

# Bulletin



[www.familycarers.org.uk](http://www.familycarers.org.uk)

Tel: 07747 460727

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

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**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. Call for information: The impact of advocacy for people who need support

The NDTi ([www.ndti.org.uk](http://www.ndti.org.uk)) have been engaged by the School of Social Care Research (SSCR) to gather and review evidence of the impact of advocacy for people who need support.

They believe that this work will help local authorities plan, buy and deliver more effective advocacy services. It will also provide vital evidence for organisations delivering advocacy services on existing and potential impact.

As part of this work NDTi are asking for information and evidence from a range of organisations and groups who either provide advocacy services or are involved in planning or commissioning them for the following groups of people who need support: adults (of all ages) and children; disabled people; people with mental health problems or learning disabilities; and self funders.

They are interested in different types of advocacy including: Self Advocacy; Peer Advocacy; Professional Advocacy; Representational (or Citizen) Advocacy and Family Advocacy. They are also looking for evidence of impact in different areas such as: outcomes for people supported; service delivery and design; financial outcomes and impact on policy / strategy.

For more detail on this project, please see the following page on the NDTi website (<http://www.ndti.org.uk/what-we-do/voice-choice-and-control/the-impact-of-advocacy-for-people-who-need-support/>).

### How you can help / get involved

Do you have information or evidence which you could share with us about the impact of advocacy services, or are you aware of other organisations / groups who may have this? If so the NDTi would be delighted to hear from you.

If you have or know of any information on the impact of advocacy services which you would be able to share or tell NDTi about, please contact Alison Macadam at NDTi on 01202 421480 or [alison.macadam@ndti.org.uk](mailto:alison.macadam@ndti.org.uk). They would be very grateful if you could send any information to Alison by **Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April**.

If you would like to register an interest in this review, and/or receive updates and learning materials as they are produced, please [click here](#).

## 2. 24/7 Grid

24/7 Grid is a tool which helps you design support around your daily life, calculate the costs and share your plans with your Circle of Support. Click [here](#) to visit the 24/7 Grid website for further details, pricing plans, and the different grids available.

### **3. Carers experiences welcomed on Clinical Reference Groups**

Would you be interested in providing a carer perspective on a Clinical Reference Group (CRG) or maintaining an interest as a “stakeholder”?

CRGs will bring together – on a voluntary basis – groups of clinicians, commissioners, Public Health experts, patients and carers, all of whom have a shared interest/expertise in a particular specialised service area. Their role is to provide the NHS Commissioning Board with clinical advice.

Each of the 76 CRGs will have 27 members – 4 of which will be patients and carers. If you do not have time to commit an average of 2 hours a month to the (unpaid) work you could register your interest as a “stakeholder” via the NHS Commissioning Board website from mid-April.

For more information (including the specialised topic groups) please visit the NHS England website [here](#).

### **4. Non-payment of travel time for care workers 'breaks minimum wage laws'**

The fact that many home care workers take home less than the minimum wage because they are not paid for travel time between visits is “a criminal offence and not acceptable”, care services minister Norman Lamb has said.

Speaking at Skills for Care’s recent annual conference, Lamb said he was looking into what could be done to make those care providers who do not pay for travel time “cough up the money they owe”, as well as the possibility of naming and shaming the worst offenders.

It has long been a concern that many home care workers are on zero-hours contracts (where the employer does not guarantee a fixed number of hours per week) and not paid for travel time between clients, so their take-home pay often falls below the national minimum wage. Unison estimates that up to 200,000 care workers could currently be affected.

Click [here](#) to read the full article on the Community Care website

### **5. Second edition of Easy News published**

The latest edition of Easy News - the first newspaper designed for people with learning disabilities - has been published. Using simple language and visual cues, the newspaper gives readers a round up of the biggest stories of the last few months.

You can download your copy of Easy News and sign up to receive future editions [here](#)

## 6. Report: Black And Ethnic Minority (BME) Parents and Carers Representation on Parent Carer Forums

Include Me TOO have produced a report regarding BME parents and carers representation and participation on parent carer forums. 48 of 150 parent forums participated and several community outreach workshops were facilitated in various regions directly with BME parents and carers regarding representation and participation; including their current views regarding their involvement in influencing local decisions and planning of services.

The report highlights BME parents and carers participation needs a coordinated approach, specialised assistance and resources. 40 out of 48 parents forums highlighted they need assistance and support in this area. This report is part of IM2's 'Time for REAL Action' research and work programme

The report further highlights greater collaboration with the BME voluntary and community sector is required and an investment towards BME parent and carer participation to ensure all parents/carers voices have a chance to be heard to influence and shape current and future services for their children.

For a copy of the report please email [im2@includemetoo.org.uk](mailto:im2@includemetoo.org.uk).

## South East

### 7. FestAble - free event

**Saturday 11th May 2013 11am – 4 pm**

**Brockenhurst College, Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7ZE**

The [Stable Family Home Trust](#) is organising FestAble, a free fun day on 11<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate the lives, skills and talents of people with learning disability.

There will be food, stalls, games, workshops, displays, theatre performances, music, dance and drama; an art, 3D and photography exhibition and much, much more.

If your group or organization supports or shares with people with learning disabilities, then you can have a stand, stall, activity or workshop at FestAble. This is an opportunity to tell the community what you do and what you are about.

For an information pack, application form, or for more details, please contact The Stable Family Home Trust on 01425 478043/ Mob: 07436036918 or email [mariondavies@sfht.org.uk](mailto:mariondavies@sfht.org.uk).

## Midlands

### 8. Free training about including people in church

[Building Bridges Training](#) are delivering four free training events across the Midlands over the next couple of months to enable people in local churches to include people with a learning disability.

Please see the flier [here](#) for further information and how to book.

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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.*