

Bulletin



National
Family Carer
Network

www.familycarers.org.uk

Tel: 07747 460727

18th October 2012

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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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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.

National

1. DLA Advice from Contact A Family website

Papers as listed below can be downloaded from their website, definitely worth a read!

[Personal Independence Payment](#)

From April 2013, the government will replace Disability Living Allowance for adults aged 16-64 with a new benefit called the Personal Independence Payment (PIP). DLA will continue to apply to children, so long as they are aged under 16.

[Parent guide: Disability Living Allowance for children](#)

Information about claiming Disability Living Allowance, one of the benefits for disabled children, challenging a decision if you are unhappy with the outcome, and to check if they're entitled to a higher rate.

[Parent guide: Disability Living Allowance - claiming the higher rate mobility component for children with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorders](#)

How children with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorders may qualify for the benefit Disability Living Allowance mobility component at the highest rate - one of our benefits guides.

www.cafamily.org.uk

2. BBC Winterbourne follow up programmes

We have been notified by BBC Bristol that there will be two television programmes following up on the Winterbourne story on the following dates: [Inside Out West](#) on 22nd October at 7.30pm and 29th October on [BBC Panorama](#).

3. Channel 4 Media – people needed

[The Hardest Hit campaign group](#), who were responsible for organising the massively successful Hardest Hit march in London against cuts to disability benefits last year, need people to come forward to talk to the press ready for the launch of their next report. The campaign group, of which Mencap are a part, urgently want to talk to anyone with a disability who receives DLA and is worried about losing it. They are particularly interested in talking to people who have mobility issues, for instance those who use wheelchairs, walking aids or need specialist transport. The campaign is gaining a great deal of local and national media interest and so the group need people who would like to take part in television, radio and newspaper interviews.

If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact:

lucy.stanyer@nib.org.uk and please cc naomi.rose@mencap.org.uk in on your e-mail.

4. Guardian Newspaper Article: Get Ready for Work

Get ready for work: what woman who needs constant care was told Ruth Anim has learning difficulties, a heart problem and epilepsy. A work capability test by Atos said she should prepare for a job. Ruth Anim needs constant one-to-one care, has no concept of danger and attends life skills classes to learn practical things like how to make a sandwich or a cup of tea. So it came as a considerable surprise to her mother, Cecilia, that an official assessment of her daughter's abilities classified her as someone who would be capable of finding work in the near future.

The full article can be read here: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/oct/03/work-woman-care>

5. BBC Radio 4 - The Listening Project

Radio 4 have been asking people up and down the country to share their thoughts and feelings in a recorded conversation with a loved one or relative. Here are a few conversations from family carers, available to listen to online.

Protective brothers: Neil and Mark

Mark has Downs Syndrome. His older brother Neil has always wanted to protect him.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/the-listening-project/conversation/p00zhr90>

Coping with autism: Finn and Ray

Finn asks his dad about his hopes for the future and how he copes with his two other children, who both suffer from autism. He asks Ray how he has coped bringing up Raven and Nyven and how proud he is of his family. Ray describes what he expects from Finn as he gets older and accepts the extra responsibility of looking after his brother and sister.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/player/p00rb2bf>

Autism in the family: Sophie and Oscar

Sophie talks to her step-brother Oscar for the first time about what it's like for him being autistic, and how he feels about his condition. She wonders why he feels special and talks to him about his hopes for the future.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/the-listening-project/conversation/p00rgxbn>

6. Mencap Changing Places flush mob

On 11th October more than 200 people took part in a flash mob with a difference. [The Changing Places 'flush mob'](#) raised awareness of the Changing Places toilet campaign and the need for more fully accessible disabled toilets in London.

The campaigners gathered in Trafalgar Square, before suddenly raising toilet brushes in the air – many of them especially decorated. They then froze for three minutes as passers by looked on.

Watch a [video of the flush mob](#).

The [Changing Places campaign](#), sponsored by Total Hygiene, calls for more Changing Places toilets in public places, so that people with profound and multiple learning disabilities can access the same opportunities as everyone else.

A Changing Places toilet is larger than a standard disabled toilet and includes a height-adjustable changing bench, a hoist and room for up to two carers. The Changing Places toilets also benefit people with other mobility issues, such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy or acquired brain injuries.

London

7. Learning Disability Today annual exhibition

The Learning Disability Today annual national exhibition featuring CPD accredited seminars, large exhibition and interactive zones will be taking place on Thursday 29th November 2012.

It is free to attend for people with a learning disability, unwaged carers, natural supports, and full-time students (£25 for waged)

The programme and information about the exhibition can be found at <http://pavilion-live.co.uk/learningdisabilitytoday-events>

The seminar called *Thinking Ahead: supporting families to feel confident about planning with their relative for a move away from the family home* will include the joint HfT and NFCN work on safeguarding.

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07718 134877 www.familycarers.org.uk

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please submit articles in plain English of no more than 230 words to info@familycarers.org.uk. We reserve the right to edit the articles to fit the newsletter whilst retaining the overall information. Due to the number of articles we receive we cannot guarantee inclusion of contributions. 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.