

Bulletin



www.familycarers.org.uk

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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. Letter to the Chancellor to invest in care

As members of the Care and Support Alliance, the National Family Carer Network signed a letter to the Chancellor asking him to invest in care and a powerful booklet of case studies that illustrate the value of the right social care. The letter was handed to the George Osborne by Richard Hawkes, CSA Chair. The booklet demonstrates our strength and breadth as members of an alliance and will hopefully send a strong message to the Chancellor about the need to invest in social care in the Spending Review.

The letter and booklet are available on [the Care and Support Alliance](#) website.

2. The Health Equality Framework and Commissioning Guide

The Health Equalities Framework (HEF), an outcomes framework based on the determinants of health inequalities, provides a way for all specialist learning disability services to agree and measure outcomes with people with learning disabilities. Indeed, it can be used by all services with regard to their effectiveness in tackling health inequalities for people with learning disabilities. It also has the potential to be developed for other vulnerable groups.

Importantly, the tool can be used by family carers working in partnership with services, to agree personalised priorities and to monitor outcomes, particularly for people who may lack capacity to do this for themselves.

The Health Equality Framework and Commissioning Guide can be downloaded from the NDTi website [here](#) either as a whole document, or in relevant sections. Associated presentations are also available for download via the weblink above.

Also a presentation by Alison Giraud Saunders to family carers can be viewed [here](#).

3. Department of Health - Adult safeguarding: statement of government policy

The government has recently updated its policy statement on safeguarding adults who are vulnerable to abuse and neglect. It includes the statement of principles for Local Authority Social Services and housing, health, the police and other agencies to use, for both developing and assessing the effectiveness of their local safeguarding arrangements.

To download the document, please click [here](#) to visit gov.uk website.

4. Cheap PC and broadband deals for family carers and others on certain benefits

Get Online @ Home, the government scheme run in partnership with Microsoft that intends to get more UK citizens using the Internet, has dramatically lowered the prices on refurbished PCs. For people on certain eligible benefits, a internet ready PC is just £24, plus £2.99 per month for broadband.

Microsoft Refurbishers provide the low cost laptops and computers which are at the heart of this offering, and [Simplifydigital](#), a price comparison service accredited by Ofcom, offer a number of broadband solutions from a selection of independent Internet Service Providers (ISPs). It is part of the [GO ON UK](#) initiative launched in 2012 to boost the digital capability of UK small and medium sized enterprises, charities and the millions of adults who have never been online.

Customers must be a registered UK charity or receive at least one of the following benefits to qualify for the cheaper price: Housing Benefit, Income Support, Jobseeker's allowance, Pension credit, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance / Constant Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Incapacity Benefit / Employment and Support Allowance, Disability element of Working Tax Credit.

To benefit from this offer, please call 0800 090 1297, or visit www.getonlineathome.org.

You can also find out more on [Go On UK](#) website.

5. Contact a Family: Family guide launched

[Contact a Family](#) has published the latest in its range of [benefits guides](#) for families with disabled children to coincide with the launch of personal independence payments (PIP). PIP will replace disability living allowance (DLA) for those aged 16 plus.

Initially PIP will only apply to those making a brand new claim. Then, from October 2013 DLA claimants whose existing award ends, or who report a change of circumstances, or who turn 16 will be re-assessed under the PIP system.

At first glance the new PIP may seem very similar to DLA. Like DLA it is not means tested and has two components - a mobility component and a daily living component which considers the need for care and assistance. However, PIP uses entirely new rules to decide whether you qualify for the benefit. There will also be a new way of assessing claims, normally involving a face-to-face meeting with a health professional.

If you are a parent of a disabled child and are worried about benefit and welfare issues or to get a copy of Personal independence payment and other benefits at 16, please ring Contact a Family's freephone helpline on **0808 808 3555**, email helpline@cafamily.org.uk or visit their website <http://www.cafamily.org.uk/>.

6. The BILD Code of Practice for the Use and Reduction of Restrictive Physical Interventions - a review

The BILD Code of Practice is now 12 years old and in its 3rd edition. Significant areas of the Code have been revised and re-written with each edition and have helped guide the criteria towards a more fundamentally positive behaviour support based approach.

Following the Department of Health workshop in November 2012, prior to the publication of the final Winterbourne View report, stakeholders were sent a copy of the Code of Practice and invited to a series of review meetings that set out the context or a review of the Code, the reasons for initiating this and the timescales for a refreshed Code of Practice.

BILD are now opening the review to a wider audience and would welcome views.

They have set out a series of questions which highlight some of the main issues raised and for which they would like to know the views of as many people and organisations as possible. You are welcome to add more general comments about The BILD Code of Practice.

The closing date is 1st July 2013.

The review questions document can be downloaded [here](#).

7. Integrating health and social care personal budgets

These two guides focus on the integration of personal budgets across health and social care. The guides highlight that improving the experience and quality of care for individuals and supporting them to achieve better health and social care outcomes are the most important aspects of integration work.

The guides are aimed at health and social care staff who are involved in the implementation of personal and personal health budgets and who want to develop local systems for individuals who would benefit from an integrated budget.

