



Sharing information - learning disability - young people - transition - black and minority ethnic (BME)

Welcome to the electronic **Moving On Update**. This Moving On Update is here to provide information to the carers and supporters of young people aged 14 and upwards from Black and Minority Ethnic communities who have a learning disability and are making the change from school to adulthood.

This electronic Update **runs alongside our website** www.movingonup.info that is designed to be used by this group of young people supported by their carers.

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Run by the **Association for Real Change**, (ARC).

This Moving On Update goes out **free to all subscribers**. It will be **sent out monthly** and the project is currently funded until October 2007. Those who subscribe to come from a variety of backgrounds; some are professionals in both the public and private sector; some belong to voluntary organisations and others are people who have a learning disability or care for someone with a learning disability. Please feel free to forward the Update on to other people who may be interested.

If you have something you want to share amongst subscribers you are welcome to email it to us to pam.smith@arcuk.org.uk

Sections in the Moving On Update:

- **Useful information & news** about ethnic minority communities in England
- **Developments in strategies and policy**
- Interesting and important **meetings, conferences & events**
- **Moving On Up News** from our website www.movingonup.info

Useful information & news

Item 1

Race Equality Foundation

African and Caribbean men and mental health

There is a new addition to the Race Equality Foundation's *Better Health Briefing* papers that addresses African and Caribbean men and mental health. It is written by Dr Frank Keating of Royal Holloway, University of London and it addresses the fear of talking about 'race' and racism felt by many mental health workers, and the fear of services felt by black men. The author urges services to work together to prevent and break the 'spiral of oppression' that is so damaging.

More information: This document can be viewed and downloaded from the following website www.raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/hsc/files/health-brief5.pdf Or you can email briefings@racefound.org.uk for a paper copy.

Item 2

Look Up

New Sight initiative for people with a learning disability

Look Up is an information service that was launched on the 17th June with the goal of transforming the quality of eye care for the 1.5 million people in the UK who have a learning disability. Two leading eyecare charities - SeeAbility and the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) - have joined forces to create Look Up, which will provide information for people with a learning disability, their family carers, eye care professionals and health and social care staff.

Lesley-Anne Alexander, Chief Executive of RNIB says, "Without proper support, people with a learning disability who are blind or partially sighted can find life exceptionally confusing and isolating. RNIB has developed great expertise in identifying and overcoming these issues, but it is vital that we find new ways to share our knowledge. I'm delighted our collaboration with SeeAbility gives us a chance to do this. Look Up will make a real difference to the daily lives of thousands of people."

More information:

Look Up aims to reach 10,000 people during its first year via its website: www.lookupinfo.org a free telephone helpline: 0800 121 8900 and an email forum and publications.

Item 3

Dimensions

'On my own' Dean's blog about living independently

On the Dimension's website - <http://www.dimensions-uk.org/> in the section about **Transition**, young person Dean has written a blog about his experiences of living independently.

"Living on my own has open my eyes a lot. Many people say it is easy but if they were living in my shoes for a day their opinion would change.

I have learned new skills while at the same time learning to be independent. 99 per cent of the time it is a right laugh - do what you want when you want, after all, it's your home, your rules, true eh?

...

At first there is a lot to take in such as rent payments, mobiles and things. Listen - it does get easy, you just need time to settle in - get to know your flat and you are well away. You will be so full of self confidence 7 months down the line. You have a really big sense of achievement and you get a big pat on the back - that would make anybody's year, that would. It has done me the world of good. I am very proud of myself."

You may want to pass this link on to the young people you work with so that they get an opportunity to listen to what living independently is like directly from the view point of a learning disabled person!

More information Visit the Dimensions website <http://www.dimensions-uk.org/blogdean/index.php>

Meetings, conferences & events

Item 4

East Midlands Valuing People Support Team

Person Centred Planning Events

'We will be holding a number of information and workshop days across the region in response to family carers telling us they want more information on PCP.'

There will be 3 workshops which will be repeated 3 times in the morning, afternoon and evening to help as many people as possible to attend. There will be information stalls and a coffee area.

Dates and places:

Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire

6th September 2007

Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland

15th November 2007

Northhamptonshire

17th January 2007

Derbyshire and Derby City

5th March 2008

Lincolnshire

(date to be confirmed)

More information: Contact Carol Peacock, telephone 01623 812933, email Carol.peacock@eastmidlands.csip.nhs.uk

Item 5

UK Youth

Youth Listens to Youth

Not having anybody to talk to about personal concerns and problems is one reason that young people give for their feelings of low self esteem and despair. There are various helping services but often because they feel there is a stigma attached, they are unwilling to access them. The Youth Listens 2 Youth Workshop contributes to the "Outcomes of Every Child Matters", whilst also underpinning important aspects of the Youth Green Paper. This workshop aims to equip workers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to establish youth Peer Mentoring Projects, in both formal and informal settings.

Who should attend?

This workshop will be of use to project workers and managers in youth work, Connexions personal advisors, young people project workers, health workers, youth offending officers, teachers and college tutors.

Date: 20th September 2007

Place: The Psychosynthesis & Education Department, London, SE1 2TH

Cost: £140.00 per person + VAT 20% discount to associations/10% discount to associates

More information: Contact customer services, Tel: 01425 672347, Email info@ukyouth.org

Item 6

Paradigm conference

Individualised Budgets - 4 years of learning from pilot projects

This conference will look at what has been learnt about Individualised Budgets since 2003 when Paradigm launched 2 flagship projects - New Partnerships and Dynamite Projects - to try out the In Control initiative. Individualised Budgets and Self Directed Support are key themes in *Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People* and *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say* - themes supported by the government.

Workshops at the event include:

- Lessons from Cambridge - making change happen in social services
- Norfolk - A self directed approach to Transition
- Lessons from Wrexham - Introducing Individualised Budgets in Wales
- Lessons from Walsall - overcoming obstacles
- Working in Partnership with Families
- Brokerage - what it's taking so far

Date: 26th September 2007

Place: Birmingham

Cost: **Varies from £45+VAT (students) to £225+VAT. Free places for service users and family carers.**

More information: You can book online for this event at

www.offshootevents.net/paradigm Or telephone 0870 066 3627 to book.

Developments in strategies and policy

Item 7

Achievements of Every Disabled Child Matters

£340m extra to be invested in services for disabled children in England

Thanks to concerted lobbying by the Every Disabled Child Matters Campaign - including Contact a Family - Ed Balls MP, then Economic Secretary and Lord Adonis, SEN and Disability Minister within the Department for Educational Skills have announced the most substantial funding package ever for families with disabled children living in England.

From 2008 to 2011, £340m will be invested in services for disabled children, with the lion's share, £280m, being spent on short breaks for families who have children with severe disabilities.

The package will also include:

- £35m for accessible childcare (to be piloted in 10 Local Authorities)
- £19m to ease transition from child to adult services
- £5m to involve parents in shaping local services

More information: visit www.edcm.org.uk