



# Newsletter

# 21st September 2018

[www.headwayblackcountry.co.uk](http://www.headwayblackcountry.co.uk)

01384 869961 - [admin@headwayblackcountry.co.uk](mailto:admin@headwayblackcountry.co.uk)



@HeadwayBC



[www.facebook.com/braininjuryadultsurvivors](https://www.facebook.com/braininjuryadultsurvivors)

## New Life Skills Sessions At Willenhall

We are starting two **new Life Skills Activity sessions** at our Willenhall centre on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018, extending our service at this location to four days each week.

**The first** session is called "Daily Living Skills". This session will work to facilitate greater independence, covering practical day to day tasks including shopping, eating out, budgeting, money management etc. The group will run from 9.30am to 12.30pm on Mondays.



**The second** session is called "Communication Support". This session aims to develop abilities to communicate effectively with others. It also aims to increase knowledge and understanding of those caring for survivors with communication difficulties. This group will run from 12.30-3.30 pm on Mondays.

The charge for one session is £30 or £50 to join both.

To find out more get in touch on **01384 869961** or email [admin@headwayblackcountry.co.uk](mailto:admin@headwayblackcountry.co.uk) or see <https://www.headwayblackcountry.co.uk/our-services/specialist-brain-injury-life-skills-service/>

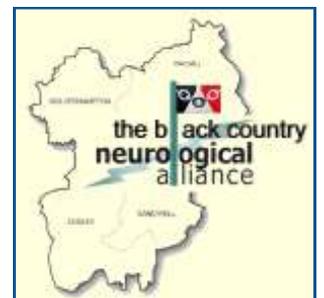
## Café Neuro - Sandwell

Black Country Neurological Alliance, with support from Headway Black Country and SAFs Caring Family Support, is bringing Café Neuro to Sandwell.

Starting on **Monday 8th October** Café Neuro will be held on the second Monday of each month, from 2.30 pm at SAFs, Windmill Community Centre, Messenger Road, Smethwick B66 3DX.

Café Neuro is for anyone who knows what it is like to live with a neurological condition whether as a service user, friend, carer or worker. It's informal and informative, sometimes with a speaker, always with friends.

Come along and enjoy a cuppa and a chat in friendly company. No need to book, just come along.



## Right First Time

Headway UK's Right First Time campaign is calling on the Government to bring in changes to the disability benefit assessments which currently fail a large number of brain injury survivors and their families.

The complexities of brain injury, and its often hidden and fluctuating effects can make assessing the impact it can have on survivors' ability to lead independent lives a complex process.

A significant number of survivors who apply for Employment Support Allowance and the Personal Independent Payment that are refused, are then subsequently accepted on mandatory re-consideration or on appeal.

This can cause serious financial and emotional distress for the survivor and their family as they navigate the various stages of appeal. This reflects our experience of supporting those affected by brain injury in The Black Country.

In September, the Headway UK submitted a comprehensive response to a Work and Pensions Committee inquiry entitled "Are PIP and ESA Assessments working well?"

Headway's evidence was based on a survey of more than 650 brain injury survivors, which revealed that the experiences many survivors have when applying for these disability benefits is largely negative.

Peter McCabe, Chief Executive of Headway UK said " We will continue to champion the voices of those we support. We are committed to raising awareness and understanding of brain injury and pushing to improve services available to those affected. "

To find out more and how to get involved please see: <https://www.headway.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/right-first-time/>



## Headway UK Launches - *I'm calling about Chris*

*I'm calling about Chris* is a free resource designed to help ease the burden of keeping friends and family members informed about the condition of a loved one in the acute stage of care following an acquired brain injury.

It's a way of updating those who care, without having to spend hours on the phone each night, exhausted after spending hours at the hospital bedside. And it's a chance to connect with those who may be able to offer practical help or support. The simple and easy-to-use platform allows you to draft and post updates using your smartphone or tablet, while friends and family can post supportive comments in return.

The site also includes useful information about brain injury for everyone connected with your loved one. For more information please visit ; <https://www.callingabout.org.uk/>



Martin Hill Street, Dudley, DY2 8RT

