

“Wise Women flock to Portrush”

Compass Advocacy Network’s “Woman Wise” project (funded by Northern Health and Social Services Board) held their most recent session at Portrush Town Hall. Una Wilson from the Equality Commission spoke to the ladies about their rights under the Disability Discrimination Act. The ladies then made their way to local restaurant, d’Arcys Fine Wine and Foods for lunch and a special visit from the big man himself, Santa.

The Women Wise project is a health and well-being programme for women with learning disabilities.

Compass staff have been working alongside partners such as Health Promotion, the Learning Disability Team of NHSCT, Action Cancer and the Equality Commission, amongst others to create a training package which is adapted to meet the needs of women participating in the programme.

Janet Schofield, Director of Compass said, “This is a really exciting programme and the contact between the women fosters the development of mutual understanding, peer mentoring and a support network for each of the participants. Ultimately, this programme will give women with learning disabilities the opportunity to talk about their lives, and provide them with information regarding the services available within their borough - not only clinical services but also leisure, advocacy and support services.”

The programme was officially launched in October and will run until June 2009.

For more information, contact Janet Schofield or Linda McKendry at Compass, 20 Seymour Street, Ballymoney on 028 2766 9030 or phone Andrea at d’Arcys on 02870822063.

Notes to editors:

Compass Advocacy Network is a service provider of activities and work opportunities for young people and adults with learning disabilities in Ballymoney. They aim to promote empowerment and advocacy for young people and adults with learning disabilities by providing opportunities for personal, professional and social development. Compass currently deliver numerous projects including Can Can Recycling, Can Can Bazaar and BEYOND (a youth project operating in the special schools). They also offer social and arts programmes to their membership including a drama project and dance and fitness programme both of which aim to improve confidence and self esteem as well as increase physical fitness. All of their current activities operate on a can do ethos and they aim to provide our members with the best and most appropriate level of support to enable them to reach their full potential.

Photos attached:

Local Wise Women meet Santa at d’Arcys, Portrush

