



## Bulletin

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

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

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National

### **1. Standing Commission on Carers responses**

The NFCN will be hosting the Standing Commission on Carers responses to consultations on the NFCN website, starting with the Standing Commission on Carers response on the new assessment criteria for the Personal Independence Payment – [click here](#) to read the document.

### **2. Winning cases on the basis that a benefit discriminates against people with disabilities**

Read the press release on the DPAC website (Disabled People Against Cuts)

<http://www.dpac.uk.net/2012/05/experts-say-landmark-judgement-will-stop-benefit-system-discriminating-against-disabled/>

### **3. Special needs budgets to be controlled by parents**

Extract from BBC News, 15 May 2012

Parents are to be given more financial control over support for children with special educational needs, in a major shake-up of the system in England. The government says it wants to push ahead with proposals announced last year that parents should have a "personal budget" for their children.

Source and full article at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-18061348>

#### **4. 'Learning Difficulties and Ethnicity: Updating a Framework for Action'**

The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities has published its 'Learning Difficulties and Ethnicity: Updating a Framework for Action' report and Checklist for Action.

The report, which is an update of the Department of Health's (DoH) 2004 framework, identifies and addresses the needs of people with learning disabilities from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities, as well as their family carers.

Its central purpose is to draw attention to the continuing relevance of the original framework's key messages, and updating it with new information from sources such as the DoH's Vision for Adult Social Care (2010) report and, in particular, priorities from the work of Valuing People Now- the national programme which set out a vision and active steps for improving opportunities and services for people with learning disabilities and family carers. These priorities are the importance of being in good health, having somewhere to live, being able to get a job, and being an active citizen.

Christine Burke, Senior Development Manager at the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities says:

"Despite the statutory duty to ensure there is equality in access to services for people with learning disabilities, research has shown that very few services promote diversity with any real success, and people from BME communities are still facing discrimination and unsatisfactory quality of care.

If we want to improve the access and inclusion of people with learning disabilities from BME groups in health and social care services, it is crucial that we need to know the local population and the best ways of engaging and supporting all communities. We also need to understand the needs and anxieties of people from BME communities as well as the gaps in current service provision. It is hoped that this update "Framework for Action" will provide some important ideas as to how this can be improved across both rural areas, (where there is still a need to identify the needs of newly arrived) and largely unknown communities and inner city areas where there may be higher concentrations of diverse communities and therefore some local expertise.

We hope that our updated "Framework for Action" will prove to be a useful tool for how this goal can be achieved and that it will also ensure that people with learning disabilities from BME communities are never left behind."

# WDC Night Club Thursday 24th May



Jacqui 07922 804039 or Carolyn 07763 120438

Private car park available for buses and vans. Please note due to age of venue there are limited facilities for wheelchair users. Please call us for further information.

This nightclub is operated by We Do Care. We Do Care provide support staff for community based activities . We can provide support staff and transport to this event, please call to discuss your requirements. Please visit our website for more information.

**Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm**

**Date: Thursday 24th May 2012**

**Place: Corn Exchange, Fore St, Hertford, SG14 1AL**

**Ages 18 and over**

**Want to spend an evening with like minded people dancing to your choice of music, a fully licensed bar and great DJs.**

**Tickets .**

**£8 in advance**

**(By calling 07922 804039/07763 120438)**

**£10 on the door**

**Support staff free**

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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.*