



Summer 2013 Newsletter

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Wednesdays & Fridays office appointments only, by arrangement**

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter we hope you find it useful and informative.

We are now coming to the end of our funding arrangement with Calderdale council and to date we have no other funding lined up to replace this when it comes to an end at the end of September. We have submitted several funding applications and we are awaiting decisions on these. There is no doubt that the welfare reform changes are having a big impact on our client group and that the demand for our service is greater than ever. Unfortunately our core service has been reduced by over 50% in the last 15 months. We continue to deliver our cancer support service funded by the Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust and we have recently agreed to deliver a 6 hour per week advice service to the Calderdale Carers Project for an 18 month period.

In June a Team of volunteers from the Royal & Sun Alliance spent 2 days redecorating our office space and they also provided a skip to enable us to get rid of rubbish we had accumulated over many years. Our office space is now much cleaner and brighter. Our thanks go to James Caine who organised this and to his team of enthusiastic and hardworking volunteers.

<http://www.rsagroup.com/rsagroup/en/home>

We will be having a Charity stall on the precinct in Halifax on Friday 2nd August and we are looking for items of bric a brac, books, plants etc. If anyone has any items to donate you could bring them on the day or alternatively you can bring them to the DART office during our opening hours or at other times by prior arrangement. We also need volunteers to help out on the stall on the day so if you can spare us an hour or two please get in touch as we will be organising a rota. We are also in need of items for our office tombola so if you have any suitable unwanted items please bring them to the office. We have already received some items from someone from the Halifax Society for the blind, many thanks for your support.

We hope to have other fundraising activities during the year and we always welcome other groups running fundraising events on our behalf.



easyfundraising is the easiest way to raise money for Calderdale DART. Shop with any of over 2000 well known retailers listed on [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and a percentage of what you spend is passed to Calderdale DART at no additional cost to you. Retailers include Amazon, M&S, Vodafone, eBay, Tesco, Viking and many more. Please register to support us today – <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/calderdaledart>



Localgiving.com
Charity begins at home

Thank you for supporting our organisation; since we joined local giving we have raised approximately £4,000

Your support is important to us so we want to tell you about Localgiving.com, the fundraising website we use.

Donating to us through Localgiving.com lets you claim Gift Aid*, giving us an additional 25% at no extra cost to you!

When you donate through Localgiving.com, you can send us a message and we can respond, telling you about the work we are able to carry out thanks to your generous gift.

To make a donation go to:

Localgiving.com/calderdaledart

Or visit any page on our website and click on the “make a donation” banner

Thanks again for your generosity and support. We hope you’ll continue to support us through Localgiving.com

➤ **Timetable of forthcoming welfare benefits changes**

From July 2013

- From 15 July 2013 the benefits cap will be rolled out nationally. Total weekly benefits (jobseekers allowance, income support, employment support allowance, housing benefit, child benefit, carers allowance and later the new universal credit) will be limited to £500 a week for lone-parents/couples or £350 per week for single claimants. This benefits cap does not apply to households where someone is claiming working tax credits or getting disability living allowance.

From October 2013

- Universal credit will start to be rolled out for new claimants in Great Britain. Eventually all new claimants will claim universal credit. If you are getting jobseeker's allowance, employment support allowance, housing benefit, working tax credit or child tax credit you will be moved over at a later date.

- Mandatory reconsideration and direct lodgement of appeals with HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) for all DWP-administered benefits and child maintenance cases (already introduced for universal credit and personal independence payment). Reassessment/migration onto the personal independence payment of anyone whose DLA award is due to end or who report a change in condition and young people who reach the age of 16. From early 2014
- After 6 months an EEA national will no longer retain their status as a job seeker or retained worker and continue to claim benefits, unless they can demonstrate they have actively sought work throughout that period and have a genuine chance of finding work.

From January 2014

- From 21 January 2014 the local housing allowance rate (LHA) will be either set at the lower of the rent at the 30th percentile of listed rents or the previous year's LHA increased by one per cent. LHA rates will be set each year on 15th January when that day is a Tuesday. If the 15th is not a Tuesday the rate will be set from the first Tuesday following the 15th January in that year.

