

9th April 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.

Contents:

1. CQC reports
2. Goodbye Cath
3. Social Care Bulletin – March 2012
4. Improving Health and Lives
5. Do you have first hand experience of safeguarding?
6. Social Care in Crisis – The need to reform
7. Hft's Family Carer Support Service's 2012 Holiday Information Guide

1. CQC Reports

On 4th April the CQC published 18 more reports from its review of services for people with learning disabilities, please click on the link below to read the reports:
<http://www.cqc.org.uk/LDReports6>

2. Goodbye Cath

We are very sorry to lose Cath Baker from the post that has been based at The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, supporting the National Valuing Families Forum, the BME Family Carers and Learning Disabilities Advisory Group, and the Carers with Learning Disabilities Network. We have all appreciated the energy and care with which she has supported and promoted these groups and we will miss her. Of course we understand her wish to work more locally and we wish her all the best in her new job.

We are waiting to hear what will happen about support for the National Valuing Families Forum; we hope that some way will be found for the other two groups to continue and we will keep you informed with any news. The Framework for Action on ethnicity is being finalised and will soon appear on the DH website. The latest estimate of need (from Eric Emerson, www.ihal.org.uk) is that 25% of people with learning disabilities are now from BME communities (up from 20%).

3. Social Care Bulletin - March 2012

The Social Care web pages now provide a new interactive platform, where you can comment on stories and contribute to discussions, as part of the Social Care community.

The link below will take you straight to the March issue, where you will find short, informative news items with links to more information.

<http://socialcarebulletin.dh.gov.uk/2012/03/30/social-care-bulletin-issue-20/>

4. Improving Health and Lives – summary information

Improving Health and Lives is a three year Department of Health funded project, set up in response to recommendation 5 in Healthcare for All, the report of the independent inquiry into access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities by Sir Jonathan Michael:

Recommendation 5

'To raise awareness in the health service of the risk of premature avoidable death, and to promote sustainable good practice in local assessment, management and evaluation of services, the Department of Health should establish a learning disabilities Public Health Observatory. This should be supplemented by a time-limited Confidential Inquiry into premature deaths in people with learning disabilities to provide evidence for clinical and professional staff of the extent of the problem and guidance on prevention.'

The Public Health Observatory started work in June 2010. It is a three way partnership between the North East Public Health Observatory (the contract holder), Lancaster University and the National Development Team for Inclusion.

Broadly the aims of the Observatory are to:

1. Improve the health of (and reduce health inequalities experienced by) people with learning disabilities in England.
2. Help people who commission services make better use of information.

The Observatory works in three ways to achieve these aims:

1. Making information more easily accessible through written reports, the website and events.
2. Getting better quality information.
3. Supporting commissioners, providers and others to use the information.

For further information please go to: www.ihal.org.uk

5. Do you have first-hand experience of Safeguarding?

New resources about Safeguarding are being developed for family carers through joint work between the National Family Carer Network, family carers, NFCN members and others.

Top Tips, an Essential Guide and a Resource Pack will highlight the role families play in protecting adults with learning disabilities from harm. The material will be funded by Hft.

We will be taking a holistic approach to safeguarding and use appropriately anonymised case studies, real-life stories and examples of good practice relating to people with learning disabilities where a family carer has been involved.

If you are a family carer or a professional who can help we would like to hear from you.

The types of experience we are looking for include:

- Good practice in keep safe training and support
- The role of planning and circles of support in keeping people safe
- Keeping safe in the community
- Reporting abuse and neglect
- Whistleblowing
- Working in a safeguarding team
- Being a member of an adult safeguarding board
- How care staff work with families
- Managing care services
- Good and bad outcomes from safeguarding procedures

Please contact either Paul Swift on 0117 9294365 (email paulswift.research@gmail.com) or Robina Mallett on 0117 9061751 (robina.mallett@hft.org.uk)

6. Social Care in Crisis - the Need for Reform

This week, the Learning Disability Coalition (LDC) launched its new report, 'Social Care in Crisis - the Need for Reform'.

The report showed that three-quarters of local authorities are facing difficulties in funding services for people with a learning disability and have made either cuts or savings.

Care providers are struggling too, with 90% saying that the funding situation is difficult. For people with a learning disability, the situation is grim, with half of people surveyed experiencing a negative change to their support.

You can download the report from the Mencap website, and see coverage of the report on the BBC. <http://www.mencap.org.uk/node/14684>

7. Hft's Family Carer Support Service's 2012 Holiday Information Guide is here!

This free guide is designed for people with learning disabilities and their families, but many support staff also request copies.

The guide can be downloaded at

<http://www.hft.org.uk/Supporting-people/family-carers/Resources/Holiday-guide/>

Alternatively try: <http://snipurl.com/22u7hg2>

Or you can request a copy by sending an A4 self-addressed envelope, with the appropriate postage to the address below.

Each guide weighs 158 grams. Currently 1 x guide = £1.09 first class and £0.92 second class. *Please be aware that Royal Mail will be raising their prices at the end of April 2012, so the current postage charges will change.

If you would like multiple copies please calculate the postage cost by the number of requested guides and their combined weight.

Please contact us if you would like more than 4 guides at:
Hft / FCSS, 5/6 Brook Office Park, Folly Brook Road, Emersons Green,
Bristol, BS16 7FL
Telephone: 0117 907 1751

Email: familycarersupport@hft.org.uk

National Family Carer Network
07747 460727
www.familycarers.org.uk

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.