



Bulletin

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www.familycarers.org.uk

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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. NHS Continuing Health Care

The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities have produced a booklet for family carers, published as their contribution to Carers' Week. It is free to download at

<http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/publications/continuing-healthcare/>

The booklet provides practical information about what exactly NHS Continuing Healthcare is, how people are assessed for it and how decisions are made. It also includes details about what happens if a person is eligible or not for NHS CHC as well as some advice about how to get help and useful contacts to get more information. The questions addressed arose from families' experiences. Drawing on the Foundation's extensive work on access to health care for people with learning disabilities, the booklet was funded by Department of Health's Valuing People Now programme.

There's also a press release: <http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/our-news/181563/>

2. CQC publishes national review of 145 services for people with learning disabilities

On Monday 25 June CQC published the report of its LD services review.

'Overall, we found that nearly half the 145 hospitals and care homes which we inspected did not meet the required standards, and that too often people are fitted into services rather than services being tailored to people's individual needs.'

The report concludes that some assessment and treatment services admit people for too long and that there is now an urgent need for commissioners to review the care plans for people in these services so that they can move on to appropriate care settings.

Read the report [here](#) and the [press release](#).

3. Mencap's Listen and Learn

'Mencap is in the process of planning its work for years to come, and we really need to hear your voices, and the voices of people with learning disabilities and families that you are in touch with. If you can spare ten minutes we would be really grateful if you could take the time to complete our 'My Life' consultation surveys...

On our website we have accessible and families My Life consultation surveys - <http://www.mencap.org.uk/listening>

Online and downloadable PDF versions are available.

We need as many people with a learning disability and their families as possible to tell us what is most important to them.

We're aiming for 1000 responses, so any time you can spare to tell us your views would be hugely appreciated.

The closing date is 31 July.'

4. Universal Credit

As you may have seen, at the end of last week the regulations for Universal Credit were published.

The Children's Society, Citizens Advice and Disability Rights UK have jointly published web pages giving details of the main changes affecting people with disabilities, and scenarios for the overall impact for different groups of disabled people. This is intended to help people understand the likely financial consequences of these changes for differing groups and different types of households. Also on the webpage are links to a survey asking disabled

people in the groups most likely to be affected by the changes to give evidence of the likely effect these changes would have on their lives. This will be used both in response to the consultation and in a review report to be published in the early autumn to use in lobbying work prior to the tabling of the regulations. It is absolutely essential that there is a very strong response to the consultation which has only a short response time and ends on 27th July.

Please see the following link:

<http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/universalcredit>

You can respond to the consultation at:

<http://ssac.independent.gov.uk/consult.shtml>

The surveys are available at the following links:

I care for a disabled child - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/duccs>

I am a disabled adult who works - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ducwork>

I am a disabled adult who lives alone, with another disabled adult, or with children, and without a carer - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ducrweb>

Yorkshire and Humber

5. Leeds Mencap's Fabulous 50s Ball

Saturday 13th October - Don your blue suede shoes for a 50s-themed extravaganza, as Leeds Mencap holds its annual fundraising ball. The Rose Bowl, Leeds City Centre. 7pm. Visit <http://www.justgiving.com/lmball2012> for more information.

North West

6. Improving Care 2012 Conference

Improving Care, Improving Lives: Supporting Society's Vulnerable Adults
5th December 2012, Manchester Conference Centre

With the assent of the Health and Social Care Bill in March this year now is a time of great change in the provision of care for vulnerable adults.

The Government has shown commitment to this aim, allocating £2bn of annual funding to support social care in the 2010 Spending Review.

Are you interested in the challenges that remain in transforming and improving care provision for vulnerable adults?

Do you want to find out the shape that the Government's planned care and support white paper will take?

[Register Your Place Today](#)

Topics to be Discussed Include:

Supporting the vulnerable: The current landscape and road ahead

Dignity and empowerment: Understanding needs, respecting rights

Personalisation, co-production and community engagement
Working together for protection: Forming successful multi-agency safeguarding partnerships
Developing integrated services tailored to the needs of vulnerable populations
Caring for carers: Supporting the well-being of Britain's hidden vulnerable
[View Full Details of Programme and Speakers](#)

South West

7. Tavistock Specials Football Club

'You deserve this house' Channel 4

Amanda Lamb travelled to Devon to surprise Allen Lewis, who has spent the last 10 years running a football club for children with special needs while raising over £150,000 for charity.

Now, while Allen is whisked away for some 'me time', some of the parents and kids who Allen has helped over the years give up their time to secretly makeover his house in a spectacular and tense 36-hour transformation.

Can the team finish before he gets back? Will Allen like what they've done to his home?

[Watch here](#)

South East

8. Kent Partnership Board

'Would you like the chance to represent people with learning disabilities or family carers at the Kent Partnership Board?

We need 6 people with learning disabilities, 3 from east Kent and 3 from West Kent. We also need 3 family carers.

There will be 8 meetings a year, 4 Kent Partnership Board meetings and 4 support meetings to help people prepare.

Meetings will be held in Maidstone and Ashford.

If you would like more information about this please contact your District Valuing People Worker - Charlotte Spirgel-Sinclair on 07842641570 who will explain more about what you will need to do.

We need names of people by the 3rd July'

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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.