

Bulletin



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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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. The National Family Carer Network hosts the National Valuing Families Forum

The National Valuing Families Forum (NVFF) is pleased to announce that from April 2014, our host organisation is the National Family Carer Network (NFCN): www.familycarers.org.uk

Alison Giraud-Saunders, Chair of the NFCN said "We are pleased to offer this hosting arrangement and look forward to continued close collaboration to ensure the voices of families are loud and clear."

Cally Ward and Vivien Cooper, Joint Chairs of the NVFF said "In this period of change and difficult finances, it is important that there is a robust mechanism for the Government to hear the voices of family carers of people with learning disabilities."

"We are grateful to the Carers Trust for their hosting support over the past 3 years, which has enabled us to explore and consolidate our position in the new Health and Social Care landscape.

We look forward to continuing working with our member organisations and regional networks to provide a strategic link between national government and local families of people with learning disabilities."

For more information about the National Valuing Families Forum, please contact the NVFF Co-ordinator Jo Hough:
Email: jo.inclusioneast@gmail.com, Mobile/Text: 07976 644 068

Find the National Valuing Families Forum on Facebook: www.facebook.com/natvalfamforum and on Twitter: @natvalfamforum

For more information about the National Family Carer Network, please visit our website: www.familycarers.org.uk, email: info@familycarers.org.uk, tel: 07747 460727 or join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nationalfamilycarernetwork

2. NHS Commitment to Carers

On Wednesday 7 May NHS England published its commitment to carers to give them the recognition and support they need to provide invaluable care for loved ones.

With 1.4 million people providing 50 or more carer hours a week for a partner, friend or family member, they make a significant contribution to society and the NHS.

There are 37 commitments spread across eight key priorities which include raising the profile of carers, education and training, person-centred coordinated care and primary care.

It has been developed in partnership with carers, patients, partner organisations and care professionals, including the National Family Carer Network, who attended the 'Commitment to Carers' event held on the 5th December 2013.

However this is only the beginning; NHS England will continue to work with and listen to carers, patients, partner organisations and care professionals to refine the commitments and ultimately improve the quality of life of carers.

[Click here for more information](#)

3. The Decision Making for Adults and Keeping Safe Events

The NFCN Decision Making for Adults and Keeping Safe Events, sponsored by NHS England, London Region were well attended by Family Carers and exceeded the number of places we had available. Thank you to everyone who circulated details of the events for us. If you would like to hold similar events with us, please do not hesitate to contact us.



NFCN family carer event at the NCVO



NFCN Family Carer event at Friends House

4. Learning Disability Census: new analysis

New analysis of the 2013 Learning Disability Census³, commissioned in response to events at Winterbourne View Hospital⁴ is published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) today. This report provides further information on inpatients with learning disabilities⁵ in England, being treated in specialist units², following publication of the initial findings in December 2013.

The census shows that two thirds of these inpatients (68 per cent or 2,220) had been given anti-psychotic medication⁶ in the 28 days preceding the census. Of these, 93 per cent (2,064) had been given them on a regular basis⁷.

Over half of all the patients (57 per cent or 1,841) had experienced an 'incident' during the three months preceding the census date. Incidents were defined as self-harm, an accident,

physical assault on the inpatient, hands-on restraint or seclusion. A greater proportion of women than men experienced each of these types of incident.

Administration of anti-psychotic medication appears to be associated with an increased likelihood of experiencing hands on restraint. 40 per cent (889 of 2,220) of those given these drugs had experienced at least one episode of hands on restraint, compared to 22 per cent (221) of the 1,030 patients who were not given this type of medication.

This report also contains information relating to patient experience of care including ward accommodation, uses of the Mental Health Act (1983), and information on the commissioning and provision of learning disability services including costs and care planning. It also provides more detailed information on a geographical basis and additional service user profile information.

[click here to read the report](#)

5. Special educational needs in England: January 2013

This statistical first release (SFR) provides analyses on the characteristics of pupils by their provision of special educational needs (SEN) together with the assessment and placement of pupils with statements of SEN. It is based on pupil-level data collected via the school census and local authority-level data collected via the SEN2 survey.

In January 2013, 229,390 pupils (2.8%) across all schools in England had statements of SEN. This percentage has remained unchanged for the past 5 years.

There were 1,316,220 pupils with SEN without statements, 16% of pupils across all schools, compared to 17% in 2012. Most of the decrease is in pupils at school action.

Additional analysis of special educational needs by primary type of need and pupil characteristics was published on 23 October 2013.

This analysis includes England information on primary type of need by age, gender, ethnicity, free school meal eligibility, national curriculum year group, first language and also information on secondary type of need.

[Click here to read the reports and access the statistical data](#)

6. Tips on caring for people with learning disabilities – bedwetting

Nursingtimes.net is partnering with Netbuddy to help nurses care for people with learning disabilities. Here, we look at tips on bedwetting.

[Find out more by clicking here](#)

7. Care and Support Jargon Buster

The Care and Support Jargon Buster is a plain English guide to the most commonly used social care words and phrases and what they mean. The definitions were developed and tested by a steering group that included people who use services, carers, representatives from local authorities, information providers and key stakeholders from across the social care sector.

The Care and Support Jargon Buster won a Plain English Campaign Award in 2013.

[Click here to use the jargon buster](#)

8. What Works? User and Carer Perspectives on Mental Health and Disability Services

As part of the National Carers Week, De Montfort University, Leicester is organising a National Conference on What Works for User and Carers.

User and Carer perspectives are central to the planning and commissioning of mental health and disability services. In this conference users and carers will be presenting their experiences of what works for them and their involvement in planning and developing services.

[Click here to access more information](#)

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