

# Bulletin



www.familycarers.org.uk

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## Contents

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](mailto:info@familycarers.org.uk).

### National

1. The National Family Carer Network response to the draft Care and Support Bill
2. Winterbourne View Update
3. Winterbourne View – new inquiry
4. Opportunity for family carers to sit on benefit tribunals
5. Legal challenge to government plan to close the Independent Living Fund
6. Councils no longer required to meet 100% personal budgets target
7. Department of Health: Charging arrangements for adult social care services
8. Fund to create and modernise homes for independent living
9. Out in the Open – Tackling disability related harassment
10. Making Reasonable Adjustments to Dentistry Services for People with Learning Disabilities
11. Books Beyond Words
12. Warm Homes Discount

### London

13. Islington GPs and Making Sure Your Relative Is Safe resources

### North West and Midlands

14. Mencap – Planning For The Future events

### North West

15. Pathways event: Mind Full or Mindfull

**National Family Carer Network**  
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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 response to the draft Care and Support Bill consultation

Click [here](#) to read the National Family Carer Network's full joint response with NWTDT and Manchester Carers Forum to the draft Care and Support Bill consultation.

See also other responses from the [Carers with Learning Disabilities Network](#) and [Hft](#)

### 2. Winterbourne View update

Six of the 'care' workers at Winterbourne View were jailed last week after admitting a total of 38 charges of neglect or abusing patients. A further 5 were given suspended sentences.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-20092894>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-20084254>

<http://news.sky.com/story/1003016/winterbourne-view-abuse-ex-carers-jailed>

Alison Giraud-Saunders, Chair of the National Family Carer Network said:-

"Family carers were in the Bristol court today (26 Oct) to hear the sentencing of the Winterbourne View workers convicted of ill-treating people with learning disabilities. They showed great dignity and courage in thanking those who had helped bring the cases to court. We understand that the workers were only convicted of the crimes that were shown on 'Panorama', which may partly explain why the longest prison sentence given was for two years. It is good that these crimes were treated as disability hate crimes and we understand this was taken into account in sentencing.

Both the Care Quality Commission and charities such as Mencap have reported an increase in people contacting them with concerns about abuse. As Beverley Dawkins from Mencap says, this may well be because families now have greater awareness about how to raise concerns. The National Family Carer Network and Hft believe it is vital for families to know what to do if they have any concerns and we have published several useful resources - for families and those who support them:

When Things Go Wrong - click [here](#)

Making Sure Your Relative is Safe - Top Tips – click [here](#)

Making Sure Your Relative is Safe – Essential Guide – click [here](#)

A follow-up Panorama programme on Winterbourne – The hospital that stopped caring can be seen on bbc iplayer [here](#): (Please note - some of the content in this programme is very disturbing)

If you are affected by the programme or anything you see or hear about these sentences, please see [attached](#) a list of organisations who may be able to provide support.

### **3. Winterbourne View: New inquiry into earlier abuse claim**

Police have decided to review the assault on Ben Pullar at Winterbourne, that was highlighted on Inside Out West on Monday. The BBC article can be read [here](#):

### **4. Do you know family carers who would like to sit on benefit Tribunals?**

#### **Exciting job opportunity to have your say at benefit decision appeal tribunals**

314 job positions across England, Scotland and Wales are opening for applications on 27<sup>th</sup> November as a “Fee-paid Disability Member of the First-tier Tribunal (Social Entitlement Chamber)”

We have spoken to the Judicial Appointments Commission about this role and applications from family carers of a person who has a learning disability will be welcomed.

In this role, you would sit on a panel with a judge and a medically qualified person, to contribute to a decision whether to uphold a person’s appeal against a decision made about their social security benefit, which could include Disability Living Allowance.

#### **Some of the detail:**

You will be needed for a minimum of 15 days per year hearing cases at the tribunal, and a further 15 days doing other tribunal business, with the option for more work.

Tribunal hearings are normally held on week days and you would not be needed for more than 3 days in any one week.

You will be appointed to a primary venue close to your home and a secondary venue to be agreed with the tribunal.

The fee is £192 per day and all travel costs are paid.

There is flexibility around the dates you will be required for hearings and personal circumstances and commitments will be accommodated wherever possible.

Initial and on-going training is provided.

