



## Bulletin

07747 460727  
[www.familycarers.org.uk](http://www.familycarers.org.uk)

11<sup>th</sup> June 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](mailto:info@familycarers.org.uk).

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National

### **1. Safeguarding resources to be launched during Carers Week and Learning Disability Week**

We are pleased to announce that The National Family Carer Network and Hft will be launching Safeguarding resources for family carers on our websites [www.familycarers.org.uk](http://www.familycarers.org.uk) and [www.hft.org.uk](http://www.hft.org.uk) during Carers week and Learning Disability week (w/c 18 June 2012).

Families have told us that there is an urgent need for information about safeguarding that addresses the concerns of family carers of adults with learning disabilities. The current wealth of information about safeguarding is often complex and technical, addressing the needs of health and social care professionals. It also often takes a decidedly partial view of the role of family carers, with a particular emphasis upon families as perpetrators of abuse, while very little is written about the wider context of prevention and awareness-raising.

Winterbourne View has brought to the attention of the health and social care world the role that families can play in ensuring that such services are safe through their active involvement in planning and decisions-making and, more

formally, through inspections and quality checking. Families should be asked to contribute to decisions about the safety of a family member in safeguarding procedures and yet, as we have seen in others areas of policy such as the use of the Mental Capacity Act, adherence to formal guidance often relies upon informed family members making sure that it happens. Families also have a role to play in making sure there is a balance between safeguarding and quality of life especially where Personalisation places a potentially heavy burden upon family carers to take responsibility for the 'risk enablement' of their disabled relatives in self-directed support.

Providing clear and accessible information about the services that exist and what they can offer has been found to reduce stress and isolation, two key factors associated with abuse by family carers. Family carers should be offered support when suspected or alleged abuse is reported in good faith and their views and opinions taken into consideration. They also have the right to be kept informed of the processes and outcomes where it does not conflict with the proper investigation of incidents or the best interests of the alleged victim.

A Resource Pack (including useful examples of good practice around safeguarding, supported by film clips featuring people's stories) produced by Hft will follow in the autumn.

For more information contact:

Oi Mei Li at the National Family Carer Network: email:

[info@familycarers.org.uk](mailto:info@familycarers.org.uk) t: 07747 460727

Robina Mallett at HFT: email: [Robina.mallett@hft.org.uk](mailto:Robina.mallett@hft.org.uk) t: 0117 9061700

## **2. Carers Week 18 -- 24 June 2012**

Every year a group of seven charities including Carers UK organise a week to highlight the caring role of millions of people in the UK, to publicise the work of support groups and raise awareness about the help available to carers as well as supply information. This year the theme will be 'In sickness and in health'.

Lots of events will be taking place.

See the Carers Week website <http://carersweek.org/>

## **3. Pat's petition**

Pat Onions, a Campaign member in Scotland has started a petition on the government's e-petition website. It demands that the government 'Stop and review the cuts to benefits and services which are falling disproportionately on disabled people, their carers and families.'

The government says it will consider debating any petition bearing 100,000 signatures. Pat's petition has nearly 37,000.

[Read more/ sign the petition](#)

#### **4. Wage incentive for young disabled people announced**

Source: Department for Work and Pensions, 23 May 2012

A new wage incentive scheme to encourage employers to give young disabled people further work opportunities is being announced today by the Minister for Disabled People.

A payment of up to £2,275 will be made available for employers who recruit young disabled people through Work Choice - a specialist disability employment programme that provides tailored support to help disabled people who have the most complex support needs.

This extra support for young disabled people will sit alongside the recently launched Youth Contract, which is already boosting the employment prospects of this country's young jobseekers.

Minister for Disabled People, Maria Miller said:

"In a tough economic climate, addressing youth unemployment is a key priority for this Government. Through this wage incentive we are encouraging employers to hire more young disabled people by providing some money ourselves.

"By creating a partnership between Government and the employer, it will give more young disabled people the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in the workplace, so that the employer will keep that young person on beyond the six months of the subsidy."

The new wage incentive will be made available in July.

#### **5. New CQC Chief Executive announced**

Dame Jo Williams, Chair of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) today announced the appointment of David Behan as the Commission's new Chief Executive.

David is currently Director General for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships at the Department of Health, prior to which he was Chief Inspector of the Commission for Social Care Inspection. He has served as President of the Association of Directors of Social Services and as Director of Social Services for Greenwich, Middlesbrough and Cleveland Councils.

David will join CQC in July. He will replace Cynthia Bower, who announced her resignation in February.

## **6. Awesome for Autism!**

To celebrate their 50th birthday, the National Autistic Society are looking back at some of the wonderful things people in the autism community have achieved over the last 50 years and they would like your help. They would like you to nominate someone who has been 'awesome for autism'. This could be a family member, friend, professional or anyone else who's helped someone affected by autism. It could even be someone who you feel has changed the world for people with autism.

