

Newsletter issue 26 November 2009

[www.forwardmid.org.uk](http://www.forwardmid.org.uk)

# FORWARD MIDLOTHIAN DISABLED



## Disability Living allowance and Attendance Allowance

A new bill has been unveiled which spells the end of incapacity benefits. The system will be replaced by an employment and support allowance from 2008, saving an estimated £7bn.

Claimants assessed as being able to work would have to receive help to get jobs.

Those refusing to take part would have their benefits cut, but the most severely disabled would be exempt and entitled to receive more money.

Billy Kidd MSP has put a motion forward for the Scottish Parliament to protect both disabled living allowance and attendance

allowance stating that it is required to allow disabled people to have financial independence.

If you feel strongly about this then there are a number of petitions that need to be supported you can write to Rhona Brankin, P.O.Box 11, 95 High Street, Dalkeith EH22 1AX and ask her to support "Motion S3M-4716 Billy Kidd" or send it to e-mail address at [Rhona.Brankin.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Rhona.Brankin.msp@scottish.parliament.uk). To petition to the London parliament you can contact the 10 Downing Street website at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/AttendanceA/> be careful this web address does not use www.



Festive Greeting from  
all at  
Forward Mid.

The picture on the left  
is an real picture, can  
you spot the deliberate  
mistake.

It is not in Midlothian.  
Wishing you all the best  
for 2010

## Tesco

At last Tesco has seen the writing on the wall or should I say on the signs placed at their disabled parking bays.

To combat the abuse of disabled persons parking bays, Tesco Scotland have thrown away the nicely nicely approach and have introduced fines for curb the abuse of both disabled persons parking bays and parent and child parking bays.

The sign pictured is now at Hardengreen Tesco, a tesco spokesman said Clear signage does spell out we now operate a charge system for inappropriate parking or overstaying. So what does this mean if none blue badge holders park in these spaces? We contact the company enforcing the fines Town and city parking!



## Minutes of meeting of Forward Mid on 12th October 2009 Extracts

1. Funding Louise from Lothian Centre for Integrated Living spoke about new training programme. Possible funding application for training opportunities for disabled people e.g. direct payments/living choices or disability equality training.
2. Peer Support Network Direct Payments Groups discussed idea of peer support network in Midlothian. Historically not much success with this in Midlothian although one exists in Edinburgh. LCIL have requested funding, Joan Griffiths is dealing with this.
3. Scot Rail. Updated leaflet regarding access at stations for disabled people. Brief discussion.
4. Scottish Disability Equality Forum looking for input for end of year newsletter from regional disability forums.

## Reflexology

Reflexology is a treatment based on the theory that all organs, glands and parts of the body have corresponding reflex points in the hands and feet. It is a holistic therapy which uses manipulation with pressure of varying degrees which stimulates the movement of energy along pathways, using a specific finger and thumb technique. By stimulating these reflexes, a treatment can clear congestion in a particular area and maintain a healthy balance of body and mind.

So How Does it actually Help?

- Revitalizes energy
- Triggers the body's own healing mechanisms
- Cleanses and detoxifies the body
- Boosts the immune system, stimulates lymphatic system and improves circulation
- Stimulates the nervous system and



balances the endocrine system.

Putting this into context, an individual suffering from MS may experience some of the following benefits through regular reflexology treatment:

Return of sensation to numb areas, relief from heaviness in limbs, improved bladder control, pain relief, help with spasms, easing of depression, better muscle control, help with constipation, improved circulation, reduction of oedema, ability to recover more quickly from relapses, increased energy and an improved sense of well being and relaxation.

If you are interested in making an appointment for a consultation and treatment

please contact me on the number below; quote MD0909 and receive a £5.00 discount on you first treatment.

Paula Barratt; Talus Therapies  
Mobile phone 07962 886 356

# Only in America

## Dope critic wanted

You may have seen an article in the newspapers recently which reported that a newspaper in Denver, Colorado is advertising for a marijuana critic. 120 people have applied for the position but only 20 met the essential criterion which was that the successful applicant must be disabled.

