



### Stroud Office CQC Inspection

Disappointingly, the CQC inspection report is not yet available. We look forward to sharing the findings with you on receipt from the Inspector.

### Promising Developments in Treatment for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's

Clinical trials are currently underway after it was noticed that people with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases had impaired insulin signalling. When you have eaten a meal, your body releases gut hormones, called incretins, to signal to the pancreas that insulin needs to be released. It is this signalling which has been found not to be working properly.

Initial studies have shown that treatment with insulin and/or incretins had a positive effect on the plaques which form in the brain in Alzheimer's, causing the progressive symptoms of the disease. Existing plaques have been reduced, and cognitive impairment improved. In Parkinson's, the treatment has reversed the loss of motor function.

The treatment has been shown to be effective when given as a simple nasal spray, making it painless and easy to administer.

Sadly, the trials are at a very early stage, so it will be a few years before the treatment is readily available.

This news item is based on a scientific article by Christian Holscher, Biochemical Transactions, with much assistance from Google to help us turn it into plain(ish) English. We hope this simplified version is a true reflection of the scholarly original.

### The Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund has been developed by the Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government, in partnership with the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, and NHS England.

The purpose of the Better Care Fund – now upgraded to the Improved Better Care Fund, is to integrate health and social care, provide funding for the scheme which is not permitted to be used for any other purpose, and to ease the transfer from hospital to social care. The Fund is intended to provide a single budget for NHS and social care, so people leaving hospital can choose their care provider(s), within the budget they are allocated.

We have recently learned that local government representatives have withdrawn their support for the Fund, due to unacceptable last minute changes having been made. We think that the scheme will still go ahead, as there is a legal framework for the Fund in the amended NHS Act 2006 (section 223GA).

We will let you know when we hear of further developments.

## New Appointment to the Gloucester Office

We were very sad to say goodbye to Anabela Ramos, who has left us for family reasons, but delighted to announce that Joana Silva has been appointed as Supervisor to replace her. Joana has been with Bluebird Care as a Care Assistant since April 2016, and has always given total commitment to the company and to customers, providing an excellent standard of care. She is very popular with customers and staff alike. She came out ahead of a strong field of both internal and external candidates in interviews and case studies. We are confident that she will be a valuable addition to the staff team. Joana will begin her Supervisor role within the next few weeks, when her pre-existing assignments as a Care Assistant have been completed.

## Anniversary



**Marie Compton** has been with Bluebird Care continuously since June 2010. This would have been her 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but she left us for a while and then came back, to become one of our most loyal and long-serving carers.

See below for our appreciation of Marie, who is, coincidentally, our Carer of the Month for August.

## Carer of the Month

The Carer of the Month for August for the Gloucestershire North area is **Marie Compton**

Customers have said about Marie:

- *Marie is always positive.*
- *She helps as much as she can, and is kind and thoughtful.*
- *A very good carer.*
- *Her life experience shows in maturity.*
- *Marie is such a lovely person and deserves a medal for her patience.*

Office staff have said about Marie:

- *Marie always provides very high standards of care to our customers.*
- *She is efficient and conscientious.*
- *Marie has excellent communication skills and always reports concerns in an appropriate and timely manner.*
- *Marie keeps office informed of changes required to customers care plans, and carries out those little tasks that make a big difference.*
- *She is totally reliable and never lets us or our customers down.*



Here is Marie receiving her certificate from Debbie. Marie has chosen All 4 One vouchers.

As at the date of issue of this newsletter, the editor has no information regarding the Carer of the Month for Stroud and Cirencester. This will be published in next month's newsletter.

As promised in last month's newsletter, the photo below shows Jenny Brice receiving her Carer of the Month certificate from Anabela.



Jenny chose B&Q vouchers, to help her in updating her garden.

### **Memory Walk in Aid of the Alzheimer's Society**

This year's Memory walk will take place on the 8th October in Cheltenham. If anyone would like to join the Bluebird Care team on the memory walk, or to sponsor our walkers, please contact Donna in our Gloucester office, on 01452 414952.

There will be one fundraiser page for all our walkers. Donna will set this up shortly, and will be able to give details to anyone wishing to support the walk.

Please let us know if you would like this newsletter in an audio form, or by email.