From March 2014

- Migration of existing incapacity benefits claimants (incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and income support on disability grounds) onto employment and support allowance should be completed by the end of March.

From December 2014

- The proposed date for the abolition of those remaining cases of pre-tax credit income support/income-based jobseeker's allowance child additions is 31 December 2014. Previously the date of transfer was to have been 31 December 2011 (and before then 2008). For more information.

From April 2015

- Post Office card account (POCA) to be reviewed.

From autumn 2015

- New Tax-free Childcare scheme starts to be phased in from autumn 2015 for families with all parents in work, where each earns less than £150,000 a year and does not already receive support through tax credits or universal credit. Payment will be 20% – equivalent to the basic rate of tax – of their yearly childcare costs up to £6,000 per child.

From October 2015

- Remaining working age DLA claimants begin to be reassessed for the personal independence payment.

From April 2016

- Bereavement support payment replaces current bereavement benefit system.
- Introduction of single-tier pension.
- Cap on the amount the elderly will pay for social care in England will be £72,000.

From May 2018

- Expected date for completion of personal independence payment assessments for working age claimants moving from DLA. See Factsheet F60

From October 2020

- State pension age for both men and women increases to 66

From April 2026

- The Government will start to raise the State Pension age to 67 in stages from this date.

From April 2028

- State pension age will be 67.



(Information from Disability Rights UK)

Watch this space for any further changes!

➤ Benefits pilot is steering a 'dangerous' course

Horrified campaigners say a new government pilot project that will see sick and disabled people forced to attend meetings with doctors – or face losing their benefits – is “abhorrent” and “dangerous”.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) said that people on out-of-work disability benefits would be “required” to have regular meetings with doctors, occupational health nurses and therapists to “help them address their barriers to work”.

About 3,000 people in the work-related activity group (WRAG) of employment and support allowance – and assessed as only able to work after at least 18 months – will have regular appointments with healthcare professionals.

DWP will compare the results of this two-year scheme with two others – one offering “enhanced support” from the government’s Jobcentre Plus and the other extra support from Work Programme providers – to see which is best at helping people off benefits and into work. The pilots will begin in November and will run until August 2016.

Mark Hoban, the Conservative employment minister, said: “The help we give people at the moment tends to focus on work-related skills, but doesn’t necessarily address health problems.

“But by giving people regular support from doctors, occupational health nurses and therapists we can do more to help people manage or improve their conditions.”

The healthcare pilot will see the current mandatory “work-focused interviews” replaced with regular meetings with health professionals.

Hoban said the discussions would “focus claimants on how they can improve their view of their readiness for work by taking steps to manage their health issues”, and would help them to re-engage with their own GP “if they are struggling to adapt to their condition”.

But **Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)** described the idea of compulsory “health management meetings” as “abhorrent”.

Debbie Jolly, a member of DPAC’s steering group, said: “Once again this government shows that it uses the term ‘support’ as a stick to beat disabled people with.

“Rather than offering ‘support’, this pilot looks set to instil and promote the discredited bio-psycho-social model of ‘think yourself well’, much loved by the DWP. This new direction is unjust, dangerous and wrong.”

Disability Rights UK said it was “time to stop blaming people living with health conditions for the failures of the system”, and that any blame should be placed on health and social care providers, which need to “radically improve the employment support they offer”.

Mind said that “compelled health support” would cause “further distress for many people with mental health problems” and could also be “very disruptive and confusing”.

Paul Farmer, Mind’s chief executive, said: “The DWP continues to fundamentally misunderstand the barriers faced by people with mental health problems in returning to work – resorting time and time again to threatening people with sanctions instead of supporting them into sustainable employment.”

About one third of those in the WRAG have a mental health condition, according to Mind.

Farmer said: “Whilst additional health support might help someone in their progression to work, this must always be a decision taken freely by the individual and they must not be sanctioned for failing to carry it out.” *(News provided by John Pring at www.disabilitynewsservice.com)*

➤ **Calderdale MBC Councillors**

Introduction

The Council is made up of 51 elected **councillors** or '**members**' who decide its aims, objectives and policies. They are elected to represent a particular area or ward in

Calderdale. Each ward has three councillors who serve for four years. Elections take place in

each ward three years out of every four, when one council seat in each ward is open for election.