As there are very few jobs which positively discriminate in such a way I felt I had to look into this and find out more. Here is what I found.

The advert was placed in Denver's Westword newspaper and began: "Do you have a medical condition that necessitates marijuana? Do you have a way with words? If so, Westword wants you to join the ranks as our freelance marijuana-dispensary reviewer"

It continued by saying that they were looking for someone who is "passionate about the issue of medical marijuana."

However, the successful applicant's role will not be like that of a food critic. They will not be expected to rate the quality of the goods on sale but rather the service and ambience of the state approved medical marijuana dispensaries of which Colorado has 100.

Joe Tone, the paper's Web editor "We want someone who can get in and relay to our readers what it is like inside these dispensaries." "They are to review the places, not the weed," Tone said. "We can't have our reviewer being stoned all the time," he quipped. Westword's features writer Joel Warner has been covering Colorado's medical marijuana industry for years, and he has noticed a wide difference in the places selling the drug. Some, he said, looked like a college drug dealer's dorm room with Bob Marley and marijuana leaf posters on the walls. One dispensary he visited is in a Victorian building with exposed brick walls, comfortable leather couches and a coffee

counter serving lattes and herbal teas. The drinks, of course, are spiked with cannabis-infused honey tincture that is "guaranteed to give you more than just a caffeine buzz."

Joe Tone concludes "More and more people are having the opportunity to use marijuana for whatever illness they have. So we want to be a place they can come to find out which place is the best, the cleanest, the closest, that kind of stuff."

Whilst the use of marijuana is permitted for medical use as a prescription drug in 14 states of America the benefits of its use are still being argued throughout the world.

Those that advocate the use of this drug for medical purposes say that clinical studies have proven that patients who suffer constant pain can find relief with marijuana when conventional drugs fail. This, they say, is particularly true with neuropathic pain

- pain from damaged to the nerves. This type of being can be caused by diabetes, multiple sclerosis, HIV/AIDS as well as many other illnesses or injuries.