The guides draw together the early learning from fourteen pilot sites that have been working in collaboration with the Department of Health with the aim of exploring how best to integrate budgets across health and social care. They include some practical examples from pilot sites.

Click [here](#) to download the guides via the NHS England website.

8. Five new appointments to the Care Quality Commission Board

Five new commissioners have been appointed to the board of the Care Quality Commission (CQC). They are Louis Appleby, Camilla Cavendish, Paul Corrigan, Jennifer Dixon and Michael Mire.

Dr Jennifer Dixon is Chief Executive of the Nuffield Trust and has just completed a review into ratings for health and social care. She is a former member of the Healthcare Commission board, a former advisor to the NHS Chief Executive, and the former director of policy at the Kings Fund. She is also a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

Camilla Cavendish is an award-winning journalist, Associate Editor of the Sunday Times and is currently leading the Cavendish Review, an independent review into the training and support of healthcare assistants. She has been an analyst at McKinsey & Company, Chief Executive of the South Bank Employers' Group and assistant to the Chief Executive at Pearson Plc.

Professor Louis Appleby is currently the national clinical director for offender health, having been national director for mental health from 2000-2010. He is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Manchester. He developed the national suicide prevention strategy for England.

Paul Corrigan is a former health policy advisor to Tony Blair and former special advisor to Alan Milburn and John Reid. He is adjunct professor at Imperial College Institute of Global Health.

Michael Mire is currently a senior partner at McKinsey & Company, where he has over 30 years of experience. He has focused on retailing, financial services and transformation. He is retiring from McKinsey this year.

9. Humour - no more throw away people

Why, Government wondered, did every time they tried to solve a problem, did the problem seem to get worse?

The Parable of the Blobs and Squares shows that there is more to people than their problems, that the solution to problems lies in the problem itself, not in an imposed solution, and that co-production matters!

What do you think? Are you a square or a blob?

<http://nomorethrowawaypeople.org/>

London

10. Calling all Family Carers of people with learning disabilities from BME Communities - free BME family carer workshop

Thursday 11th July 11.00 – 2.00pm

Centre 404, 404 Camden Road, London, N7 0SJ

[Turning Point](#), supported by the National Family Carer Network, is holding a free BME Family Carer Workshop on 11th July. Turning Point want to hear your views about personal services, direct payments and what the future of support should look like. They want to know what you think about individual support, are you keen to go down this path or have you tried and it hasn't worked?

Click here to download the [flyer](#), [agenda](#), [booking form](#), and [venue map](#).

Lunch and refreshments will be provided, and travel expenses with receipts will be reimbursed.

This event is free, however booking is essential as places are limited. To book a place, please complete the booking form above and return by email to Rachel Gibson at the National Family Carer Network: info@familycarers.org.uk.

If you have any queries, or would like more information, please ring Rachel on 07747 460727 or Oi Mei Li, the director of NFCN on 07718 134877.

East England

11. Essex Mencap: Open Meeting

Thursday 18th July 2013 10.00am - 2.30pm

**Lindsey Street Community Association, Crampton Road [off Lindsey Street]
Epping, CM16 6RP**

Essex Mencap are holding their third Open Meeting on 18th July for anyone interested in children or adults with a learning disability. Speakers will be addressing housing, hate crime, health, benefits and cuts.

For further information, visit the website [here](#). Alternatively, please email: hope.nott@btinternet.com or ring 020 508 9532.

Yorkshire and Humber

12. SeeAbility: Free Family Carer Conference

Friday 5th July 10.30am – 3.00pm
Central Leeds

SeeAbility are running a free informative, discussion based conference to highlight the issue of promoting access to eye care for people who have a learning disability. This will include speakers from the eye health profession and chaired by Scott Watkin.

- The prevalence of sight problems
- Eye tests for people with a learning disability by an optometrist
- Vision screening in schools and the treatment of problems by orthoptists
- Eye conditions, surgery reasonable adjustments by an ophthalmologist
- The support available from rehabilitation workers for the visually impaired

This conference is for parents and family carers of children, young people and adults with learning disabilities.

More information and booking details can be found on the [flyer](#).

If you would like further information about this event, please email Laura Christie: l.christie@seeability.org. You can also find out more on the [website](#).

North East

13. Mencap - Know Your Rights event in Newcastle

Tuesday 25th June 2013 10.00am – 4.00pm
St James's United Reformed Church, Northumberland Road, Newcastle NE1
8JF

If you are worried about how the cuts could change the help, support and benefits you get, Mencap's Know your rights event will help you.

You can find out how cuts might affect you, how to challenge the cuts to learning disability services and keep the support you need, and get together with other people with the same worries.

To book a place, please contact Jo Davies on 0207 696 5462 or by email jo.davies@mencap.org.uk

For more information on this and other Know your rights events you can email Mencap on campaigns@mencap.org.uk, phone 0207 696 5577, or go to: www.mencap.org.uk/know-your-rights-events

North West

14. Bond Holidays: Accessible holidays and cabaret showbars

Bond Holidays specialise in fully accessible holidays for people with disabilities and special needs. For guests travelling without their usual support they can also provide care packages and respite breaks. To accompany your holiday they can also provide door to door accessible transport to fully cater for your break.

To find out more, please visit their website: <http://www.bondhotel.co.uk/>

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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.