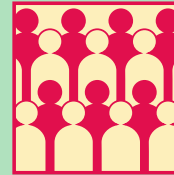


Bulletin



National
Family Carer
Network

www.familycarers.org.uk

Tel: 07747 460727

14th November 2013

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.

National

1. New website comparing adult social care services launched
2. Information, advice and brokerage case studies
3. NFCN Survey Reminder: Promoting family-led support
4. Cumulative Impact Assessment petition
5. Layers of Inequality: A human rights and equality impact assessment of the public spending cuts on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women in Coventry
6. EHRC's Disability Committee: end in sight for influencing legislation
7. 'Like Everyone Else' – Short Film

London

8. Free event: Faces of Caring exhibition

South East

9. The Autism Spectrum, Challenging Behaviour, Communication & Sensory Issues
10. Alladin – Relaxed Performance

North West

11. 'Your Future Your Choice': Free career fair for young people with a learning difficulty or disability

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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. New website comparing adult social care services launched

Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) data is being presented in a website that allows people to find out more about care services. On the website you can select your local authority from the map or drop-down menu, or type in your postcode to find out how carers and people receiving local authority funded care and support in your area rate factors such as:

- quality of their life
- satisfaction with care services
- feeling safe

The Department of Health has worked with the Health and Social Care Information Centre to produce a website that allows people to access, understand and use the ASCOF data.

To visit the website, please see the following link: <http://ascof.hscic.gov.uk/>

The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework for 2014 to 2015 has also been published this week and can be read [here](#).

2. Information, advice and brokerage case studies

Earlier this year [Think Local Act Personal](#) (TLAP) called for examples of how local authorities and others were implementing information, advice and brokerage projects that help people access care and support services. They now have a wide-ranging collection of local initiatives featured in 32 case studies live on the TLAP website.

The case studies have been grouped together into categories based on the main focus of each project, which include websites, prevention, brokerage/ peer support, assisted signposting, self-funders/financial advice, printed guides, remodelling services, and carers.

TLAP hope these will help councils and others as they develop their services in response to the requirements of the Care Bill.

To read the case studies, click [here](#).

Please also find a link [here](#) to the NFCN survey promoting family-led support on the TLAP website.

3. NFCN Survey Reminder: Promoting family-led support

For many years family carers have designed, developed and managed support for their learning disabled relatives. Their intimate experience of what good support looks like, their energy and passion, and their lifelong commitment to their relatives means that they are often best placed to lead this process.

Family-led support comes in various shapes and sizes; it can be 'hands-on' or 'arms-length'. It includes:

- Leading planning
- Managing a relative's direct payment to pay for personal assistants
- Coordinating 'pooled funding' on behalf of several people with learning disabilities
- Setting up a service
- Working in partnership with an agency.

Changes to the way that support for people with learning disabilities is funded and purchased means that families will have an even more important role to ensuring their relatives get good quality support. However, many families never consider the option of 'doing it themselves' because they do not know what it would involve, what the benefits are, or where they could get help.

Over the next two years the National Family Carer Network will be working to promote family-led support. We want to:

- Understand more about the experiences of families that have developed their own support;
- Find out family carers views family-led support and what help they would like to consider it as an option;
- Develop practical resources that provide families with the information, advice and assistance they need when thinking about arranging support themselves.

You can help by filling in a survey telling us about your current involvement in your relative's support and your views about what might happen in the future.

Click [here](#) to take part in the survey online.

To find out more about the work or request a paper copy of the survey, please contact Paul Swift:

Telephone **07740 946564** / **0117 9294365** or email: paulswift.research@gmail.com.

4. Cumulative Impact Assessment petition

This e-petition calls for a Cumulative Impact Assessment into the welfare changes, based specifically on the needs of disabled people, care users, and care providers.

For full details and to sign the petition, please click [here](#).

5. Layers of Inequality: A human rights and equality impact assessment of the public spending cuts on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women in Coventry

Layers of Inequality is a Joint Report of Coventry Women's Voices, Coventry Ethnic Minority Action Partnership, Foleshill Women's Training and the Centre for Human Rights in Practice, School of Law, University of Warwick. It highlights the impact of public spending cuts on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Women.

The report examines nine broad areas where the spending cuts are having, or are likely to have, an impact on BAME women. These areas are based on the priorities identified by individual women and organisations with whom the researchers consulted during the drafting of this report. The report concludes that many of the spending cuts will have a disproportionate impact on BAME women. Taken together, the combined impact of job losses and cuts to spending on welfare benefits, education, health, social care, legal aid and voluntary services will exacerbate existing inequalities between BAME women and other groups and pose a serious risk to some BAME women's human rights.

