



29 July 2009

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **You Can Make a Difference if you Get Involved! with the Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People**

The Federation of Disabled People is looking to unite disabled people from across all areas of Brighton and Hove to improve access in the city and has achieved its first local landmark policy change.

Historically, disabled people were not allowed a personal assistant or carer to be with them in Brighton hospitals outside of visiting hours. This meant that an unknown person would be looking after the disabled person's individual and often very specific needs.

Participants from the Get Involved! Project agreed that this issue needed addressing and worked towards making amendments.

As a result of this involvement, Brighton and Sussex Universities Hospitals Trust's Privacy and Dignity policy has been amended to reflect the changes. Working personal assistants and carers of family members and friends are now allowed full access rights to the person they are supporting 24-hours a day.

The Federation hopes this ground-breaking development will set the benchmark for access improvements in the future and inspire more disabled people to get involved to help influence local changes.

The Federation's Get Involved! Project would be interested to hear from readers about issues that affect them and their community and ways in which these might be improved to encourage accessibility for all disabled people. Brighton and Hove City Council and NHS Brighton and Hove are working with the Federation to promote these developments.

In a separate development, the Federation will also be updating its website with disability news from around the country and around the world every Friday. Visit [www.bhfederation.org.uk](http://www.bhfederation.org.uk) for more details.

If you'd like to participate in this Project and influence positive changes, please contact our Get Involved! Officer, Alex Hawkey. Tel: 01273 229269. Mobile: 07787 479728 or email: [alex.hawkey@bhfederation.org.uk](mailto:alex.hawkey@bhfederation.org.uk)

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For further information, please contact:  
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**Additional Info:**

Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People is a user led organisation that promotes independent living for all. Our projects include: a **Disability Advice Centre**, providing information, advice and practical support; an **Accessible City Guide**; our on-line guide to venues and events in *Brighton & Hove* around accessibility; a **Counselling Service**, providing low cost, confidential, independent and accessible counselling for *disabled people*, their families, friends and carers; **Get Involved!**; an opportunity for people with experience of disability to share their ideas on a range of issues; **Shopmobility**, hiring wheelchairs and mobility scooters, **Direct Payments Support Service**; offering support to individuals to access and manage Direct Payments *and Individual Budgets*. Tel No. 01273 203016, website: [www.bhfederation.org.uk](http://www.bhfederation.org.uk), e-mail: [bhfederation@bhfederation.org.uk](mailto:bhfederation@bhfederation.org.uk)