Councillors are not paid a salary, but receive an allowance for time spent on official council business. Calderdale's constitution provides further information on [Councillors Allowances](#) www.calderdale.gov.uk/council/councillors/democracy/constitution/members-allowance.html and the [Councillors Code of Conduct](#).
www.calderdale.gov.uk/council/councillors/democracy/constitution/code-of-conduct.html

Current political makeup of the council

Labour	21
Conservative	17
Liberal Democrat	11
Independent	2

You can find your Councillor by using the [ward map](#), [browsing the list of members](#), or [searching the Councillors database](#)

To find out membership of committees and outside bodies you can use the [search the Councillors database](#) search facility.

www.calderdale.gov.uk/council/councillors/councillors/search/index.jsp

You can also view details of Councillors Performance and key roles and responsibilities within the Council.

If you are unsure who your ward councillors are, contact the Electoral Registration Office on 01422 393059 or contact an Adviser at Calderdale DART 01422 346040/346950

➤ Adaptations for elderly and disabled people

The Accessible Homes Agency, a part of Calderdale Housing Services Department, assists with getting adaptations carried out for people with disabilities, to keep them independent at home, or assists people to find more accessible alternative housing.

The Agency also administers Disabled Facilities Grants, Minor Works Grants, Relocation Loans, and Home Appreciation Loans and will assist with accessing other financial assistance.

Minor Works Grants are available for smaller adaptations to the home like lever taps, grab rails and handrails. In many cases they can be carried out free and quickly without waiting for an occupational therapy assessment or a means test. The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

may be able to provide the finance for large adaptations to your home. This Grant is means tested and the works must first be recommended by an Occupational Therapist who will assess your needs. For more information see Disabled Facilities Grant.

To request an assessment of your needs from the Community Occupational Therapy Service, [contact Gateway to Care](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/socialcare/social-services/gateway-to-care). <http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/socialcare/social-services/gateway-to-care> Telephone 0845 11 11 103 address 1 Park Road, Halifax. HX1 2TU

There is also assistance available if you want to pay for the works yourself or if you feel that moving house might be a better option.

Paying for adaptations

There is help available to pay for many adaptations depending on the work needed and your circumstances. Most small adaptations are available free of charge if they are necessary for you to remain independent at home.

VAT and adaptations

Most adaptations are zero rated for VAT. This means that you may not have to pay VAT for all or some of the work to your house. Advice about this can be found on the Government website [VAT Reliefs for Disabled People](#) | → or by asking the [Accessible Homes Agency](#) or your building contractor. *(Information from Calderdale Council website)*

➤ Access to Work

You must be 16 or over and either:

- in a paid job or self-employed (you can't get a grant for voluntary work)
- about to start a job or a work trial

Your condition

Your disability or health condition must affect your ability to do a job or mean you have to pay work-related costs. For example, special computer equipment or travel costs because you can't use public transport.

Your mental health condition must affect your ability to do a job and means you need support to:

- start a new job
- reduce absence from work
- stay in work

Exceptions

You might not qualify if you get any of these benefits:

- Incapacity Benefit
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Income Support
- National Insurance Credit

How to claim

Follow these steps if you think you can get help from Access to Work.

1. Contact your Access to Work centre - see below to find the right centre.
2. Print the [Access to Work eligibility letter \(PDF, 33KB\)](#) and take it to your employer or to a job interview.
3. An adviser will contact you and your employer to find out what help and support is needed.

Contact the centre that covers the area where you live. You may need the following information:

- your National Insurance number
- your workplace address, including your postcode
- the name, email address and work phone number of a workplace contact (e.g. your manager)
- your unique tax reference number (if you're self-employed)
- the name of your [New Enterprise Allowance mentor](#) (if you have one)

Glasgow (for Scotland, North West England, North East England, **Yorkshire** and Humberside)

Access to Work - Glasgow

atwosu.glasgow@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0141 950 5327

Textphone: 0845 602 5850

Fax: 0141 950 5265 (*Information from GOV.UK*)

➤ **Calderdale Council Benefits advice**



Home Visiting Service

We make home visits to people who live in Calderdale and receive Housing or Council Tax Benefit. The majority of our visits are a simple check to review your claim and confirm that you are entitled to the benefit that you are getting. We also make visits to help people who are unable to come into our offices or for those who have difficulties with our forms.

