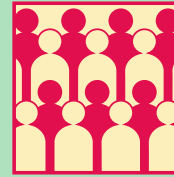


Bulletin



National
Family Carer
Network

www.familycarers.org.uk

Tel: 07747 460727

4th April 2014

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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 Care Bill: Reforming care and support

A presentation on the Care Bill was delivered at a recent Care and Support Alliance meeting. To view the presentation, please click [here](#).

2. Dying for things to change report

Health survey results conducted by Claire Bates, Choice Support's quality analyst, have been published in [Learning Disability Today](#).

It has been over six years since Mencap first published their 2007 Death by Indifference report, but have the lessons been learnt from this? Claire's findings suggest that while some people we support with a learning disability received high quality health care, this was not universal or consistent within and across NHS trusts. Showing similar issues relating to disability discrimination and indifference to those highlighted in Mencap's report, but thankfully without such tragic consequences.

To find out more, please visit the Choice Support [website](#). You can also read Claire's article [here](#).

3. Carers Week: 9th-15th June 2014

Carers Week is a UK-wide annual awareness campaign which takes place from Monday 9th to Sunday 15th June 2014. Its aim is to improve the lives of carers and the people they care for.

It does this by raising awareness of carers at a national, regional and local level. Hundreds of organisations and individuals join in each year to make it one of the UK's most successful awareness campaigns.

There are lots of ways that you can take part. As well as getting involved in the events and activities taking place in your local community, you can also help raise awareness of caring and of the support that is out there through your social networks or by making a pledge.

To find out more, please visit the Carers Week website: <http://www.carersweek.org>.

4. Transitions Guideline Development Group

The NICE Collaborating Centre for Social Care (NCCSC), hosted by SCIE, is recruiting to the guideline development group for a social care guideline on transition from children's to adults' services.

Applications are welcome from:

- social care professionals (adults' and children's services)
- health professionals who have worked with young people as they move to adults' services
- people with experience of using services
- people with experience as a parent or carer of a young person who uses services.

Closing date: 5pm Thursday 24th April 2014. Please see the links below for more details.

[Further information and how to apply - general](#)

[Further information and how to apply – service users and carers](#)

5. Consultations on duty of candour and fit and proper person regulations

On 26th March the Department of Health published the consultation on proposals to introduce a new statutory duty of candour. The duty of candour will require all health and adult social care providers registered with CQC to be open with people when things go wrong. The regulations would impose a specific and detailed duty of candour on all providers where any harm to a service user from their care or treatment is above a certain harm-threshold.

The consultation on duty of candour can be found at:

http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/standards/duty-of-candour/consult_view

The consultation closes on 25th April 2014.

6. Petition - Kernow CCG: Please bring my son back home

In 2012, Phill Wills' son, Josh, was moved to an assessment and treatment unit in Birmingham. This was meant to be for 6 months but Josh is still there.

Josh has now spent both his 12th and his 13th birthdays in the unit, 260 miles away from his family in Cornwall. Phill is petitioning Kernow CCG to put the support and services in place allowing them to bring Josh back to Cornwall.

To read more about Phill's campaign and to sign the petition, please click here to visit the Change.Org website [here](#).

7. Dosh Banking Guide

Dosh has recently published its banking guide: 'Making Banking Easier' which follows on from their report last month on access to banking.

The guide aims to give people the information they need to understand banking, know what they should be getting and know how to ask for it.

It includes:

- Opening, changing and closing an account
- What should banks be doing?
- How can I get support with banking?
- How can I deal with problems?
- What do banking laws say?
- What do equality laws say? In particular, the Equality Act and Mental Capacity Act
- Links to further resources and helpful contacts

Dosh's recent report found that people with a learning disability were not always given different options to help them, for example an extended list of acceptable identity documents, a different type of account, or a signature stamp. This guide will help everyone to get past these problems by knowing what to say and what they should be getting, so that they can work together to find solutions.

Along with the full guide, there is a short help sheet for you to take with you on trips to the bank as a quick reminder.

For full details, please visit the website [here](#). You can find the guide [here](#) and helpsheet [here](#).

8. The Irwin Mitchell & KIDS Writing Competition: Turning The Page

Turning the Page is a writing competition that invites both disabled and non-disabled children and adults to share their experience of disability or supporting a disabled person. [Irwin Mitchell](#), together with [KIDS](#), would like to hear positive, inspirational stories of your experiences.

