

Bulletin



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. Here to Stay Project research

The '[HERE TO STAY](#)' project addresses the need to increase our knowledge about people with learning disabilities from ethnic minority communities, including new migrants, living in England. We believe that better information about them and their needs will result in a better service delivery.

We are pleased to announce that the project research team now has ethical approval from the Social Care Research Ethics Committee to interview family carers and people with learning disabilities from ethnic minority communities especially those people who have arrived in England in the last ten years. It is the first time they have agreed to interviews with people without capacity to consent because we have shown how we will support people to contribute to the research. Please let us know of anyone who would like to be involved by sending their details to bridget.fisher@arcuk.org.uk

We also have an [online questionnaire](#) for family carers who may prefer that to being interviewed.

2. Law Commissions' review of the regulation of health and social care professionals - publication of Consultation Analysis

The analysis of responses to the consultation paper on the regulation of health and social care professionals project has been published on the Law Commission website. The document can be accessed via a link from this page - <http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/consultations/healthcare.htm>

The document sets out the range of responses received during the consultation. The final report and a draft Bill is expected to be published in early 2014.

3. Improving the Uptake of Health Checks for Adults with Learning Disabilities. Evidence into practice report no.6

This report from [Improving Health and Lives](#) aims to identify common success factors and barriers to implementing health checks, using information from interviews with representatives from PCTs who have done consistently well at delivering a high number of health checks, as well as some PCTs who have not done so well. It builds on, but does not replace current health check guidance.

You can read the report [here](#).

4. Social Policy Research Unit, University of York report: Transition to adult services and adulthood for young people with autistic spectrum conditions

Many young adults with autistic spectrum conditions (ASC) fail to achieve their potential outcomes in the early years after leaving full-time education. Access to transition support and appropriate services within the adult sector are key issues.

This study explored ways in which young people with ASC (including those with high functioning autism and Asperger's syndrome) are supported over the transition period and into young adulthood. It also sought to understand and describe the experiences of young adults and their parents during this period.

The researchers investigated ways in which statutory services provided transition support to young people with ASC including those outside of special educational needs (SEN) transition arrangements and/or not known to disabled children's teams. The report covers:

- Transition pathways and plans to leave school
- Experiences of further education
- Planning for leaving college
- The lack of post-education options
- Experiences of employment and support for those with HFA and AS (including positive practice examples)
- Independent living
- The role of parents
- Implications for services

The summary and main report are available [here](#).

5. Guardian article: Paralympics stars express concern over losing disability allowance

British Paralympic stars have voiced anger about the imminent disappearance of the [Disability Living Allowance](#), a benefit they say provided them with vital support during training.

The athletes have expressed concern that they may not be eligible for its replacement – the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) – which will be available to fewer claimants when it is introduced in April with tightened qualification criteria.

You can read the full article on the Guardian website [here](#).

6. Don't be an April fool - legal aid cuts imminent

On April Fools' Day – April 1st – this year, there will be huge changes to the way the legal aid system operates. As of April 1st, legal aid will no longer be available for several areas of law, meaning that in these areas you will no longer be entitled to free legal advice.

The affected areas of law include appeals against a benefits decision, most housing disrepair issues, private family law matters (including divorce, and contact with children), employment issues, and most education matters.

So if you have concerns which may require legal assistance in any of these areas remember to do it before the 1st April, whilst free advice is still available. So act now, seek legal help with your problems before April 1st, and don't be an April fool.

For more information on the cuts to legal aid, go to <http://www.savelegalaid.co.uk/thefuture.html>, or to find your nearest legal aid lawyer go to <http://legaladviserfinder.justice.gov.uk/AdviserSearch.do>.

7. CHANGE Photo Image Bank

CHANGE are pleased to announce their new **Sexual Health & Relationships** resource containing over 100 photos and 500 illustrations to help you support people with learning disabilities to talk about sexual health issues.

You can use this resource to create easy read documents using the images in the collection. [Click here](#) for more information or call **0113 388 0011**.

The Collection is a downloadable product which you install on your computer. Special introductory offer - 25% off full price on all licenses.

To get an insight into what the photo image bank is, please take a look at this [video](#) made by the volunteers and staff at CHANGE.

