

Bulletin



National
Family Carer
Network

www.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. Care Quality Commission: New Chair announced

David Prior is to be the new Chair of the Care Quality Commission. He is currently Chairman of the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and has wider governance and industry experience.

David joins at a time of great scrutiny for the independent regulator of health and social care services. Dame Jo William's resignation in September was the second major change at the top this year for the CQC, with chief executive Cynthia Bower resigning in February following a troubled four years in charge. She was replaced by [David Behan](#) in June, 2012.

David Prior will take up his role as CQC Chair on 28 January 2013.

2. Easy Read Short Briefing in relation to Winterbourne

[Inclusion North](#) together with [NWTDT/ Pathways](#) have produced an Easy Read briefing relating to Winterbourne View, which can be read and downloaded [here](#).

3. Home Office: Victims to be given back their voice

Victims of antisocial behaviour and low level crime will be able to have their say on out-of-court punishments of offenders, the Home Office has announced.

As part of the ongoing shake-up of antisocial behaviour powers, Prevention Minister Jeremy Browne unveiled plans to introduce a [Community Remedy](#).

The new power will allow victims to choose from a list of punishment options, agreed with their local [police and crime commissioner](#) (PCC).

It is one of a number of measures designed to tackle antisocial behaviour which moved a step closer to becoming legislation following the introduction of a draft bill.

The full article can be read on the Home Office Website [here](#).

4. Department of Health: Liberating the NHS - No decision about me without me - Government response

The [Government's response](#) to its consultation on proposals for greater patient involvement and more choice has been published.

The response to the 'Liberating the NHS: No decision about me, without me' consultation outlines how patients will be able to choose from any provider in England when they are first referred to see a specialist in secondary care.

In addition, the response outlines plans more broadly to increase patient involvement in decisions about their care and treatment and to increase patient choice.

The full article along with links to further documents can be read on the Department of Health website [here](#).

5. New IHaL Study of in-patient care for people with learning disability

A new study using data from the annual Count-Me-In censuses of people in mental healthcare hospital beds specifically for people with learning disabilities has been published.

The census was done each year from 2006 to 2010 and covered all NHS funded care, whether provided by the NHS or in the independent sector. The study shows wide variations in both quality and the extent of use of these hospitals.

More details can be found at <http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/projects/ipbch>

6. CHANGE: Easy Read Solicitor Information

[CHANGE](#) has been working to develop easy read information to support people with learning disabilities through various aspects of the criminal justice system.

A number of free resources including: Notes of Rights and Entitlements (Police); Licence Conditions (Probation); and The Court and your Child can be accessed via the CHANGE website [here](#).

7. Hft's 2013 Holiday Information Guide

[Hft's Family Carer Support Service's](#) new 2013 Holiday Information guide is now available. The guide is packed full of ideas and information regarding holidays for people with learning disabilities, and includes:

- Pre-booking information
- Information on guides provided by other organisations
- Tour Operators
- Places to stay in the UK and abroad
- Meeting specialist health needs
- Specific Interest Holidays
- Insurance
- Available benefits and help

This guide is available to download from Hft's website (www.hft.org.uk/holidayinformationguide).

If you would like a hard copy, please send an A4 self-addressed envelope with postage for 146 grams weight (per guide) at £1.20 for 1st class or £1.10 for 2nd class, to the following address:

2013 Holiday Information Guide
Hft's Family Carer Support Service
5/6 Brook Office Park
Folly Brook Road
Emersons Green
Bristol, BS16 7FL

8. DWP Personal Independence Payment update

On Thursday 13 December the government presented parliament with the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) [regulations](#).

Under the Welfare Reform Act, PIP will [replace Disability Living Allowance](#) (DLA) next year. The regulations set out that, by May 2018, 600,000 fewer people will be in receipt of PIP than would have been the case under DLA – 450,000 of these are of working age.

The reassessment timetable will also be slower than anticipated. New claims will be assessed for PIP from April 2013 (in controlled areas), with a national roll out for new claims taking place from June 2013. October 2013 will see the start of reassessment, but the peak period of reassessments will be October 2015.

Updated information relating to Personal Independence Payments can be found in the Resources and Benefits section of the NFCN website [here](#)

South East

9. Autism, Asperger's & Mental Health Event

Saturday, 2nd February 2013, 12:15 for 1:00 – 5pm

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

Research has shown that Children, Young People and Adults on the autism spectrum are more likely to experience mental health problems. This [Autism Oxford](#) event will explore common issues and what may help

Clinical Perspectives

Sally Powis, Clinical Psychologist, Southern Health, Oxford

A Community Psychiatric Nurse – to be confirmed

Topics will include Positive Psychology, Therapies and Mental Well-Being

Personal Perspectives

Speakers on the Autistic Spectrum giving insights into their experiences of Depression, Anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Dissociative Identity Disorder and other mental health issues - and what has helped them

The afternoon will include a Q & A session featuring all of the speakers

Professionals £50 plus vat; People with ASC/Family members £30 plus vat.

Discounts available if needed. Please visit the website for further details and to book:

<http://www.autismoxford.org.uk>.

North West

10. Future Directions: 12 month project manager vacancy based in Oldham

An experienced Project Manager with a proven track record of delivering projects on time and in budget is required for Future Directions CIC.

This post has been set up specifically to implement national and local Government personalisation plans and the roll out of individualised/personalised budgets.

For more details, including application form, job description and person specification, please visit the Future Directions website here <http://www.futuredirectionscic.co.uk/management-vacancies/>

Closing date for applications is Monday 7 January 2013 and interviews are scheduled to take place on Monday 28 January 2013.

11. Mencap Liverpool: vacancies

Mencap Liverpool is a small charity based in the centre of Liverpool which helps individuals who have a learning disability and provides support to their family members.

They are affiliated to the national charity Mencap, (who provide some services in Liverpool), but are a separate charity, run by local people.

There are currently three opportunities to join their team:

Career Coach- 19 hrs/week £10,250-£11,250
Outreach Co-ordinator 37.5 hrs/wk £22,500-£24,500
Fundraising Manager 37.5 hrs/wk £25,000-£26,500

For all the details on how to apply please visit <http://www.mencapliverpool.org.uk/jobs/>

The closing date is Friday 18th Jan 2013 at 12pm.

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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.