To read the full report, please click [here](#), and for the executive summary, please click [here](#). You can also find out more about the research on the University of Warwick website [here](#).

6. EHRC's Disability Committee: end in sight for influencing legislation

Fears about the future of disability rights have continued to be raised in the light of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's plan to disband its statutory body, the Disability Committee.

The proposal to replace the statutory body with an advisory one with no legal powers to make decisions on disability-related matters, follows an independent review carried out by disabled activist and former member of the Disability rights Committee Agnes Fletcher which recommended retaining the statutory status of the Disability Committee for another four years. Retaining its status, according to Fletcher, would have provided disabled people with the confidence that rights were being safeguarded at the highest level.

The minister for disabled people Esther McVey suggested to Disability Now last week that the Disability Committee lacked teeth.

But Mike Smith who was the committee's chair until December 2012, told Disability Now that he disagreed and that he suspected that the future of the Disability Committee had been decided before Fletcher's review.

To read the full article on the Disability Now website, please click [here](#).

7. 'Like Everyone Else' - Short Film

[7 Stream Media](#) has recently released a short film made for the [Basingstoke and District Disability Forum](#) to raise awareness of learning disabilities. To view the film, please click [here](#).

London

8. Free event: Faces of Caring exhibition

Friday 15th November 6.00pm – 10.00pm

The Hub 47-49 Tanner Street, London, SE1 3PL

[Netbuddy](#) have organised a Faces of Caring exhibition: a photographic celebration of the unique bond between disabled people and the people who care for them – family, friends and professionals.

As well as meeting some of the families who took part, the evening will be a chance to celebrate the Netbuddy community, and enjoy drinks and canapés. The event is free and open to all ages.

If you would like to attend, please email: Kat@netbuddy.org.uk.

South East

9. The Autism Spectrum, Challenging Behaviour, Communication & Sensory Issues

Saturday 25th January 2014 10.30am – 4.30pm

Thames Hall, The Kings Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Phoebe Caldwell and Autism Oxford Speakers are delivering an event on 25th January where topics covered will include: Disturbed behaviour, Sensory Overload, Self-harming, Cranial Neuralgia, Stress Factors, Hyper and Hyposensitivities, Emotional Overload, Hormonal Surges, Scotopic Sensitivity (Research & Practice; headphones, Irlen Lenses, Biohug Vests), Communication & more

Phoebe has over 30 years experience as a practitioner with people whose behaviour is described as 'challenging' but which is signalling distress. A Rowntree Research Fellow for four years, Phoebe trains professionals, therapists, managers, practitioners, parents and carers in the successful approach known as Intensive Interaction.

Costs: Professionals: £60 (£50 plus 20% VAT). ASC & Family members: £36 (£30 plus 20% VAT). Discounts available if needed - please contact Autism Oxford for details: info@autismoxford.org.uk.

For full event details, and to book a place, please visit the website [here](#).

10. Alladin - Relaxed Performance

Thursday 2nd January 2.00pm

The Anvil Theatre, Churchill Way, Basingstoke

[The Anvil Theatre](#) is putting on a specially adapted performance of their pantomime Aladdin, for those on the autistic spectrum and with other disabilities.

A relaxed performance means:

- The auditorium lights will remain on during the performance
- The foyers will be open and the audience is free to come and go during the performance
- There will be a Quiet Zone in the Linden Room (off the Circle Foyer)
- Music and sound effects will be quieter and the performances will be gentler in tone
- No pyrotechnics will be used
- Additional wheelchair spaces will be created
- The performance will be signed

For more details, click [here](#).

You can also prepare for your theatre visit with a visual story of the venue, which is available [here](#).

Please contact the Box Office to book tickets for this performance on 01256 844244. For group bookings: 01256 366935.

North West

11. 'Your Future Your Choice': Free career fair for young people with a learning difficulty or disability

Tuesday 26th November 2013 - Drop in anytime between 9.00am - 4.00pm

Floral Pavilion Theatre, Marine Promenade, New Brighton, Wirral, CH45 2JS

This is a free annual event for young people aged 14-25 with a learning difficulty or disability, and their carers. The fair is a great opportunity to speak to organisations specialising in employment, training, education, housing, health and adult services, and guests include Connexions and Wirral Met.

See the flyer [here](#) for details.

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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.