Review visits

If you have a review visit a Visiting Officer will call at your house and check with you all current information used to assess your benefit. These visits can occur anytime during your

claim. You may receive a letter stating the date of your visit and if the visit is to take place in the morning (between 9am and 1pm) or in the afternoon (between 12.30pm and 5pm). It is important that you let us know if you will not be available. On occasions we may call without notifying you by letter prior to the visit, if we do call round un-notified and you are not in we will leave a letter for you to contact us to arrange a convenient appointment.

Requesting a home visit to help you with your claim

The team also provides a visiting service to help you. A Visiting Officer can call at your home if you have difficulty attending the local office due to health problems, work commitments or difficulty in completing forms we use. At this visit we can provide information about other benefits and schemes available to help you.

Please telephone us on 01422 393514 to ask for a visit or e-mail at benefits.unit@calderdale.gov.uk.

To help us help you please make sure you have the following up to date documents for you and your partner available for the Visiting Officer:

- Identification and National Insurance Number.
- All earned income / all benefit income.
- Last two months statements for all bank, building society and post office accounts.
- Savings / Shares / ISA / PEP / National Savings Certificates / Bonds.
- Tenancy agreement or letter from your landlord confirming tenancy details.
- Proof of income for any other adults in the household.

Please note: all our Visiting Officers carry an official identification badge with a photograph on and a contact number for you to ring to check the officer is a genuine caller to your house.



➤ Localised Welfare Assistance

This item was included in our spring newsletter but we thought it would be useful to run it again. In April 2013 Calderdale Council introduced a local Welfare Assistance scheme to help residents in times of emergency or disaster, and to help maintain independent living within the community. The new localised scheme replaced Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants which were formerly managed by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Calderdale Council aims to provide support to those households with a genuine need. Support will be provided by awarding vouchers rather than cash for living expenses. The scheme will be funded by Central Government. However, funding is limited, so the Council will monitor funds to ensure that support is being provided to those most vulnerable.

The two schemes are as follows:

- **Community living support**

Community Living Support (CLS) aims to help people:

- return to the community after being in care
- stay in their home rather than go into care
- set up home in the community after having an unsettled way of life (as part of a planned programme of resettlement)
- care for a prisoner or young offender when they leave prison on a temporary licence
- ease exceptional pressures on families because of a family breakdown or illness
- pay for certain travelling expenses e.g. going to a family funeral or visiting someone who is ill.

CLS is not intended to assist with replacing items. In these circumstances you may be able to claim a budgeting loan from DWP. As there is a limited amount of money available for CLS we may not be able to make an award in every case or for all the things you need. Priority will be given where an award will play an important part in helping people cope with exceptional circumstances and where it will meet the aims of CLS.

Priority items will be:

- Cooker or microwave
- Beds and bedding
- Baby items.

Some items we cannot pay for as they are excluded under our scheme rules.

How will you pay me?

No cash will be paid.

If we can make an award of CLS we will let you know the maximum spend amount for each item awarded. You will then be asked to decide where you want to buy the items from and we will order and pay for them for you. If you have a support worker you should ask them to help you with this

Can I claim CLS?

You can claim help from CLS if you are getting one of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance – income based
- Employment and Support Allowance – income related
- Pension Credit

Or

- If you are due to leave care and likely to get one of these benefits when you leave.

How do you decide if CLS can be awarded?

We will look at all the information on your application before deciding if we can make an award. If you have a support worker, social worker or probation officer you should ask them for help in completing the application form and if happy to do so provide a letter in support of your application. The information you and your support worker provide will help us reach a decision. Applications for CLS can be made in advance, for example if you and your support worker are working towards resettling you into the community.

Do not delay making a claim until you have found a new place to live, we can make an interim decision in advance of your move. This decision would be valid for up to 3 months.

When would I get a decision?

We will contact you by phone or email within 2 weeks to tell you if we can help.

How can I apply?

