



2011 Annual Conference

There is Another Way



Supported Living - Welfare Reform - Models of Service - Another Way

24 November 2011
Manchester Conference Centre

Speakers Include: Simon Duffy – Director, Centre for Welfare Reform
 Tom Noon – Chairman, Cordis Bright Consulting
 Katie & Nadia Clarke – Calderdale Parent & Carers Council
 Alicia Wood – Housing Options

The Association for Supported Living (ASL) conference is one of the larger and longer established conferences on the UK learning disability conference circuit. This year's conference takes place in Manchester on 24 November.

The usual focus of the conference is to promote Supported Living for people with learning disabilities. This year, due to the unprecedented level of cuts to public services, mainly borne by the most disadvantaged members of society, the ASL has teamed up with the Campaign for a Fair Society and part of the theme of the conference will be providing Supported Living in the context of significant cuts to a range of benefits and services and how the welfare benefit system could be reformed to make it fairer for all. In response to the cuts the ASL commissioned Housing Options to write and publish a Rights Handbook and this will be launched at the conference.

At the end of May, whilst the conference was being planned, the nation witnessed evidence of terrible abuse to people with learning disabilities in a private hospital near Bristol, broadcast on a BBC Panorama programme. The ASL responded immediately – writing to all MPs about alternatives based on best practice. The ASL report "There is an alternative" will provide examples of people who potentially present significant challenging behaviours but who are successfully supported in Supported Living Services, and this will be submitted to the government to demonstrate a credible and cost-effective alternative to expensive and isolated institutions. These case studies will be available to conference attendees and a number of the conference workshops demonstrate steps that can be taken to ensure services are safe for people using them.

We are providing a range of workshops to help people and organisations in various ways, as assessed from previous feedback.

We do hope you are able to attend what will be a very exciting and thought-provoking day as well as a great networking opportunity.

One FREE place to all ASL Member Organisations	Additional places for ASL Member Organisations £95	CfFS Member Organisations £95	Non-Members £150	Individuals (inc. CfFS Individual Members) £33
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All enquiries please contact: 020 8418 3472

To book places: ruth.tyrie@heritagecare.co.uk or janet.brazendale@heritagecare.co.uk

Details of WORKSHOPS are on the next page...

Sponsored by:



WORKSHOPS

You will be able to attend 2 workshops, but please select 3 on your booking form in order of preference (you will be allocated 2 workshops according to availability).

1

MEETING THE COST OF HOUSING FOR SUPPORTED LIVING: *What does the future hold?*

- What the DWP consultation asks.
- The general consensus.
- The possible outcomes and/or alternatives.

Mark McGoogan, Mencap & Peter Webster, Reside Housing

2

PERSONAL BUDGETS AND LD: *Brokerage and beyond*

This workshop will review the implications of the coalition's personalisation agenda and, in particular, the roll out of personal budgets and direct payments as the preferred option. It will discuss the latest thinking around managing personal budgets and direct payments, including brokerage, budget pooling and social enterprises, and what opportunities and challenges might face individuals, their families and care providers.

Claudia Wood, Demos

3

EXPERTS AT WORK: *Influencing change from within*

This workshop will be facilitated by Experts by Experience that has expertise in health and social care provision. The Experts will include people with learning disabilities and autism, people with physical disabilities and sensory impairments, people with experience of mental ill health and people with experience of detention under the Mental Health Act. The workshop will explore peer advocacy within provider organisations drawing on best practice from user led organisations.

Sarah Maguire, Choice Support

4

GETTING THINGS RIGHT FOR PEOPLE: *What does really good support look like?*

In the past Paradigm worked in partnership with ASL (and others) to re-design the Reach standards for Supported Living. Our learning has shown that those standards have made a real difference in the lives of people who use services. People have fed back that they like the simplicity of the standards. Based on that learning and feedback, Paradigm has been working with people with learning disabilities, their families, Personal Assistants and with service providers to look at developing standards for good support. No matter who provides it, what does good support really look like and what matters most to the people who use it...? In this workshop we will address these questions and more.

Sally Warren & Claire Winfield, Paradigm

5

VAT: *Cut your costs and introduce maximum efficiencies*

- Maximise entitlement to VAT reliefs.
- Minimise VAT on staff and agency costs, especially in the light of the recent "Reed" decision.
- What can be done to recover VAT where possible.
- Consider tax efficient partnering, cost sharing, JVs and public sector collaboration.
- Implement a robust VAT compliance process, avoid potential penalties.

Deborah Jennings, Grant Thornton LLP

6

SHOULD I BLOW THE WHISTLE?

This workshop will give the opportunity to explore definitions of abuse and poor practice, reporting routes and what encourages or hinders staff from raising concerns. It will address good practice issues in responding to and supporting staff who whistleblow.

Deborah Kitson, Ann Craft Trust

7

PICKING UP THE PIECES: *Emotional support for service users, families and staff following abuse*

This workshop will look at the effects of abuse on service users, on their families and on the staff supporting them. It will also offer advice on how to support people to process the emotional effects of these events.

Richard Curen, Respond

8

LEGAL CHALLENGES TO CUT BACKS

In the present economic environment, against the backdrop of public spending, many care and support providers are coming under pressure to agree 'unfair' fee rates with commissioning authorities. As well as the impact it has on their businesses, such cuts can have a negative impact on the services offered to service users, which raises other legal issues such as the public sector equality duty. The workshop will cover:

- 'Unfair' fee setting.
- Equality issues in the context of funding cuts.
- Consultation between commissioning authorities over service user placements from residential care to supported living.

Lucy James, Trowers & Hamlins