

Thurrock Coalition



Independent Living Event – 26/6/14

Introduction

Thurrock Coalition offers advice and support for disabled and older residents of Thurrock and their carers. We are a wide network of individuals and groups aiming to inform people about their rights and entitlements and to improve the quality and choice of services that might assist them.

Background

The Thurrock Coalition Independent Living Event was the result of 3 months planning, consultation and co-ordination between individuals and groups throughout the Coalition networks across Thurrock. The event planning was spearheaded and co-ordinated by Thurrock Coalition with support from the Coalition partners, namely Thurrock Centre for Independent Living (TCIL), Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions (TLS), Thurrock Mind and Thurrock Diversity Network (TDN).

The event itself comprised of 23 stallholders and attracted over 160 individuals, representatives, groups, organisations and companies on the day and provided an excellent opportunity for awareness raising, information sharing and networking for all attendees. It is hoped that such links will strengthen the foundations of the sector and provide a basis for similar public events in the future.

The Purpose

The purpose of the event was to provide a platform for Advice, information and guidance for disabled people, older people and carers, living in Thurrock. In particular to showcase the range of information, support services, products, ideas and innovation that is available to support independent living in the borough.

The Audience

The event was primarily aimed at people who use Adult Social Care, to provide an opportunity to learn about the services available to them locally in Thurrock to support them to live independent lives.

Local Organisations (Private/Voluntary/Independent) were invited as exhibitors/stallholders, and to give them an opportunity to highlight products and increase awareness about their services to an ever increasingly powerful customer base.

Professionals were also invited (e.g. People working in Social Care/Health/the Third Sector), to provide them with an opportunity to publicise the support services they offer and to learn about the diversity of services available so they are better able to support clients, family members and carers. This was achieved through the use of “Independent Living Scenarios” for attendees to read and then utilise the resources in the room in order to find positive and creative solutions for the people depicted in the Scenarios.

The following stallholders attended on the day:



We also co-ordinated the filming of a short informative video that asked a number of TCIL clients the following questions, and recorded their responses verbatim:

- 1). What does Independent Living mean to you?
- 2). How has Thurrock Centre for Independent Living made a difference to your life?
- 3). What are your best hopes for the future?
- 4). What advice would you give someone looking for information & support in Thurrock?

The video successfully illustrated the value and importance of the holistic, person centred approach offered by TCIL in terms of information, advice, guidance and advocacy on a wide range of issues affecting disabled people in Thurrock.

The video is available through the Thurrock Coalition YouTube Channel:

http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5R_2rK6mecjmaCkqcuAKjg

We also showcased an all-terrain “Mountain Trike” wheelchair, that was available for attendees to try out.



More information about the “Mountain Trike” is available here:

<http://www.mountaintrike.com/>

Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions (TLS) provided accessible sports “taster sessions” on the day (including soft archery and a range of other opportunities) as well as the new Camper Van that is available to offer respite breaks for TLS customers.



Next Steps and Recommendations

Thurrock Coalition is considering holding further similar Engagement and Networking events every 2 years, providing an opportunity for members of the public and professionals to come together to share knowledge, experiences, understanding, and to increase awareness of independent living solutions in Thurrock.

If anyone would like further information relating to any of the services offered and/or exhibited on the day, please [contact us](#).

