

Social Care Budgets

The rights of service users
and the duties of local authorities

community
living

A seminar led by community care law expert
Belinda Schwehr hosted by *Community Living* magazine

Wednesday 22 June 2011 (9.30 for 10am-4pm)

Venue: Friends Meeting House (opposite Euston station) London

NEGOTIATING THE RAPIDS AND SURVIVING THE CUTS

Our leading Community Care law expert Belinda Schwehr, who has advised the ADASS, councils, service users, carers and providers, is supporting *Community Living's* wish for a wider awareness of rights and responsibilities in the social care sector.

Everything is moving so fast – you can't afford to miss this unique opportunity of having this exclusive day with Belinda, an expert in this field. Belinda talks in the language of care rather than legalese.

Providers in the North-West have found her advice, web-site, webinar courses and seminars invaluable, enabling them to successfully challenge decisions about cuts. They have also been able to make collective representations to ensure that principled negotiations around price and contracts are equitable and that both sides can work in partnership.

Some commissioners appear not to understand their legal responsibilities. Without the confidence

that knowledge of their legal position can give, providers and service users can end up being put at risk with inappropriate illegal cuts to services. **THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO SAVE MONEY OR TO DO RIGHT BY THE CLIENT!** A day now may save a lot of heart-ache, aggravation and unnecessary cost for all concerned.

Commissioners, social workers, advocates and providers all need to know the law to make sure that commissioners don't end up in expensive judicial reviews and providers don't find themselves colluding with illegal actions.

Fee £99. 10% discount if paying before 30 April. Some concessionary places may be available. Download an application form from this web site (www.communityliving.co.uk) or tel. 01643 841101



**Belinda Schwehr LLM,
Legal Framework Trainer & Consultant, Care and Health Law**

Belinda has extensive experience as a barrister and solicitor, teaching public law, and she now runs the legal website www.careandhealthlaw.com. She offers independent legal and training consultancy about the legal framework underpinning social care. She has advised the Ombudsmen's services, the ADASS, NAFAO, as well as a range of providers and has been to over 50 health and care bodies to provide topical updates regarding the full range of policy, practice and performance issues, related to Personalisation and the Putting People First agenda.

Her specialist topics are the current cuts and the legal pitfalls that councils can fall into if they are not up to speed with legal developments, such as the recent Pembrokeshire care homes case and the London Councils judicial review for failure to consult before grants

Knowledge is Power

I am neutral to the nth degree, given that I believe that fidelity to the existing legal framework is the only way to avoid arbitrariness and inequity in the field of resource allocation and service development. I despise all sorts of dogma and rhetoric and think that the only way that social care will ever work is when the so-called mixed economy of care is run on grown-up lines, instead of a playground style of threat and intimidation. My website's banner is Knowledge is Power, and it is nowhere truer than in adults' social care. (Belinda Schwehr)