You can download an application form from the Councils website, or you can telephone **0845 245 8000** and request an application form be posted to you.

- **Emergency living support**

Emergency Living Support (ELS) can be awarded to help people with something they need either

- in an emergency or
- because of a disaster.

And where the help needed

- is not available from anywhere else and
- is the only way to stop serious damage or risk to the health and safety of a person or their family.

What can I get help with?

An award may assist with an essential item or to meet immediate living expenses.

Any award made will be for the smallest amount needed to remove the crisis or alleviate need until your next regular income is available.

How will you pay me?

No cash will be paid. Vouchers for local supermarkets will be given to meet living expenses. If you need help with items, such as a cooker or furniture we will let you know how much we can award. You will then be asked to choose where you want to buy the item from and we will order and pay for this for you.

Can I claim ELS?

You do not need to be receiving benefits to apply for ELS. Anyone living in Calderdale aged 16 or over can apply for an ELS award. If you do not normally live in Calderdale but need help to return home then we may be able to help you. However some people, in certain circumstances, cannot receive an ELS award

Please note that we will only make **a maximum of two ELS awards in a 12 month period.**

How do you decide if ELS can be awarded?

We look at everything that you have told us:

- What help you need
- Whether you have asked for something we cannot help with
- The kind of crisis you are in
- Whether an award will stop serious damage or serious risk to you or your family and
- Whether there is other help that you can use.

When would I get a decision?

If you apply for an ELS award before 2 pm we will ring you back the same day to let you know our decision and advise what happens next. If you contact us after 2 pm we will ring you back on the next working day.

How do I apply?

Applications are by telephone only. Please contact us on **0845 120 6092**.

You can apply for this service Monday to Thursday 8.45 am to 5.30 pm and Friday 8.45 am to 5 pm.

You will need to advise us of your national insurance number when you ring. *(Information from Calderdale Council website)*



➤ **Universal Credit: Roll out from October 2013**

On 10th July Ministers set out the next stage of the roll out for Universal Credit following the launch in April.

Universal Credit will roll 6 benefits and tax credits into 1 to simplify the system and ensure people are better off in work. The national rollout will be comprised of 3 strands. At the same time, the other components of Universal Credit that will support the cultural transformation that the benefit will bring, such as the Claimant Commitment, and enhanced job search support will roll out across the country, training 20,000 Jobcentre Plus advisers to achieve this. Ten in-work conditionality pilots will test how to best encourage claimants to progress in work.

Alongside this, improved access to digital services will expand across the Jobcentre Plus network.

The government has made clear that the priority is to deliver Universal Credit over a 4-year period to 2017 and within budget. Further details on development plans will be outlined in the autumn.

Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith said:

“Today we’ve announced the next stage of delivery for Universal Credit, following the successful start of the early roll out in April.

I am pleased to say that while we press ahead with delivery, we are also ensuring that we have the best long-term approach in place for this transformative benefit.

I’m determined to get this right and will not follow the old ways of governing – launching with a big bang and having to clear up the mess afterwards. I will bring in this radical reform safely, and I’m committed to doing it by 2017 and to budget.”

More information

Universal Credit will expand to 6 new Jobcentres starting from October 2013. The following Jobcentres will be included:

- Hammersmith
- Rugby
- Inverness
- Harrogate
- Bath
- Shotton

The Claimant Commitment will also roll out to all Jobcentres from October with all Jobcentres moving to the new universal commitment regime. Access to digital services will be improved so that jobseekers will become used to claiming their benefit online. Across Jobcentres 6,000 new computers will be installed for claimants to use. This will offer support and training for claimants. *(Information from the DWP Press office)*

➤ **Fourth independent review of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA)**

The Department for Work and Pensions has appointed Dr Paul Litchfield to undertake the fourth independent review of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA), as required by section 10 of the Welfare Reform Act 2007. This call for evidence will be one of several methods used to gather information during the review. Evidence submitted will be used to inform his independent report, which will be laid before Parliament before the end of 2013. Legislation requires that one further review will be undertaken in 2014.

Who is this call for evidence aimed at?

This call for evidence is intended for organisations and individuals who have information on how the Work Capability Assessment is operating and further changes that may be needed to improve the process.

