



Bulletin

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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. The Standing Commission on Carers responses to consultations.

The NFCN is pleased to be able to give you access to the Standing Commission on Carers' responses to national consultations on our website. We hope you will find it useful to refer to their content.

The Standing Commission On Carers (SCOC) is an independent advisory body, providing expert advice to Ministers and the Carers' Strategy Cross-Government Programme Board on progress in delivering the National Carers Strategy - a ten year Strategy published in 2008 and 'refreshed' in 2010 - and on a broad range of other policy issues relating to carers and support for their roles. It was established by the Department of Health in December 2007 at the request of the then Prime Minister. Two members of SCOC, Dame Philippa Russell and Robina Mallett are advisors to the NFCN Trustees.

[Click here](#) to see more.

2. IHAL People with Learning Disabilities in England 2011

Today (24 May 2012) IHAL is launching their annual report on People with Learning Disabilities in England 2011.

It summarises information collected by several government departments about people with learning disabilities.

It includes estimates of how many people with learning disabilities there are in England and information about the health of people with learning disabilities, the education of children with learning disabilities and health and social care services used by people with learning disabilities.

The report is available at

http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/publications/1063/People_with_Learning_Disabilities_in_England_2011

Alternatively try: <http://snipurl.com/23nzgxd>

3. 'Stuck at home'

Mencap's media and campaigns team worked together to undertake research to establish the extent of cuts on services for people with a learning disability in England.

The report, Stuck at home: the impact of day service cuts on people with a learning disability, outlines the findings of Mencap's freedom of information request to local authorities and a survey of people with a learning disability and their family carers. It reveals that day services cuts and increased charging have left people increasingly isolated, lonely and unable to leave the home.

Click [here](#) to read the report.

4. Chelsea Flower Show: Furzey learning disability garden wins gold

Extract from BBC News, 22 May 2012

It was Furzey Gardens' first ever entry at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show and they clinched the top prize.

But their display was a garden with a difference - it was created entirely by a team of young adults with learning disabilities.

The group - who receive horticultural training and residential care at the gardens in Minstead in the New Forest - have worked on the preparations since last year. ..

Source and full article at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-18157788>

5. Bloomin'Arts

Bloomin'Arts is a small charity that works with and for adults with learning disabilities in the Performing Arts in Lingfield, Surrey. Bloomin'Arts over the past twelve years has always responded to the needs of those it works with and for. They have been able to give tangible opportunities to adults who find it hard to interact socially with others, are isolated in the community or lack confidence in themselves, adults with learning disabilities who want meaningful Arts activities, young adults coming out of school and colleges needing opportunities to begin their adult life, older participants who, after year in institutions, need specialist services to support them.

For others 'Bloomin'Arts' offers a lifeline in developing their own artistic work or finding a place where they can gain confidence to access opportunities in the Arts. Their work focuses increasingly on meaningful employment opportunities for our participants, training them to develop their skills and supporting them to take on work opportunities in their chosen area of Performing Arts. Bloomin'Arts have been working in the East Surrey area for the last twelve years, providing Performance Arts activities for adults with learning disabilities. There is a range of courses for different needs. Take a look at the web site on <http://www.bloomin-arts.com/www.bloomin-arts.com/>

Contact via email: bloominarts@fsmail.net or tel: 01342 836785

6. Link Up

Link Up is a work skills unit based just outside of Newbury, Berkshire - who supports Adults with a Learning Disability to do real work for real customers. Link Up is part of West Berkshire Mencap and was established in 1995 by service users from the local day centre with West Berkshire Mencap (nee Newbury Mencap) providing a supporting role. Link Up helps the trainees to develop work skills in a supported environment and also provides an educational element, with people working on Laser Awards (previously known as OCN awards).

For a no obligation visit or to have a free taster session, please visit the website www.link-up-project.org.uk or contact jane@link-up-project.org.uk

South West

7. A surfing competition for people with learning disabilities in Cornwall.

Extract from BBC News, 25 May 2012

A surfing competition for people with learning disabilities is to be held in Cornwall.

It is believed to be the first such event in the UK and will include about 80 participants who will be assessed on their skills by judges from Surfing GB.

Source and full article at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-18202479>

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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.