

Disability charity given boost from lottery funding



Disability Advice Lancashire received lottery grant

Support and advice will be provided to clients and carers

by Stephen George

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A CHARITY has received a lottery grant to expand its services to the disabled.

Disability Advice West Lancs has been awarded £289,664 to support its unique work for the next three years.

The grant will be used to provide specialist information and advice to disabled people and carers.

The new project is called Advice-Self Help and this grant will mean that the charity will be expanding its services to:

- Support clients in the community to undertake income assessments, form-filling, support during the appeals process and budgeting to reduce stress and anxiety;

- Hold welfare workshops that

will outline future welfare changes and other training and development sessions designed to increase self-confidence and promote independence; and

- Run client focus groups to assess the quality of advice to clients and the charity's impact on their well-being.

This service will be mainly delivered from the charity's Whelmar House second floor office, adjacent to the Concourse Shopping Centre in Skelmersdale. Clients can call into the office in person or ring the Freephone on 0800 200676.

The 1981-established, Queen's Award-winning charity provides high quality, confidential information, advice and support to disabled people and their carers in West Lancashire, which enables them to make informed choices about how they wish to live their lives. Examples of services provided include: information and advice about equipment, holidays, budgeting, leisure, mobility, community care, transport, tribunal representation, welfare benefits, form-filling and signposting. The team deals with over

4,800 enquiries each year and generates over a million pounds in welfare benefit income for clients.

Dave Roscoe, chairman of DAWL, said: "It is important that we continue to respond to clients' and stakeholders' needs and we have made an excellent start by securing this new Big Lottery Fund grant. Our client membership scheme with a nominal subscription will give priority to subscribing clients and these funds will contribute towards our running costs. Members will also have a membership pack in which they can store their paperwork, with new self-help guides that will outline choices and encourage independence."

Sharon Spurling, head of funding from the Big Lottery Fund, said: "We wish Disability Advice West Lancs every success with their project."

The charity is also looking to offer new opportunities to volunteers; contact Marie Hackney on 01695 51819, email her on marie.hackney@dawl.org.uk or visit the new website www.dawl.org.uk for more information.