They are looking for short stories and poems of up to 500 words and are interested in your personal understanding of disability – this might be life in school or the workplace as a disabled person, or that of a family member or friend.

All levels of writing ability are welcome. Winners will be judged on individual merit and not necessarily their standard of writing technique.

For full competition details, please click [here](#).

London

9. **Reminder: Decision making for adults and keeping safe. What every family carer should know about the law and how to use it - NFCN Free events**

Everybody has the right to make decisions about their lives, but what happens when they are unable to decide for themselves? The Mental Capacity Act gives family carers a vital role in protecting people who are unable to make some or all decisions about their lives. Family carers also need to know what Adult Safeguarding means and what they can do to help keep their relatives safe.

The National Family Carer Network has been asked by NHS England to run three events for family carers living within London boroughs at the end of April.

Dates and venues:

London South region event

Wednesday 23rd April

London South Bank University - Clarence Centre (nearest tube Elephant and Castle).

<http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/>

Central and North East London region event

Thursday 24th April

NCVO building (nearest tube Kings Cross)

<http://www.ncvo.org.uk>

NW London region event

Monday 28th April - Friends House (nearest tube Euston). <http://www.friendshouse.co.uk/>

Please arrive at 10.00am for registration. All events are 10.30am to 3.00pm.

For full event details, please see the flyer [here](#). For a booking form, please click [here](#). You can also download a poster with more details [here](#).

Please note that currently we have only been allocated funding to deliver these sessions for family carers living within the above London regions.

10. Adviser - Winterbourne View

Fixed term/secondment opportunity until 31st March 2015

£41,754 - £47,342 pa (Including London Weighting)

The Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme (WVJIP) was established by the Local Government Association and NHS England to provide leadership and support to transform services locally so that the services that are commissioned throughout people's lives are personalized, safe and local.

The post holder will manage and advise on the Finding Common Purpose programme, which is a collaborative piece of work between the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), the Care Provider Alliance and the WVJIP. This programme will develop more productive strategic commissioning relationships by building on the key recommendations from the ADASS/CPA document '***Finding Common Purpose - Developing Strategic Commissioning Relationships to Support People with Learning Disabilities***'

For more information on the Winterbourne View Joint Improvement programme please click [here](#). For job application details, please click [here](#).

Closing date – 5pm, 8th April 2014

Interview date – w/c 21st April 2014

11. Autism friendly performance of Matilda The Musical, London

Sunday 15th June 3.00pm

Cambridge Theatre

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) will present a 'relaxed performance' of *Matilda The Musical* at the Cambridge Theatre on 15th June. The National Autistic Society is working closely with the RSC on this special performance offering full access to the theatre for people with autism and learning disabilities.

The performance will provide a relaxed environment, with elements of the production adapted to reduce anxiety or stress. Lighting and sound levels will be adjusted to soften their impact and there will be a relaxed attitude to noise and moving around the auditorium during the performance. Designated 'chill-out' areas will be provided outside the auditorium with soft seating and activities for people to use if being in the auditorium becomes overwhelming for them.

The RSC will offer tickets for this performance at the reduced rate of £20, booked through the RSC ticket hotline 0844 800 1110 or in person at the box office. All bookers will be sent a visual story to help them familiarise themselves with the plot, characters and the setting before they arrive at the theatre. Detailed event and transport information will also be available from the dedicated 'relaxed' performance section of www.Matildathemusical.com.

For more performance details, please visit the RSC website [here](#).

South West and North West

12. Two free workshops for people who are already using the Health Equality Framework

Thursday 19th June 10.00am – 4.00pm. Jubilee Suite, Orford Park, Warrington
Wednesday 9th July 10.00am – 4.00pm. Walls Club, Barnwood, Gloucester

These free workshops are for at staff teams, commissioners and others who are using the [Health Equality Framework](#) (HEF).

Aim of workshops :

To bring together people who are already using the HEF in order to share learning and experience regarding:

- The impact on individuals with learning disabilities and their families
- Any changes to staff practice
- Use across services – particularly health and social care
- Information gathering and how it is being used
- Any problems with implementation and potential solutions

It will also share the most recent data from Gloucestershire (the site who implemented the HEF first), and further developments planned for the HEF.

For more details a booking form, please click [here](#).

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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.