Thurrock Coalition – July 2014

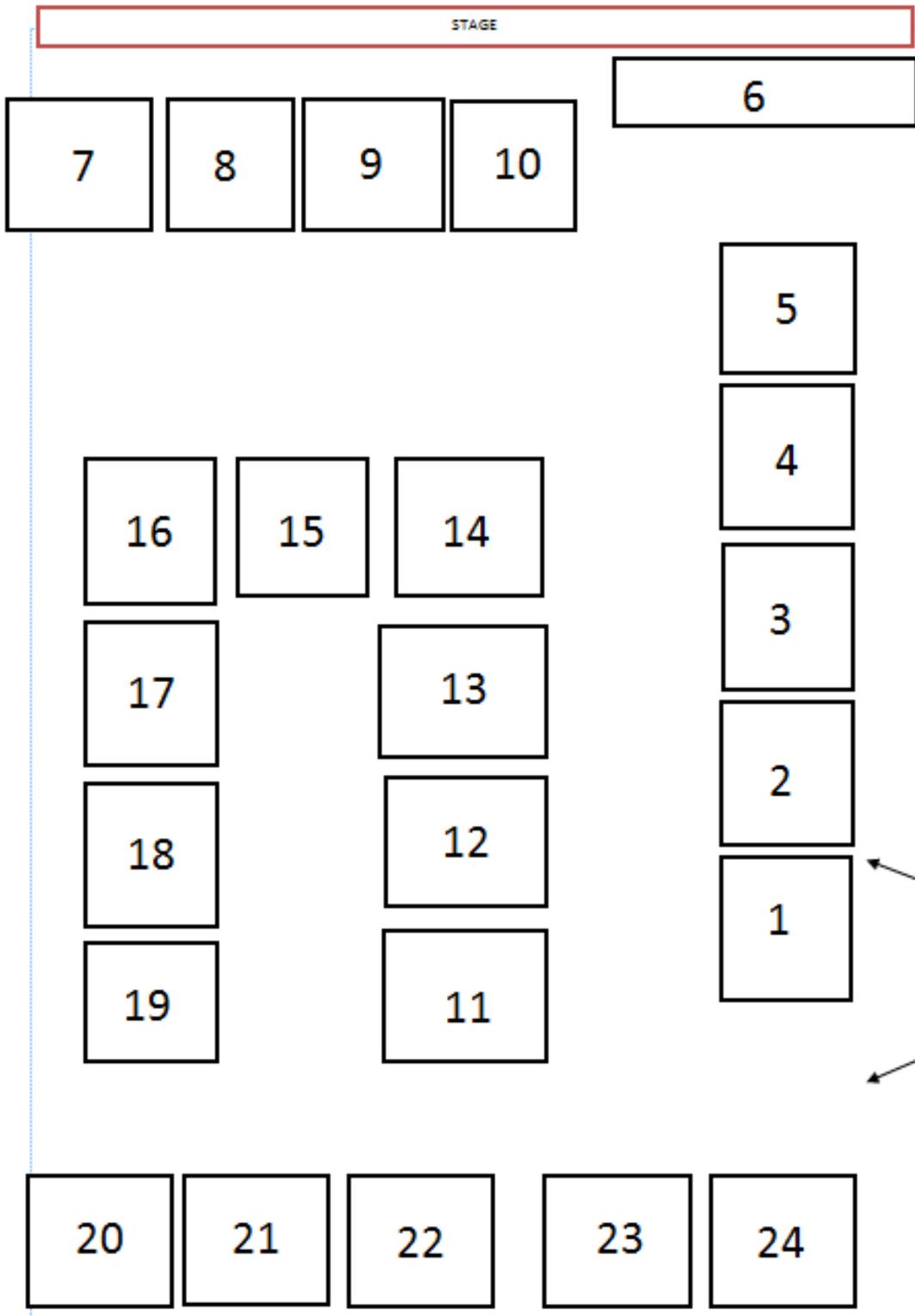
Appendices:

List of invited Stall holders at the Independent Living Event

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Stall Number</u>
TRUST	1
Family Mosaic	2
Private Housing Service/Papworth Trust	3
BATIAS	4
Age Concern Thurrock	5
Refreshments	6
Lifestyle & Mobility	7
Thurrock Council Housing	8
(Housing & Tenancy, Repairs, Allocations & Homelessness)	9&10
Essex Fire Service	11
Thurrock Local Area Co-Ordinators	12
Thurrock Occupational Therapy & Telecare	13
Thurrock Coalition	14
CARIADS	15
Neighbourhood Watch & Essex Police	16
Thurrock Stroke Project	17
ECDP	18
Thurrock Council Joint Reablement Team	19
Sunnyside House	20
TUPS / Social Eyes/Thurrock Libraries	21
Thurrock Council Sheltered Housing	22
Thurrock Council Rapid Response Assessment Service	23
Age UK Befriending Service	24

Note: The event itself comprised of 23 stallholders (25 were invited; however, London Mobility & Pohwer were not able to attend on the day).

Event Floor Plan



The Poster and information that was used to publicise the event:

Thurrock Coalition presents:

Independent Living Event

Your guide to help and support in Thurrock



www.thurrockcoalition.co.uk



Where? The Civic Hall,
Blackshots Lane, Grays,
Essex RM16 2JU

When? Thursday 26th June
2014. 10:00am - 4:00pm



Stallholders will be on hand to offer free information and advice on a range of issues, including:

- Housing (including Adaptations)
- Employment and Skills, Lifestyle and Leisure (including Sport)
- Personal Support & Telecare
- Repairs and Maintenance Services
- Services for Carers
- Staying Independent (including Mobility)
- Support and Advice (including Welfare Benefits)

For more information and to book a place at this **FREE** event, please contact: Ian Evans

(ian@thurrockcoalition.co.uk) or call: 01375 389 867



Thurrock Coalition presents:
Independent Living Event



Information For Stallholders:



Where? The Civic Hall,
Blackshots Lane, Grays,
Essex RM16 2JU

When? Thursday 26th June 2014.

Suggested arrival time to set up:
9:00am

The event starts at: **10:00am**

Last entry for members of the public
is: **4:00pm**

Stallholders have until: **5:30pm**
to vacate the Hall.