8. Down's Syndrome Association: My Perspective Photographic Competition 2013

The competition is open to anyone with Down's Syndrome. You can enter 3 pictures per person and the deadline is Friday 26th April 2013.

For full details and how to submit entries, please visit the DSA website [here](#).

South East

9. BILD event: Undatable? Not me?

Friday 22nd March 2013

Venue: The Oxford Hotel, Oxford

BILD is running an event on the 22nd March about relationships, dating, sex and staying safe.

Undateable? Not me! is a day of people's stories and practical advice about friendships and relationships; about meeting, dating, spending time together or breaking up; about sex and your right to choose; and about keeping healthy and staying safe, too.

You can find out more about the event and book a place on the BILD website [here](#).

10. Art Exhibition - University of Portsmouth

Monday 18th of March from 4.00pm to 7.00pm.

Venue: The Hub, Schiama Building, University of Portsmouth

The [Autism Research Network](#) are putting on an art exhibition by two artists with Asperger syndrome, Jon Adams and Ross Knowles. Jon Adams is the artist in residence at the University of Portsmouth and Ross Knowles is a very talented local artist.

The event includes an art exhibition, presentations by the artists and a reading from "Where there is a Bill there is a way", a book written by Bill Furlong, a writer with Asperger syndrome.

Admission is free but please email Autism.Research@port.ac.uk or call 023 9284 2016 to book a place or for more information.

11. Blue Apple Theatre: Living Without Fear

A new touring production from the award-winning [Blue Apple Theatre](#), Living Without Fear presents the experiences of young adults with learning disability trying to lead independent lives in the face of daily harassment and prejudice.

Performances are as follows:

Wednesday 27th March 7.30pm. Winchester Discovery Centre, Jewry Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8SB. Box Office: 0845 603 563, for information [click here](#)

Tuesday 16th April 7.30pm. The Lights, West Street, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 1AH. Box Office: 01264 368368, [click here](#) for information

Friday 26th April 2pm. The Mill Studio, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Millbrook, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 3UX. Box Office: 01483 44 00 00, [click here](#) for information

South West

12. BAVA resources to help people with learning disabilities recognise and get help to deal with domestic abuse

Bristol Against Violence and Abuse ([BAVA](#)) is a collection of people and organisations in Bristol working to end all types of violence and abuse against women and girls and domestic and sexual violence against men. The following two resources have been produced to help people with learning disabilities identify what domestic abuse is and give clear advice on what to do if it happens:

[Learning Disabilities and domestic abuse teaching pack](#)
[Learning difficulties and domestic abuse drama](#)

Yorkshire and Humber

13. Calderdale Parents and Carers: Early Intervention Key Worker for Families of Disabled Children £20,813.96 per annum (35 hours a week) Fixed until 31st December 2013 (extension subject to funding)

As a result of a grant from Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council, [Calderdale Parents and Carers](#) are recruiting an Early Intervention Key Worker for Families of Disabled Children.

The ideal candidate will be passionate about achieving the best possible outcomes for families of disabled children, supporting them to broker high quality support and co-ordinating agencies to respond swiftly, appropriately and in a joined up way. You will be responsible for supporting families of disabled children to achieve the best outcomes using the approaches outlined in Calderdale's Early Intervention Strategy:

- Using resources jointly for those in greatest need
- Delivering services early and locally
- Involving people in decision making
- Encouraging collaboration
- Developing innovative and new ways of working
- Celebrating success

You will have a dynamic and positive approach to problem solving, have outstanding interpersonal skills and have a tenacity that will ensure that you always work to support and empower families in spite of challenges. If you think you could make a difference to the lives of families of disabled children in Calderdale, please ring or email for an application pack. 01422 343090 / info@parents-and-carers.org.uk

For an informal discussion please contact Chris Easton chris@parents-and-carers.org.uk or 01422 343090.

Closing Date: Monday 18th March 2013 5.00pm
Interview w/c 25th March

North West

14. NWTDT Manchester event: Winterbourne - There must be another way!?

7th March 2013 10:00am - 16:00pm

Venue: Double Tree by Hilton Hotel (M1 3DG)

An [NWTDT](#) conference with workshops: this event is a post-Winterbourne opportunity to identify positive, outcome focussed alternatives to expensive, out of area placements and assessment and treatment units.

To book online or download an event flyer, please visit the 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.