Please use the [online form](#) to respond to this call for evidence wherever possible.

More information

You can find more information about the reviews on the [Work Capability Assessment independent reviews](#) pages.

This consultation closes on 27th August

(Information from DWP)

➤ **Births Marriages and Deaths**

Copy certificates

Calderdale Register Office holds records of all births, deaths and marriages that have taken place in Calderdale since July 1837.

We aim to deal with certificate requests within 5 working days of receipt, although genealogical (family history) requests may take longer.

Certificates are **£10 each**, with a 60p postage charge.

The very minimum amount of information we require to accept a certificate request is the year and quarter in which the event took place. If this information is not yet available in our index then there are various websites that can help you with your research. Alternatively you can contact your local library. We require payment at the time of application.

You can apply for certificates:

By telephone

Telephone us on 01422 288080 between 8.45 am and 5.30 pm, Monday to Thursday and 8.45 am to 5.00 pm on Friday.

We can accept payment by credit or debit card. Certificates must be posted to the cardholder's address. (We can accept a maximum of 3 requests per telephone call).

By post

Send a stamped addressed envelope and a cheque or postal order, made payable to CMBC, along with a completed application form to:

Calderdale Register Office

Spring Hall

Huddersfield Road

Halifax HX3 0AQ.

(If you have access to a computer open the hyperlinks below to download the appropriate application form/s) just right click your mouse and choose the 'open hyperlink' option. For people reading the hard copy version of this newsletter you will have to contact the Calderdale Register office direct.

- [Birth certificate application form \[PDF file 101KB\]](#) | 
- [Death certificate application form \[PDF file 143KB\]](#) | 
- [Marriage certificate application form \[PDF file 100KB\]](#) | 

When sending for more than one genealogical (family history) certificate we suggest sending a separate cheque for each event, in case a search is unsuccessful and we need to make a refund.

In person

Certificates can be ordered in person at [Calderdale Register Office](#). We are unable to issue certificates whilst you wait but aim to deal with requests within 5 working days. We can telephone you when the certificate is ready or post it to you.

➤ **Personal Independence Payment**

We continue to receive lots of enquiries from people who are confused about the change from DLA to PIP and how and when these changes come into force. We understand people are also having difficulties in obtaining the new PIP claim forms and they have to wait for several weeks for the form once they have made the initial phone call to register their claim. We will try to help as many of you as we can but as mentioned earlier we have reduced our core service by 50 % in the last year and we cannot meet the demand on our service.

The Personal Independence Payment timeline for new and existing claimants

A national roll-out of assessments for people wishing to claim Personal Independence Payment (PIP) began on 10th June 2013 *. This followed the introduction of PIP in the north of England** on 8th April 2013.

8 April 2013: PIP was introduced for people aged 16 – 64 in the north of England

10 June 2013: New claims to PIP started for people aged 16-64 in all other parts of Great Britain

10 June 2013: From this date, no new claims to Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for people aged 16 to 64 can be processed

7 October 2013: PIP reassessment starts for:

- DLA fixed period awards coming up for renewal
- Young people turning 16
- DLA claimants reporting a change in their condition

October 2015: Reassessment of the remaining DLA claimants starts

We anticipate this is when we will receive a surge in enquiries as having assisted many thousands of clients with DLA claims over what will then be 31 years of delivering our service, we expect many clients facing the DLA to PIP migration will turn to us for support with the process.

➤ BEQUESTS / DONATIONS

Although we receive funding from Calderdale Council (until the end of September) the Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust and Calderdale Carers Project it does not cover all of our expenses.

Calderdale D.A.R.T. therefore welcomes bequests and or donations at any time.

You can be assured that any bequest or donation will be put to very good use in helping us to maintain a specialised advice and information service to people with disabilities throughout Calderdale.

If you would like to send us a cheque, make it payable to Calderdale D.A.R.T.

If you would like to consider leaving something to D.A.R.T. in your will, you will need our Charity Registration number, 1000710.

All donations are acknowledged with a receipt.

Thank you

Whilst every effort is taken to ensure that the information given is accurate, Calderdale DART cannot accept responsibility for the description or other circumstances relating to information given in this newsletter