You will find more information [here](#)

You can speak to a member of the Judicial Appointments Commission for more information by email: [jaas@jac.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jaas@jac.gsi.gov.uk)

Or telephone: 020 3334 0123

## **5. Legal challenge to government plan to close the Independent Living Fund**

A judicial review has been launched to challenge the DWP consultation on closing the Independent Living Fund (ILF). Six disabled claimants who receive support from the ILF have started judicial review proceedings to challenge the consultation, which closed on 12 October.

The [Disabled People Against Cuts](#) group has written this [press release](#) about the legal challenge being launched against the ILF consultation. They ask everyone to use it to send to their local papers and others.

## **6. Councils no longer required to meet 100% personal budgets target**

The government has scrapped its target for councils to move all service users in the community on to personal budgets by April 2013. Care minister Norman Lamb announced that he had agreed a new target of having 70% of users on personal budgets by the same date, following talks with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

## **7. Department of Health: Charging arrangements for adult social care services**

This Local Authority Circular, published on 24 October, explains the revised charging arrangements for adult social care services, which should be applied from 29 October 2012. It covers the updated editions of the Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide (CRAG) and the Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services guidance.

<https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/publications/files/2012/10/Local-Authority-Circular-DH201231.pdf>

The revisions to the Fairer Charging guidance, applied from 29 September 2012, are primarily to take account of a change to the use of Guaranteed Income Payments paid under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. Changes to CRAG have also been made to reflect these revisions. The updated editions are available to view below:

[Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services updated October 2012](#)

[Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide updated October 2012](#)

The [updated editions](#) of the CRAG and Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services guidance.

## 8. Fund to create and modernise homes for independent living

The Department of Health on 26 October opened a £300 million fund to provide new and modernised homes designed to meet the needs of older people and people with disabilities. Local authorities will be able to bid for money from the fund to build specially designed new homes and to modernise existing specialised housing to bring it up to standard.

High quality, innovative housing helps people stay independent for longer by allowing them to receive care and practical help in their own home, reducing the need for them to go into care homes or hospitals.

Supported, or specialised, housing is designed to be accessible and aid independent living by having, for example:

- very few or no stairs
- cupboards that are at a reachable height for wheelchair users
- adapted bathrooms that are easy to access for older or disabled people
- handrails, to reduce the chance of falls
- their own individual front door

The fund will be run in partnership with the [Homes and Communities Agency](#) and the [Greater London Authority](#) (for London-based schemes), who will be assessing and evaluating the bids.

Find out more about [the housing fund programme and how companies can bid for funding](#) to help build these houses.

Read the [press release](#) on the housing fund.

## 9. Out in the Open - Tackling disability related harassment

The Equality and Human Rights Commission says that Authorities need to take further steps to ensure that harassment of disabled people is taken more seriously and doesn't escalate into the situation Fiona Pilkington and her disabled daughter Francessca found themselves in five years ago.

In 2011, the Commission carried out a ground-breaking inquiry into disability related harassment, which found that there was a systemic failure by public authorities and transport operators to prevent disability related harassment.

A follow-up report details the responses since then from government, authorities and transport operators. It shows that many are taking significant steps, making progress, individually and collectively, towards making a real difference.

These steps include:

- A commitment to monitoring Section 146 of the Criminal Justice Act and data sharing which will help to identify 'at risk' individuals;
- Addressing cyber bullying; and
- Tackling anti social behaviour in social housing.

But the Commission's evidence shows that actions taken to prevent and tackle harassment are patchy with some authorities doing nothing or very little at all.

The Disability Hate Crime Network still shows daily postings of reports on attacks against disabled people. Disability hate crimes recorded by police forces in England and Wales for 2011/12 increased by 24.1% on the previous year which suggests there are more hate crimes towards disabled people or more people feel comfortable reporting it. Yet other figures show that less than 3.0% of disability related hate crime is reported or recognised as such.

In its report '[Out in the Open: a manifesto for change](#)' issued this month, the Commission makes recommendations in 7 strategic areas which need to be addressed if disability harassment is to be reduced.

- Link to report with hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales for 2011/12 by police force area: [The Home Office: Hate crimes England and Wales 2011/12](#)
- [The UK government's formal response to the Hidden in Plain Sight recommendations](#)
- [The Disability Hate Crime Network](#)

## 10. Making Reasonable Adjustments to Dentistry Services for People with Learning Disabilities

The [Improving Health and Lives](#) website features a report which brings together a number of reasonable adjustments that have been implemented in dentistry services to improve access for people with learning disabilities.