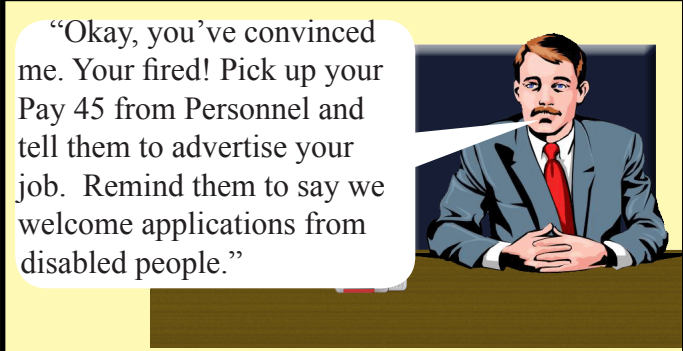
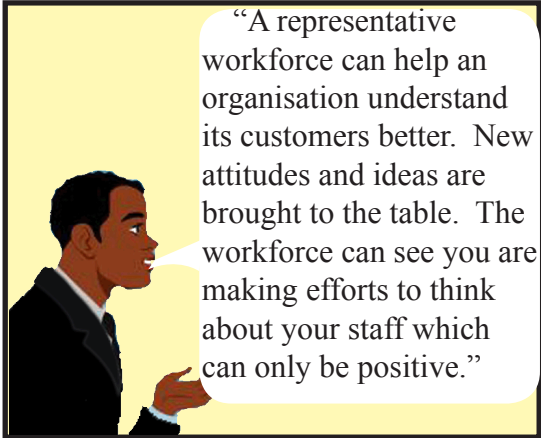
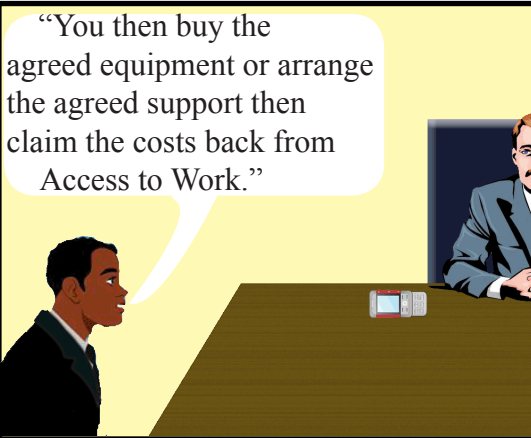
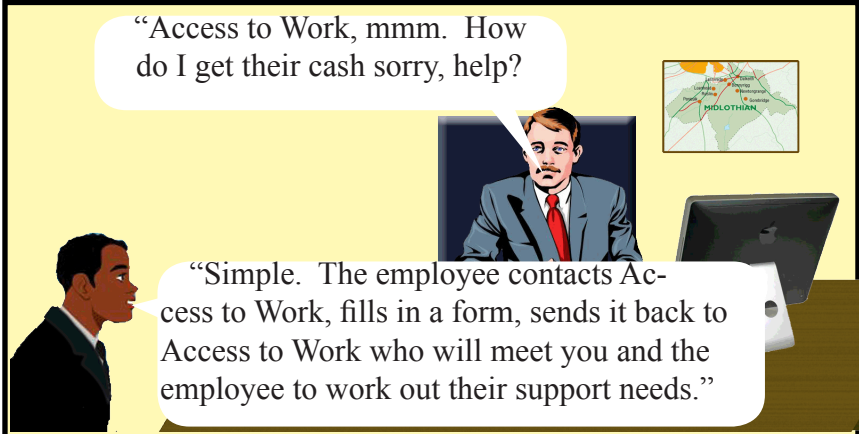
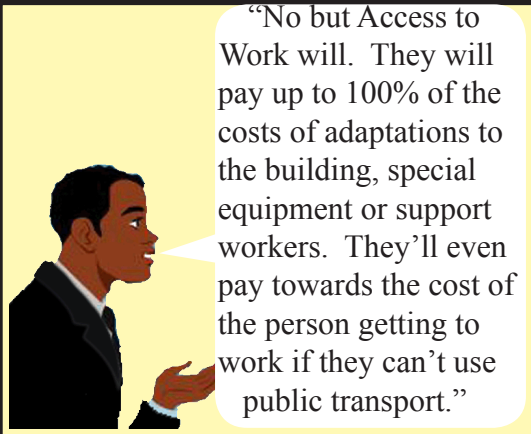
Those that disagree with the use of marijuana will argue the drug has the opposite effect. For example, in the case of multiple sclerosis the anti-marijuana lobby can cite studies which show that spasticity is made worse, not better after taking this drug. They say that patients may perceive their spasticity to be partially relieved, but medicine has a higher standard - to actually get better not just to feel as though you're getting better.

No doubt this argument for or against the use of marijuana for medical purposes will go on for years to come. But what do you think? Should we have government approved marijuana dispensaries in Scotland? Why not get in touch with Forward Mid and let us hear your views.

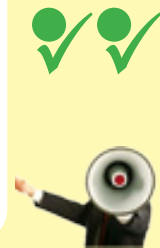
Thanks to Jeff Adamson for this article.



"All I will feel is money flying out my pocket. Ramps, accessible toilets, computer software, signers, support workers. Money isn't just going to drop out the sky to pay for these. Is it?"



"If you are a disabled person or an employer wishing to employ a disabled person you can get further information on Access to Work at: Access to Work Operational Support Unit, Jobcentre Plus, Baird Street, Glasgow, G90 8AN. Telephone: 0141 950 5327. Textphone: 0845 602 5850 E-Mail: Scotland.atw@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk



### Alternative Publications

The editions of the Forward MID newsletters are available in large print or at [www.forwardmid.org.uk](http://www.forwardmid.org.uk)  
 For alternative publication please E-mail to [eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk](mailto:eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk) or call Eric Johnstone on 0131-663-9471 or write to him at MVA 4-6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith EH22 1AE with your request.