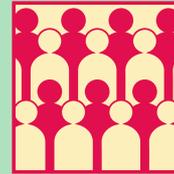


# Bulletin



National  
Family Carer  
Network

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

Tel: 07747 460727

19<sup>th</sup> December 2013

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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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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. Season's Greetings from the National Family Carer Network

The National Family Carer Network would like to share this [festive card](#) with all of our members to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year. Our office will be closed from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and we look forward to rejoining you all on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014.

## 2. One in five inpatients with learning disabilities is being treated 100km or more away from home

The [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) (HSCIC) has published a new report in response to events at Winterbourne View Hospital, providing information on hospital inpatients with learning disabilities in England.

Of the 3,250 hospital inpatients included in the 2013 Learning Disability Census, around one in five (18.2 per cent or 570 individuals) were staying in hospital wards 100km or more from their home. About the same proportion (19.6 per cent or 612) stayed in wards within 10km of their residential postcode and 7.7 per cent (240 people) were resident in hospital, with the same postcode recorded for both residence and hospital.

The census was initiated by the Department of Health and carried out by the HSCIC to provide figures to address some of the concerns laid out in the Government report 'Transforming care: a national response to Winterbourne View Hospital'. One of the concerns raised in Transforming care was the distance inpatients were from home.

You can read the full details of the report on the HSCIC website [here](#) and access the Learning Disability Census Report, along with further resources, [here](#).

## 3. The Challenging Behaviour Foundation launches the Everybody Matters Campaign

The [Challenging Behaviour Foundation](#) (CBF) and Frameworks for Change have made a new film - [Everybody Matters](#) – which will be launched in January showing that people with learning disabilities and complex needs can be supported locally. The film was made to demonstrate that good local alternative ways to support people, in contrast to units like Winterbourne View, can be developed.

Alongside the release of the film, the CBF are running a national postcard and social media campaign asking families who care for people with severe learning disabilities what they want for the future of their relative and what needs to change to make a good local life happen for them.

The postcard campaign will continue into March when the CBF will present the information gathered to key decision makers. To see the trailer for the film and the postcards collected so far, go to [www.everybodymattersfilm.wordpress.com](http://www.everybodymattersfilm.wordpress.com).

## 4. NIHR funded study into safety for patients with learning disabilities in NHS hospitals

The [National Institute for Health Research](#) (NIHR) has published its final report of their study into promoting a safer environment for patients with learning disabilities in NHS hospitals.

The objective of the study was to describe the factors in NHS hospitals that promote or compromise a safe environment for patients with learning disabilities, in the light of national recommendations that hospitals should:

- identify patients with learning disabilities
- provide reasonably adjusted services
- involve carers as partners in care
- include patient and carer views in service development.

The report can be downloaded along with related documents from the NIHR [website](#).

## 5. Public authorities show progress in tackling disability-related harassment but must do more

A new report published by the [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#) reveals that some public bodies have made progress in tackling disability-related harassment but overall, more needs to be done.

The report follows the Commission's Manifesto for Change published last year which made recommendations for organisations such as the police and local authorities to help prevent verbal and physical attacks on disabled people.

Since then, many of the Commission's recommendations - including better recording of incidents, improved support for victims and inclusion of disabled people in developing measures to tackle harassment - have been adopted.

The Commission welcomes the commitment and progress made by the government in putting the victim first within the justice system. These include changes to the way the law both protects disabled people and determines sanctions against perpetrators; the adoption of measures to tackle and manage repeat offending, and ensuring that resources are focused on those most in need.

It also notes the development of work by authorities on reporting, recording, and recognition of disability-related harassment, but is concerned to see that this remains a significant problem.

Click [here](#) to read the report *Manifesto for Change: Progress Report 2013*. You can also read more about the inquiry and responses on the EHRC website [here](#).

## 6. The Case for Care Leave: Families, work and our ageing population

This week, [Carers UK](#) published a short report [The Case for Care Leave](#) setting out the case for a statutory right to paid care leave for carers who are combining work and caring.

With a rising number of families providing care to ill, frail or disabled loved ones, the impact of caring responsibilities is being felt not just by families but workplaces, employers and the economy.

This report sets out the personal costs for families and the economic costs for businesses and the Exchequer of families being forced to give up work because they cannot get the right support.

You can read the report [here](#). You can also read more about the Carers UK campaign for care leave on their website [here](#).

## South West

### 7. Autism Hampshire Local Autism Directory

[Autism Hampshire](#) have recently launched a Local Autism Directory (LAD): a free, one-stop-shop of information. The LAD will help to connect the autism community, professionals, employers, and service providers, and help them access autism information all in one place.

It will provide information about many local issues including support groups, activities, schools, employment, housing, developments taking place across Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth, and neighbouring counties.

The directory also has clear and simply written autism research articles to help people stay up to date with new approaches and helpful information.

The directory can be found on Autism Hampshire's [website](#).

If you would like more information about the directory, you can email [autismdirectory@has.org.uk](mailto:autismdirectory@has.org.uk) or call 023 8063 3951.

## West Midlands

### 8. Kidz in the Middle - free event

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 9.30am – 4.30pm

Jaguar Exhibition Hall, Ricoh Arena. Coventry, CV6 6GE

This free exhibition from [Disabled Living](#) is dedicated to children and young adults with disabilities and special needs, their families, carers and the professionals who support them.

There will be over 120 exhibitors offering advice and information on funding, mobility, seating, communication, transport, leisure, and more, as well as free seminars for parents and professionals.

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

The visitors free entry tickets are available six weeks before the event and will also include the exhibitors list, a full timetable of all the free CPD seminars, and other features taking place throughout the day.

To receive tickets by post, or to be kept up to date as plans for the event progress, please contact Disabled Living by email: [info@disabledliving.co.uk](mailto:info@disabledliving.co.uk) or telephone: 0161 607 8200.

## North East

### 9. New opportunity for people with learning disabilities to join theatre company

**The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company**

**TD Studio, Westgate Community College, West Road, Newcastle, NE4 9LU**

The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company have received a grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to take on four new people with learning disabilities who are NEET (not in education, employment or training).

The four new people will attend the Twisting Ducks Studio at the Westgate Community College for 1 day a week, over 12 months, to develop skills in acting, directing, workshop facilitation, music, and film. With the support of The Twisting Ducks members, the four recruits will produce their own film and work towards an original live performance.

If you'd like more details, please contact Twisting Ducks by email: [thetwistingducks@googlemail.com](mailto:thetwistingducks@googlemail.com) or telephone: 07925167775. You can also find out more about the company on their website: [www.thetwistingducks.co.uk](http://www.thetwistingducks.co.uk).

## 10. Free information session to help you plan for the future

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014 11.00am – 1.00pm

Gateshead Carers, 11 Regent Terrace, Gateshead, NE8 1LU

Simpson Millar Solicitors are working with [Gateshead Carers Association](#) to offer a free information session to help carers understand how Powers of Attorney work and explain the purpose of setting up a Trust.

If you would like to attend, please contact Gateshead Carers by telephone: 0191 4900 121 or email: [enquiries@gatesheadcarers.com](mailto:enquiries@gatesheadcarers.com).

You can find more details about Power of Attorney and the free information session in Gateshead Carers' winter newsletter, which can be read [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](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.*