As soon as you nominate someone, they are officially awesome for autism. You will even receive a certificate that you can give to them to prove it! To nominate a family member, go to <http://www.autism.org.uk/awesome>

## **7. Powers of entry and Powers of Intervention consultation.**

Adult Safeguarding staff in England may need new powers to enter homes and intervene where they suspect a vulnerable adult is at risk of abuse and where a third party is preventing entry. Views from legal advisors and others suggest existing powers may be insufficient in such circumstances. However, there are legitimate concerns about the extent and remit of any new powers and these are matters not covered by the current legislative commitments given by the Government.

As a consequence, a consultation paper has now been launched to stimulate debate and establish whether such powers are needed. The principle of consulting on these matters is supported by the British Association of Social Workers, Mencap, Unison, the United Kingdom Homecare Association, the British Institute of Learning Disabilities, the National Pensioners Convention, Action for Advocacy, Scope, Ringrose Law LLP, and Solicitors for the Elderly.

**To have your say, email [legislation@elderabuse.org.uk](mailto:legislation@elderabuse.org.uk) before Wednesday 11 July.**

The consultation document can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/cdfrtug>

## **8. Benefit cap factsheet**

Click on the link below to read more about the benefit caps from the DWP

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/benefit-cap-factsheet.pdf>

**9. Written Ministerial Statement Tuesday 15 May 2012  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**Winterbourne View (Hospital)**

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow):** I promised to update the House about ongoing activity in relation to Winterbourne View private hospital and other services for people with learning disabilities.

The House will wish to note that nine people employed at Winterbourne View hospital have pleaded guilty and have been referred for sentencing reports. A further two people have pleaded not guilty and are due back in Bristol Crown court on 6 August. Once the criminal proceedings are completed, we expect the serious case review, chaired by Dr Margaret Flynn, to be published.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has now completed its programme of focused inspections of 150 hospitals and care homes for people with learning disabilities. The reports from these inspections are being published in batches, and the final 10 reports were published on 9 May 2012. They can be found at: [www.cqc.org.uk/LDRReports?1atest](http://www.cqc.org.uk/LDRReports?1atest). These reports have found poor practice in some of the units, and common areas of concern include limited person-centred care, limited appropriate activities and a lack of monitoring and learning from incidents of restraint. CQC will publish a summary national report of these inspections in the summer.

The final departmental review of Winterbourne View will draw its conclusions on the basis of the findings from the serious case review and evidence from the other investigations and reports that have been undertaken, and so will be published soon after the serious case review.

In recognition of the seriousness of this issue, the Department intends to publish an interim report before summer recess, based on the findings of the CQC summary report and other evidence from the engagement with key partners, which will set out proposed actions and solutions.

I will continue to update the House.

**10. New venue and events listing for people with learning disabilities, special needs and autism!**

Netbuddy (the award-winning online community for parents, carers and learning disability professionals - <http://www.netbuddy.org.uk>) is teaming up with arts and leisure magazine Time Out to produce a nationwide online listing of venues and events for people with learning disabilities, special needs and autism. We plan to syndicate this listing to other organisations and publications. If you know of anywhere offering an event, either now or in the

past, please do let me know. Just email venue or event organiser details to [sophie@netbuddy.org.uk](mailto:sophie@netbuddy.org.uk).

With many thanks for your help and please do keep us up to date with any new events so that we can give people all the latest information. To see what's going on now, like us on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/TimeOutWithNetbuddy>) and follow us on twitter (<https://twitter.com/timeoutnetbuddy>).

London

**11. A fantastic opportunity has arisen for experienced freelance tutors and workshop leaders at a Voluntary sector organization working with adults with learning disabilities in East London.**

Map Squad currently has a number of positions for dynamic experienced freelance tutors, trainers and workshop leaders who can deliver short and long term learning and work skills courses to people with learning disabilities at our Whitechapel site. We are looking for committed and dedicated trainers, teachers and workshop leaders with a range of subject specialisms. You need to have at least 6 months experience of creating and running workshops for adults with learning disabilities. Our hourly rates of pay are from £10 - £25 per hour dependent upon teaching qualifications or equivalent.

At the Map Squad we value the right person for the job. You will have a friendly and professional manner and be an excellent communicator. Your role will be to plan, guide and manage the learning process so that the group achieves their desired outcomes. If you have great planning and organizational skills, have a dynamic, creative and participatory approach to learning and development and highly experienced in motivating others to achieve their goals then this could be the ideal position for you. All posts at Map Squad are subject to enhanced CRB check and referencing.

**Exciting part Time 'Learning skills Coach' vacancies in a Voluntary sector organization in East London working with adults with learning disabilities**

Map Squad currently have two part time Learning Skills Coach positions and are looking for committed dedicated and experienced people to apply. These posts are fixed term to 31st March 2013. The salary is £21,500 per annum (Pro rata for 17.5 hours).

You need to have experience of working alongside adults with learning disabilities, supporting and enabling people to learn new skills in a coaching

or mentoring role. At the Map Squad we value the right person for the job and you will have a friendly and professional manner and a flexible team player. If you are an active, practical and highly experienced in motivating and enabling others to achieve their personal goals then this could be an ideal position for you. All posts at Map Squad are subject to enhanced CRB check and referencing.

To request an application pack for either of the above posts please send an email to [office@mapsquad.org](mailto:office@mapsquad.org) or call Sarah King on 020 7247 3030

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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.*