

PARTNERS' NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2011

Pension, Benefit and Healthcare Team



BECOMING AN APPOINTEE

Unfortunately, there may come a time when an elderly or infirm friend or relative becomes increasingly dependent on those around them and is unable to look after their own affairs.



Many people are aware of the option of applying for full power of attorney through the courts, but not perhaps aware of the possibility of becoming an appointee to deal with social security matters through the DWP.

An appointee can be a friend, relative, lawyer, or a representative of an organisation, such as a social worker. It is not a role to take on lightly, as an appointee becomes fully responsible for acting on the customer's behalf when dealing with DWP. An appointee must also ensure that the customer's benefit payments are used for the dependent person's interest. However, it is an option worth bearing in mind, especially since taking action now to ensure a dependent friend or relative's affairs are in order could avoid problems in the long run.

For further information on becoming an appointee, please contact the International Pension Centre on 0044 191 218 7777

HEALTHCARE: REGISTERING AS A DEPENDANT ON A SPANISH WORKER OR BENEFIT HOLDER

As many of you may know, Spanish healthcare is a contributions-based system. If you are not paying into the system yourself, nor are you entitled to healthcare from the UK (see <http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk> for more details), but someone in your household is paying into the



Spanish system, you can apply to be registered as that person's dependant for healthcare purposes through the INSS (Spanish social security)

Previously an applicant for dependency only had to produce evidence of living at the same address and marriage/birth certificates. The INSS have now stated, however, that all dependants must also provide a certificate that shows they are not entitled to healthcare from their country of origin. For the UK, this means you will need to request a 'legislation letter', in Spanish, from the Overseas Healthcare Team on 0044 191 218 1999.

OUTREACH MARCH 2011

The PBHT are holding the following outreach events in conjunction with the British Consulate in March:

Monday 21st March – Arroyo de la Miel, Málaga, Casa de Cultura, 7pm

Thursday 24th March – Mazarrón, Murcia, 11am

Booking forms and more information will shortly be available on <http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk>



British Consular
network,
Spain

The British Consular Network, Spain

In the first of a two part property special, we would like to draw your attention to some useful advice on buying property in Spain.

Do your homework: It is important to thoroughly research the area you are considering purchasing in, as well as companies you might use (developers, estate agents and lawyers). It is also worth looking at online forums covering Spanish property such as the [Spanish Property Insight](#) and [Eye on Spain](#) forums to learn from others' experiences and ask questions about the local area, the purchase process, developers, lawyers and agents.

Seek independent legal advice: Appoint a lawyer who is experienced in property law and fully independent of anyone else involved in the transaction e.g. the estate agent, vendor and developer. Do not sign any papers or hand over any money until you have sought independent legal advice.

Look at the "UK in Spain" website which has a list of precautions to take before you buy, documentation you should have in hand before you complete and advice on dealing with property issues should they arise. If you are already a property owner and are experiencing problems, there is also a range of advice available on the property issues section of our website.

Remember: Lists of English-speaking lawyers and contact details for authorities are all on our website

For more information on Living in Spain, see <http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk>

Age Concern Acción Social Asistencial (ACASA)



As we described in last month's edition, **ACASA** has its core members of the FCO, Age UK and Age Concern España. Our main aim remains the same: **to help people over the age of 50 who are experiencing difficulties.**

But now, with pride, we can announce that SSAFA Forces Help has joined us in Partnership.

Age Concern España has always had a close relationship with SSAFA Forces Help.

But now, **ACASA** can help more people to access the financial and practical assistance that they need here in Spain.

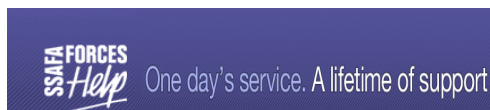


From supporting serving personnel and their families to ex-personnel, ACASA can provide experienced and friendly advice as well as a variety of practical services.

In 2010, SSAFA Forces Help celebrated their 125th anniversary and with recent overseas conflicts from the Gulf to Afghanistan their services are needed as much now as at any time in its history.

By working together we will ensure that the information and advice that we provide our beneficiaries is relevant to life in Spain and that we can help those who return to the UK by linking them to their local UK SSAFA branch.

This is exciting news which will mean that **ACASA** can make a real difference to many lives. For more information about our services or to make a donation, please contact **Sarah Rogers** at CCM@ageconcern-espana.org.



The Royal British Legion



The Royal British Legion 90th Anniversary

The Royal British Legion is the UK's leading service charity helping service personnel past and present and their families.

The Legion has safeguarded the welfare interests and memory of the Armed Forces family for 90 years, and is proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with those who serve – and to celebrate its 90th Anniversary in 2011.

With welfare at the heart of the organisation, our work remains as essential as ever and is crucial to helping the "Afghan generation" of The Armed Forces family. During this momentous year, the Legion aims to raise £90million to provide welfare and support to our beneficiaries.



Benefit Concert

Here in Spain, District North are planning to celebrate the 90th Anniversary in style with a Benefit Concert. Members of the District Committee have been working hard for many months – in conjunction with La Diputación de Alicante – to organise what promises to be a memorable event.

The concert will take place on 2nd April and will be held at the new Auditorio de Alicante and will include performances from All Angels Sopranos, Ruth Lorenzo (x-factor contestant) Just Brass and more..... For further information and tickets please visit: www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/spain-north

Would you like to volunteer to be a case worker for TRBL? We are particularly interested in hearing from anyone in the Barcelona, Estepona or Cádiz areas. To find out more, please contact: Donna Wilson - dmwilson@britishlegion.org.uk.

Working in Partnership

Last month, the British Consulate in Alicante, the Diputación of Alicante and the Alicante Central Social Welfare Department carried out two workshops to help support vulnerable British residents in the Alicante province. The workshops formed part of an ongoing project called **ConeXiones**, which aims to connect different groups and promote joint working and communication to better support vulnerable residents in Alicante.

In total, there were just under a hundred people who attended both events. As well as Age Concern and The RBL, social services from 25 town halls also attended, along with representatives from English-speaking associations such as Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer, Alzheimer's Association, Help at Home, Costa Blanca Samaritans, MABS and various branches of HELP. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 85% of attendees saying the workshops would be very useful for their future work.

The information provided in this publication is given in good faith. At the time of publication, all efforts have been made to ensure that the information provided is accurate. The contributors of this document accept no liability for the content of this publication, or for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided.

For more information on Living in Spain, see <http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk>