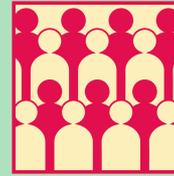


Bulletin



National
Family Carer
Network

www.familycarers.org.uk

Tel: 07747 460727

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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

Announcement of CQC's Chief Inspector of General Practice

The [Care Quality Commission](#) (CQC) has appointed Professor Steve Field as its first Chief Inspector of General Practice who will champion the interests of people using GP and dental services. Professor Field, a GP and past Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners, joins CQC from NHS England, where he was its deputy national medical director responsible for addressing health inequalities.

The Chief Inspector of General Practice will lead CQC's inspection and regulation of providers of primary care services across the public, private and independent sectors. As more care is provided to people outside hospital, the Chief Inspector has a particularly important role in ensuring those services are safe, effective, caring, responsive to people's needs and well led. Professor Field will champion the interests of people who use primary medical and dental services and make judgments about the quality of care provided. An essential part of the role will be to ensure that CQC is providing assurance that the health and adult social care services join up seamlessly from the perspective of people who use services. The appointment completes the CQC's new senior management team.

He will also introduce a ratings system for registered primary care providers. The system will identify good as well as poor care in order to support commissioning decisions and a more informed user choice, as well as providing assurance that the fundamental standards are met and action is taken where improvements are needed.

2. Learning disabilities, sex and relationships

[Contact a Family](#) have recently highlighted some of the issues around learning disabilities, education and having the 'talk' around sex and relationships.

Their Midlands-based reporter, Angie Crashley, has gathered some helpful advice from Gill Leno, Personal, Social and Health Education (PHSE) Specialist at Queen Alexandra College on having "the conversation" and talking about sex with your child. You can read this article, which also includes links to other useful resources, in the Contact a Family Midlands summer newsletter [here](#).

3. Changes to the special reasons why someone is not guilty of a crime

The Law Commission has recently published a Discussion Paper setting out provisional proposals for reform of the defences of insanity and automatism, based on lack of capacity. An easy read version of its discussion paper, "Criminal Liability: Insanity and Automatism" is available and can be read [here](#).

Further information and related documents are also available on the Law Commission website [here](#).

4. Government's benefits advisers say PIP changes could cause 'catastrophe'

The government's own benefits advice body has warned that last-minute changes made to eligibility for the new mobility benefit could have a "catastrophic" impact on some disabled people.

The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) says in a letter that some disabled people will "almost certainly" be forced to quit their jobs because they can no longer travel to work. Others may have to cut their working hours.

The committee says it is concerned about the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) lack of evidence on the impact of its decision to tighten the walking distance criteria for the enhanced mobility rate of the new personal independence payment (PIP) from 50 to 20 metres. The letter adds: "For some, especially in rural areas where public transport tends to be less available, it may not be an exaggeration to describe the impact as catastrophic with more disabled people becoming increasingly isolated."

To read the full article, please visit the Disability News Service [website](#).

5. No benefit for disabled people from integrated personal budget pilots

Right to Control undermined by inadequate support planning, finds evaluation for government.

Researchers also found that the quality of support planning "varied considerably" across the trailblazers, with many clients feeling that they were limited in exploring alternative forms of support. Staff were either not aware of alternative sources of support or the market in such support was not available.

Researchers said that Right to Control was most effective when:

- Staff explicitly told disabled people that they could make changes to their support;
- Disabled people received a meaningful choice of provision and information with which to make informed choices;
- Disabled people received help in arranging their support.

In its [disability strategy published last month](#), the government said it was considering the evaluation findings and would announce whether it planned to roll out Right to Control in due course.

For the full article, please visit the Community Care website [here](#).

6. New SeeAbility resources

[SeeAbility](#) have produced a new series of easy read factsheets "Getting the best eye care" and "If Things Go Wrong" to improve eye care for people with learning disabilities.

These have been written with the Association of British Dispensing Opticians, Local Optical Committee Support Unit, and the Optical Consumer Complaints Service.

Also available to download are "Telling the optometrist" and "Feedback from the optometrist". These documents help people with learning disabilities to have successful eye tests.

The factsheets are all available via the website [here](#).

London

7. Mayor's record for disabled Londoners under scrutiny

Leading disability charities have warned that transport improvements for disabled Londoners could be put at risk because of funding cuts and reports of ticket office closure plans.

A new report released this week assesses the Mayoral record on pledges to support disabled people in the capital. The report recognises that progress has been made this year but also calls on City Hall to do more to improve support for disabled Londoners across the capital. Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD), the National Autistic Society (NAS) and the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) jointly compiled the report. The charities hosted a hustings event during the election campaign in 2012 where all the candidates were questioned about their plans for disabled people.

Disabled Londoners were asked for their views on a range of subjects including access to transport, housing, health and jobs.

Further information, along with a full copy of the report, is available on the Leonard Cheshire website [here](#).

8. Personal Budgets in health and care - integration, personalisation and towards implementation

Morning, Thursday 23rd January 2014

Venue: Central London

This [Westminster Health Forum](#) Keynote seminar will be a timely opportunity to assess the impact that personal budgets will have on the commissioning and delivery of services. Delegates will discuss the role of Clinical Commissioning Groups, local authorities and NHS England in delivering personalised care following the publication of the Care Bill, which sets out a new legal right for everyone with a care and support plan to have a personal budget.

The agenda also focuses on the move towards the integration of health and social care, and what effect this will have upon patient health outcomes.

The agenda includes keynote addresses from Dr Alison Austin, Lead, Personalisation and Control, NHS England; Dr Angela Coulter, Visiting Fellow, The King's Fund and Dr Johnny Marshall, Director of Policy, NHS Confederation.

Costs:

- Places (including refreshments and PDF copy of the transcripts) are £190 plus VAT;
- Concessionary and complimentary places are made available in certain circumstances (but do be advised that this typically applies to individual service users or carers, full-time students, people between jobs or who are fully retired with no paid work, and representatives of small charities. Concessionary rate places are £80 plus VAT. Please be sure to apply for this at the time of booking.

For those who cannot attend:

- Copies of the briefing document, including full transcripts of all speeches and the questions and comments sessions and further articles from interested parties, will be available approximately 7 days after the event for £95 plus VAT;
- Concessionary rate: £50 plus VAT

For further details, including the agenda, and how to book, are available on the website [here](#).

9. Camden People First - Disco party

Saturday 21st September 6.00pm—10.30pm

Clarence Hall Bradfield Court, Hawley Road, Camden, London, NW1 8RN

Camden People First are holding a 70's themed disco party for over 18's on 21st September. Tickets are £5 on the door.

Click [here](#) to read the flyer with full details.

You can also contact their office on 0207 482 3539 or 0785 228 4535 and visit their website: www.camdenpeoplefirst.org.uk.

South East

10. Free workshops in Hampshire for family carers who have a relative with a learning disability

[Hft's Family Carer Support Service](#) is running a 5 week course of free workshops in Eastleigh for family carers of people with learning disabilities. The course is most relevant to family and friends supporting an adult with learning disabilities, but could be of interest if the individual is moving into adulthood, aged 14 or over.

The sessions will run on Wednesdays, from 10.00am to 2.00pm on the following dates:

25th September
9th October
23rd October
6th November
20th November

Sessions will include information, speakers and a chance to discuss:

- Your rights and entitlements as carers
- Health and wellbeing for all the family
- Making plans
- Employment and social opportunities for you and your relative
- Housing and support

Lunch will be provided and travel expenses can be paid

If you would like to attend, please ring 0117 906 1751 to request your booking form and return it by 3rd September. Alternatively, you can download a booking form via Hft's website [here](#).

For more information, please contact Susan Davies from the Family Carer Support Service at Hft on 0117 906 1751.

11. "I am me" Trust campaign to tackle learning disability stigma

Surrey and Borders Partnership has launched a new campaign to help tackle the stigma, discrimination and crime faced by local people who have a learning disability.

For more information and details about how to get involved, please visit the website: www.sabp.nhs.uk/iamme.

Here you can:

- Find out more about learning disabilities and get practical advice on reducing stigma and discrimination;
- Add a commitment, large or small, to the 'I am me' online Pledge Wall;
- Complete the online survey and help Surrey and Borders Partnership build a picture of public perceptions towards local people with learning disabilities.

People with a learning disability are more likely to experience mental ill-health, which can also cause stigma and discrimination. This element of the campaign is supported by the national Time to Change campaign which aims to put an end to mental health discrimination. You can find out more about this [here](#).

Yorkshire and the Humber

12. York PIP sessions for family carers

Monday 9th September from 10.00am to 12.30pm

Venue: central York

Are you a family carer of someone with a learning disability who is aged 16 or over? Do you want to know more about applying for Personal Independence Payment (PIP), which is replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA)? There are just a few places left for "PIP tips for family carers" in York on 9th September. This free half day session will give family carers the confidence and information they need to support their relative with their application for Personal Independence Payment. Come along for practical tips and information about:

- preparing for the PIP application
- filling in forms
- how the DWP assesses and scores people
- preparing for the face to face assessment
- the new appeals process; and more

For more information and to book your place, please contact Alison Cowen, [Lives Unlimited](#) on 01904 330606, text 07906 026 267 or email info@livesunlimited.org.uk

This event is being run in partnership with the Family Carer Support Service (FCSS). For more information about the FCSS and its work, go to: www.hft.org.uk/familycarersupport or call 0117 906 1751

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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.