

Bulletin



www.familycarers.org.uk

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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. Information on the Bedroom Tax from Housing & Support Alliance
2. Department of Health Policy Statement on Funding Reform
3. Children & Families Bill – impact
4. Department of Health website to move to GOV.UK in March 2013
5. Family Carers' Wellbeing study
6. Information for Students with Learning disabilities about applying for Further Education courses

Yorkshire and Humber

7. SeeAbility: Free information day for family carers – Leeds
8. Kidz Aware – free training sessions around Diversity and Equality

North West

9. Free Mental Health Act Events for Unpaid Carers – Liverpool

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. Information on the Bedroom Tax from Housing & Support Alliance

New Housing Benefit rules come into force in April 2013. These affect people renting from social landlords (local authorities, registered housing associations and other registered housing providers).

The new rules mean that tenants of working age who are 'under-occupying' property, i.e. living in something that the government has decided is too large for their needs, will have their Housing Benefit reduced.

For the full briefing, please visit the Housing and Support Alliance website [here](#).

If you have any comments about how these changes affect you or the person you care for, please do contact us at info@familycarers.org.uk

2. Department of Health Policy Statement on Funding Reform

Following the Government's announcement to implement a new funding model for adult social care, based on the recommendations of the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support, this document sets out further detail on what the new system will mean and how it may be legislated for. It will support pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Care and Support Bill.

Click [here](#) to read the full policy statement.

These funding reforms do not just affect pensioners. As soon as there is more clarity about how the caps will affect people of working age with care and support needs, we will share this with you.

3. Children & Families Bill - impact

[IPSEA](#) has produced three documents which explain what the Children & Families (C & F) Bill means for children with special educational needs (SEN) and/or a disability.

To read these documents, click [here](#).

4. Department of Health website to move to GOV.UK in March 2013

The Department of Health website will move to the new single website for government in March 2013. GOV.UK (<https://www.gov.uk/>) is the new single website for UK Government. In October 2012 it brought together government information and guidance from Directgov and Business Link into one place.

GOV.UK will also replace all UK central government department websites. Some departments can already be found in the 'Inside Government' (<https://www.gov.uk/government>) section of GOV.UK.

Information from the Department of Health will be found there from Tuesday 26 March.

Health content for citizens will remain on NHS Choices (<http://www.nhs.uk/>)

5. Family Carers' Wellbeing study

Do you care for an adult relative (aged 25 +) with a learning disability within your family home? Bangor University, in collaboration with Mencap Cymru and Cartrefi Cymru (who support people with learning disabilities to live in their community) are starting a new research project looking at the health of family carers.

The researchers want to find out about:

- Your experiences of being a carer.
- Your health and well-being.
- The support you get to help with your care role from friends and family.
- The support you get from social services and voluntary organisations.
- Your thoughts and plans about the future.

What does taking part involve?

You can either:

- Complete questionnaires on-line. For further information and/or to take part go to <https://survey.psychology.bangor.ac.uk/carerwellbeing> for English language information and questionnaires or <https://survey.psychology.bangor.ac.uk/iechydgofalwyr> for Welsh language information and questionnaires.
- Or contact Jillian Grey, details below, to receive further information and/or paper copies of questionnaires.

How long will it take?

The questionnaires have been carefully chosen for ease of completion. These should not take much longer than 20 minutes in total to complete.

For further information about how to take part, please contact: Jillian Grey, School of Psychology, Brigantia Building Tel: 01248 388255 Bangor University Email: j.m.grey@bangor.ac.uk

6. Information for Students with Learning disabilities about applying for Further Education courses

[Disability Rights UK](#) have produced an information booklet about applying for FE courses which can be accessed [here](#).

Yorkshire and Humber

7. SeeAbility: Free information day for family carers - Leeds Friday 19th April 2013 11am until 3pm Venue will be confirmed at time of booking

SeeAbility are holding a free information day in Leeds for family carers about eye care and vision.

The day will include presentations about eye tests, glasses, vision screening in schools and eye surgery. You will also have the opportunity to speak to a range of eye care professionals.

The day is just for parents and carers of children, young people and adults with learning disabilities.

It's an ideal day for those involved in planning for local services, to contribute to discussions and take information away. Everybody is welcome. Lunch and refreshments will be included

To book your place, please email Inclusion North at: info@inclusionnorth.org or call 0113 2626409. The venue details will be sent to you when you book.

8. Kidz Aware - free training sessions around Diversity and Equality

Kidz Aware is a charity that provides services to disabled children /adults and their families throughout Yorkshire and Humber and they are in the process of delivering FREE training courses in Wakefield.

These will be held at Jubilee Hall Community Centre, 5 Road Ends, Townley Road, Wakefield, WF2 8NS from 9.30am -12.00 noon on the following dates: Tuesday 26th February, Tuesday 5th March, Tuesday 12th March, Tuesday 19th March, and Tuesday 26th March 2013.

The aim of this training is to improve outcomes for families of a disabled person and carers, and young people, but also to ensure that the skills gained are put into practice to bring about an inclusive society for everyone.

The courses have been developed with input from parents and carers of disabled people and will cover the following key points:

- Session 1 Equality Duty and Disability Awareness
- Session 2 What Is Mental Health?
- Session 3 Addressing the Needs of Families with Disabled Young People
- Session 4 Bullying Racism and Disability awareness
- Session 5 Being a disabled Childs advocate

For more information and a booking form, please contact Kidz Aware by email: sabrina@kidzaware.co.uk or by phone: 01924 385 977.

North West

- 9. Free Mental Health Act Events for Unpaid Carers - Liverpool**
Friday 22 February 2013, 10.30am–2.30pm
Mencap Liverpool, 4th Floor, Federation House, Hope Street, Liverpool, L1 9BW.

Monday 25 Feb 2013 10.30am – 2.30pm
Liverpool Carers Centre, Local Solutions, Mount Vernon Green, Hall Lane,
L7 8TF

The Mental Health Act (1983) - What does it mean to me? Come to this free event and get some answers and helpful advice and information. Refreshments available.

This event is organised by Liverpool PCT and Liverpool City Council.

To book your place, call Nadia on 0151 233 4235 or e-mail nadia.cattell@liverpool.gov.uk to confirm your place and the date of the event.

You can also download an event flyer from the LCVS website [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. 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.