



## Further Information Birmingham 2010 OI Youth Event (9-11<sup>th</sup> April) The Park Inn Hotel, Forgegate, Town Centre, Telford, TF3 4NE.

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The Brittle Bone Society are launching an exciting programme for the Youth demographic within our membership. We will be getting together in Birmingham for a weekend in April, to explore topics and issues connected with everyday life and how they impact on people with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI).

So far we have secured Caroline Bowditch from Scottish Dance Theatre, representing Outsiders who will be talking about relationships, Claire Hill a Physiotherapist will focus on Healthy Living, and Dr Nick Shaw will be on-hand to give medical information and take questions. We are also going to cover Direct Payments, Dogs for the Disabled, and Clothing. Check our website for the most recent update.

### How You Can Help?

A theme of this Pilot event will be to make sure that people with OI aged between 16-30 are heard! Planning events is usually a routine matter, however organising one which can accommodate 25 wheelchair users is a greater challenge, and one which involves higher costs and expenses – which is why we need your help.

Our Charity is asking people to organise a fundraising event especially for this Pilot. The BBS can supply posters and leaflets, tips and advice on planning and can offer help in a number of ways to ensure that fundraisers are a success. Just £100 will help to pay part of the costs of sending a young person with OI on what could well be a weekend of a lifetime. We hope the event is popular with our members and helps determine future Youth orientated events. We would love to hear from anyone who can help us with sponsoring a young person to attend 'VOICE'. This appeal is directed to family members, friends, work colleagues, local businesses and anybody at all who would like to help us produce our first ever 'VOICE' Event'.

**Want to apply to attend our April Event?** Then download our Application form which can be found at [www.brittlebone.org](http://www.brittlebone.org) and send back to us by **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010**.

The Brittle Bone Society (BBS) exists to support those living with **Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI)**. Our vision is that all people affected by OI and their families will feel they have a Society that understands their needs, supports them through their difficulties and continues to work towards improving their quality of life.

**Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI)** is also known as “brittle bones.” It is a genetic bone disorder characterised by fragile bones that break easily. A person is born with this disorder and is affected throughout his or her lifetime. As well as frequent fractured bones, people with OI often have muscle weakness, hearing loss, fatigue, joint laxity, curved bones, scoliosis, blue sclerae, dentinogenesis imperfecta (brittle teeth), and short stature. In more severe cases, restrictive pulmonary disease can occur. OI is caused by a genetic mutation that affects the body's production of collagen, which can be found throughout the body, especially in a person's bones and other tissues.”

Ends.