The report can be read [here](#):

## 11. Books Beyond Words

This series of picture books actively addresses the problems of understanding experienced by people with learning disabilities, helping them to explore a range of issues from health to crime, and from relationships to community living.

The pictures are developed to inform and educate readers who may need help to cope with difficult situations from both an understanding and emotional point of view. The pictures also illustrate best practice, and a text at the back of each book provides guidelines and a range of resources for supporters and professionals.

37 A5 books have been published in the series since 1989 plus one A4 book, illustrated with black and white photographs, called A New Kind of Trainer: How to Develop the Training Role for People with Learning Disabilities. Information about all the titles can be found on [www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk](http://www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk) which also includes details of additional resources and details of our regular training workshops on how to use the books to support an individual or to set up a book club.

If you would like to have more information or to see a copy of the latest book catalogue, please contact Dorothea Duncan: [dduncan@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:dduncan@sgul.ac.uk)

## 12. Warm Homes discount

The Citizens Advice Bureau is currently promoting a Warm Homes discount which is available until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012. If you are receiving benefits or on a low income, you may be entitled to £130.00 credit to your electricity bill.

You can read more about this offer [here](#)

## London

### 13. Making Sure Your Relative is Safe

Every GP practice in Islington will be getting a copy of the 'Making Sure your Relative is Safe' [Essential Guide](#) and [Top Tips](#) out in the GP bulletin in the next couple of weeks so it should be available in all surgeries.

## North West and Midlands

### 14. Mencap - Planning For The Future events

The Planning for the Future events are free seminars, aimed at parents and carers who are wishing to leave money to benefit their child or relative with a learning disability when they are no longer around. They will be able to find out more from a local legal professional about writing their will and setting up a trust.

The next seminars will be taking place in the following locations:

Monday 5th November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Solihull, West Midlands

Tuesday 6th November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Warwick, Warwickshire

Wednesday 7th November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Cirencester, Gloucestershire

Thursday 8th November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Kidderminster, Worcestershire

Friday 9th November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Thursday 22nd November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Liverpool, Merseyside

Friday 23rd November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Manchester

Monday 26th November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Crewe, Cheshire

Tuesday 27th November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Lancaster, Lancashire

Wednesday 28th November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Preston, Lancashire

Thursday 29th November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Carlisle, Cumbria

Friday 30th November, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Chester, Cheshire

All places and venue details will be confirmed in writing 2 weeks before the event. More information can be found [here](#).

Places can be booked using the online booking form:

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/webform/book-place-planning-future-event> .

Alternatively, please contact Gina Collins on 020 7696 6925 or email [willsandtrusts@mencap.org.uk](mailto:willsandtrusts@mencap.org.uk)



## North West

### 15. Pathways event: Mind Full or Mindfull - support to reduce stress in your life that works

**Monday 10 December 2012 10:30am - 3:30pm**

**Suite 2, Waterside, St James Court West, Accrington, Lancs, BB5 1NA**

This is free (or a voluntary donation of £10 if possible) for Pathways Members or £20 for non members. If you want to come along and are not already a member but would like to be please let us know and we'll send a membership form to you.

#### **Who is the event for?**

Specifically for Families, Carers, Individuals and Self Advocates. We are also running another event in which everyone is welcome, contact Danielle, our Events Manager for more details : 07950 617 457 or [danielle.johnson@pathwaysassociates.co.uk](mailto:danielle.johnson@pathwaysassociates.co.uk)

#### **What will the day focus on?**

The workshop aims to introduce you to ways that will help you take better care of yourself. During the day you will learn new ways to deal with challenging physical sensations, emotions, moods and social Interactions.

**See our video of Emma, demonstrating the results:** <http://youtu.be/Tr0Ur-P9WZU>

#### **What is Mindfulness?**

Mindfulness is purposely paying attention in a non-judgemental way, to what is going on in your body, our mind and in the world about you. This moment to moment awareness is Mindfulness. It is about living in the present rather than dwelling in the past or being anxious about the future.

You can find more details [here](#) and read the flyer [here](#)

National Family Carer Network

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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](mailto: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.*