

7th May 2012

Welcome to this week's Bulletin from the National Family Carer Network. You are receiving this because you are members of our organisation. If you no longer wish to subscribe please contact info@familycarers.org.uk.

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National

1. Resources coming soon...

Making sure your relative is safe

We are looking for case studies – can you help?

Family carers have a vital role to play in all aspects of safeguarding; from helping their relatives stay safe to responding when they have been harmed.

Because of the urgent need for clear information to support family carers in their safeguarding roles, the National Family Carer Network (NFCN) is working with partners to develop THREE free *Making Sure Your Relative is Safe* resources for relatives and friends of people with learning disabilities.

Two of these will be available from the NFCN in June:

- 1) *Top Tips* about the part family carers can play to make sure that adult safeguarding works for a relative.
- 2) A Family carers' *Essential Guide* to safeguarding adults with learning disabilities.

A third will be published by Hft's Family Carer Support Service this autumn:

- 3) A *Resource Pack*, including a dvd, providing detailed advice and information about safeguarding in specific circumstances.

We are looking for case studies that will illustrate the following scenarios:

- Experiences of using person-centred planning and circles of support to keep a relative safe and well

- Examples of using practical resources (such as Keep Safe training) to help keep a relative safe and well
- Experiences of dealing with bullying, 'mate crime', harassment etc
- The safety aspects of employing care staff (e.g. carrying out checks)
- Consideration of safety and well-being when a relative moves away from home (positive and negative experiences)
- Safety and well-being when a relative requires medical treatment (using acute services, long-term medical conditions, using mainstream health services etc)
- Raising concerns about physical or emotional harm to a relative or neglect of a relative
- Raising concerns about financial abuse of a relative
- Examples of resolving issues with a service provider
- Experiences of a relative being involved in a safeguarding process
- Experiences of a relative being involved in a criminal investigation
- Dealing with an allegation of harm made against a family carer

We are looking for contributions from a number of perspectives - though the focus will remain on the role that family carers have played, and can play. These might include:

- Family carers with direct experience of the above
- Adults with learning disabilities
- Family friends and members of circles of support
- Family carers as lay inspectors, quality checkers and otherwise involved in regulation of services
- Family carer representatives on Safeguarding Adults Boards
- Safeguarding Adults Board members
- Safeguarding adults professionals
- Service provider personnel with responsibility for safeguarding
- Healthcare and social care professionals
- 'Frontline' paid care staff
- Advocates and advisors, lawyers & academics

If you have experience of any of the above that you would be willing to talk to us about, or know someone else who may, please get in touch with either Paul Swift (on 0117 9294365 & 07740 946564 or paulswift.research@gmail.com) or Robina Mallett (0117 906 1751 & 07887 825776 or robina.mallett@hft.org.uk). Thank you.

2. The newly updated BME Resource Guide

The newly updated BME Resource Guide: Reaching and Supporting Diverse Communities Version 3 is available to view on the Family Carer Support Service (FCSS) page of Hft's website via the shortened link below.

The Resource is aimed at professionals working in Learning Disability, Carers and Mainstream Diversity and Equality Fields although some information will be of interest to Family Carers too.

<http://www.hft.org.uk/BMEGuide>

You can download the whole document or individual sections. A Word version is available on request. New and updated information is highlighted for you throughout - look for the box logo.

Version 3 has a new Social Networking section. Read about Netbuddy, an award winning site for swapping practical tips and information on all aspects of supporting people with a learning disability, autism and special needs. Find out more about Devon Grapevine – a networking and information site for people from different cultures living in Devon. Get tips on useful on-line translation tools. Learn about the Afiya Trust's 'Living in the Margins' social media based campaign and their interim report on the impact of public sector cuts on BME families and voluntary and community groups.

See the Personalisation Section to learn how organisations such as Grapevine in Coventry are supporting young people from different ethnic backgrounds to use their personal budgets. Find out how BME Carers are being supported and get new information on projects happening in Barnet, Croydon, Telford and Wrekin. Read about specific communities for example what the Chinese Centre in London can offer. If you are not sure how to engage with the Gypsy Roma Traveller Community read Leeds' Gypsy and Traveller Exchange's toolkit 'How to engage with Gypsies and Travellers as part of your work.'

The Legislation Section tells you about NHS Reforms, and links to the Equalities National Council's Manifesto for Change and Inclusion plus a new guide to Human Rights in your Community from the British Institute for Human Rights.

Details of new Research, Resources and much more to help you in your work can be found in this resource!

Thanks to all who have shown interest or contributed. If you have linked to the resource from your web site or are interested in doing so please let us know.

This resource was funded by the Department of Health, and this update was produced by Sue Davies of Hft's Family Carer Support Service in partnership with Cath Baker of the Carers Trust

3. CQC Learning Disability review final 10 reports

On 9th May the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published a further 10 reports from a targeted programme of 150 unannounced inspections of hospitals and care homes that care for people with learning disabilities.

The reports can be viewed at: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/LDReports7>

4. Leeds Animation Workshop's DVDs for people with a learning disability

Two new DVD resources on health, designed especially for people with learning disabilities.

Also suitable for awareness-raising and training NHS staff.

Produced by Leeds Animation Workshop with funding from the Department of Health.

Each DVD pack consists of a short animated film and booklet. One is about primary care and one about hospital care. All the voices on the soundtrack are those of actors with learning disabilities.

GETTING BETTER contains 6 stories, each about 2 minutes long, and an easy-read illustrated booklet.

Each story shows a character going to the doctor's, or the clinic, or having an eye test, or visiting the dentist.

It shows people asking questions, and speaking up for themselves.

You can watch a clip here:

http://www.leedsanimation.org.uk/films/get_better.html

SAPHIA goes to see the doctor about her cough. She finds out about making appointments, and asks for information to be given in a clear way.

GARY can't walk or talk. He goes to the GP with a carer. The GP asks the carer for input, addresses Gary directly, and demonstrates procedures for him.

DIANA goes for a smear test with her mum. The nurse uses pictures and explains the procedure beforehand.

GEORGE goes to the clinic for his annual health check. The nurse takes his blood pressure. The doctor and George make a health action plan together.

JONATHAN goes to the dentist with his dad. He finds it difficult when he is kept waiting and is referred to the special dentistry service.

PAULETTE has never had an eye test, because she can't read. She goes to the optician with a care worker.

GETTING BETTER IN HOSPITAL is a sequel. This too is a DVD with 6 stories, about the same characters, with an easy-read illustrated booklet.

Watch a clip here:

http://www.leedsanimation.org.uk/films/get_better_hospital.html

A single pack is £40 inclusive - bulk rates for more than one copy [including mixed titles]. More details on our website,

<http://www.leedsanimation.org.uk/index.html>

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We are a very small, independent, not-for-profit organisation and cannot afford to advertise - but we'd be very grateful if you could help spread the word about these resources. Flyers (A5 size) are available for distribution at conferences, events, etc.

5. Electric wheelchairs looking for a new home!

I have had a call from a lady who has 'rescued' two power paediatric wheelchairs and two adult power wheelchairs from a disability home which is being knocked down. She would like to give them to anyone who is in need of one. She doesn't have any service history for them so it might be a good idea to arrange for a service.

If you know of anyone who might benefit please let me know and I can pass on the details to her.

Kind Regards
Caroline Hill

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Caroline@asksid.org.uk
Registered charity 1110708

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07747 460727
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NFCN is an umbrella organisation that aims to promote the voice and rights of family carers supporting a person with a LD. Its membership comprises both organisations and individuals but we cannot be responsible at any time for the views expressed by our members unless explicitly promoted by us.