-time **Development Officer**. The post will be for an initial fixed term and responsibilities will include:

- Enhancing the knowledge and understanding of the Cambridgeshire ULO throughout Cambridgeshire
- Delivering the main tasks as defined by the Board of the ULO
- Supporting the Board meetings
- Conducting marketing activities to boost the profile of the ULO

- Developing and maintaining a membership database
- Developing and maintaining excellent working relationships with all relevant stakeholders – including disabled people's organisations, disabled people and statutory organisations – and relevant existing forums throughout Cambridgeshire
- Performing all research and administrative work required to develop the ULO while also co-ordinating the Board reports
- Co-ordinating the development projects of the ULO in line with existing objectives

For application pack e mail or telephone Anna Wallis on 01223 811662 or email Anna.wallis@red2green.org

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW THE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNICATES

We have been approached by Cambridgeshire County Council who are looking for volunteers to participate in the research for the redesign of their website.

The research will be conducted, both online, and via face-to-face focus groups, to show people what they are working on and to get your feedback.

If you would like to participate, they will reimburse any travel expenses and, for face to face sessions, you could also receive a voucher for a well known high street or internet retailer.

To sign up to this research go to <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/> and click on the link on the right hand side entitled 'Help us to improve this website'

They are very keen to get feedback from people who have support needs so please sign up to take part and make a difference to the lives of people with support needs.

WHO MANAGES THE ULO?

The Cambridgeshire User Led Organisation was originally set up by a Project Steering Team with a mandate to form an organisation that met the twenty one Design Criteria laid by the Department of Health to define User Led Organisations. The members of the Transitional Board are:

Gerri Bird
Kadie Chapman (Treasurer)
Debbie Drew
Andrew Gardner (Chair)
Lynne Hester
Carol Jones
Judith Margolis
Ruth Rogers
Joseph Simon (Vice Chair)
Mark Symonds

It is an exciting time for us with funding in place, projects starting and other plans getting underway. As such we are looking for people to join the Board to take the ULO in its new direction.

If you have skills or experience that you feel would benefit the ULO then please contact Andrew Gardner in the first instance on 01223 576550 or email: AndrewG@headway-cams.org.uk

We're on the Web
www.cambsulo.org.uk

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE AND FENLAND

Thanks to a Grassroots Grant award by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation we will shortly also be recruiting a Sessional Support Worker to recruit & train peer champions in Fenland & Hunts to:

- Provide accessible information & support to people with support needs in relation to self-directed support (SDS)
- Understand the problems facing people with support needs in relation to SDS
- Lobby Local Strategic Partnerships & key forums, influencing: policy, practice & reconfiguration of services to meet people's needs

Over 12 months, a sessional support worker will:

- Promote the chance to become a peer champion via face-to-face meetings, local radio, a
- Recruit 10 peer champions & provide intensive training in SDS: what it is, options that exist, negotiating arrangements with service providers, employing staff etc
- Support peer champions to create training resources
- Identify organisations who have support groups or establish new groups where demand/gaps are identified
- Support peer champions to engage with these groups
- Support peer champions to lobby Local Strategic Partnerships and other key forums
- Capture learning & produce resources for countywide replication

To register your interest please email: info@cambsulo.org.uk