

Bulletin



www.familycarers.org.uk

Tel: 07747 460727

10th January 2013

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. Department of Health: Personal Health Budgets Information
2. "Friends and family" test to expose poor care in the NHS
3. Access to Elected Office Strategy
4. Health Inequalities & People with Learning Disabilities in the UK annual report
5. New Summary Information Sheets from the CBF
6. Books Beyond Words workshops
7. From child to adult: a guide to disability, transition and family finance
8. BILD Staff member appearing on The Undateables
9. Questionnaires on Easyhealth
10. Oska Bright Short Film Festival
11. Mencap CEO leaving

East England

12. Better eye care for people with learning disabilities – Free event
13. We Do Care – January events

South West

14. Care manager in court over neglect charge

South East

15. Challenging Behaviour courses

North West

16. Venture Arts opportunity: Consultant – Organisational Development

National Family Carer Network

Tel: 07747 460727 • www.familycarers.org.uk

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. Department of Health: Personal Health Budgets Information

The Winter 2012 edition of 'Update', the personal health budgets information sheet, has been published - including all the news about national rollout of the policy across the NHS.

This edition includes:

- Headline story: Personal health budgets to roll out following pilot evaluation
- Government response to the evaluation
- New good practice toolkit for NHS health and social care practitioners, and stories from the pilot

Download the toolkit and watch the stories via the links below.

[Winter 2012 'Update' newsletter \(pdf - 1.09Mb\)](#)

[New good practice toolkit](#)

[Watch patient and clinician stories](#)

2. “Friends and family” test to expose poor care in the NHS

A new ‘friends and family’ test – where patients and staff are asked whether they would recommend the service to a loved one – will be introduced into every hospital in England from April 2013 and the Prime Minister wants that to go further, with GP surgeries, district nursing and community hospitals all adopting the measure.

The full article with further links can be read [here](#).

3. Access to Elected Office Strategy

On 9th July, the Government announced the launch of the Access to Elected Office Fund. The Fund has been made available to help meet the additional support needs that a disabled person has that are associated with their disability. The Access to Elected Office Fund offers individual grants to disabled people who want to be considered for selection as candidates for an election, or are standing for election. The upper limit for individual grants has recently been raised from £10,000 to £20,000 in any calendar year.

To apply to the fund or to find out more, please visit the Access to Elected Office Fund [website](#), or send an email to enquiries@access-to-elected-office-fund.org.uk with your name and contact details and the fund administrator will get in touch with you. If you want information about the fund in alternative formats, the fund administrator can provide them for you.

The fund website, www.access-to-elected-office-fund.org.uk, contains information about which elections are covered by the fund and how disability is defined under the Equality Act 2010. If you would like to help raise awareness of the fund amongst people who are eligible, there are some resources for you to use which are available on the resources page of the Access to Elected Office Fund website, www.access-to-elected-office-fund.org.uk/resources.

4. Health Inequalities & People with Learning Disabilities in the UK annual report

This annual report from [Improving Health and Lives](#) summarises the latest evidence about the extent, nature and determinants of health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities in the UK. Each year the report includes a more detailed look at evidence related to particular groups of people with learning disabilities. In 2012, it focuses on the health of people who show challenging behaviours.

The report can be read [here](#).

5. New Summary Information Sheets from the Challenging Behaviour Foundation

[CBF](#) have summarised all of their [information sheets](#), so it is now quicker and easier to find key facts about challenging behaviour.

CBF's information sheets are written by experts and cover a wide range of topics connected to challenging behaviour and severe learning disabilities. The [new summary versions](#) contain all the key points of the full information sheets, but in a more accessible format.

If you need more detailed information, the full information sheets can still be viewed on the website, downloaded, or ordered by post.

6. Books Beyond Words workshops

On 18th January 2013, [Books Beyond Words](#) will be running two half day workshops at the House of Lords (Millbank House which is part of the parliamentary estate just opposite the main buildings).

Only a few places remain for the workshop in the morning, which will look at the development of the books and their practical uses in education, supporting children as they progress through school with various topics relating to life experiences. This module will run from approximately 10am to 1pm and may be of interest to carers/parents of younger people still in education. The afternoon session is about the use of books in Therapy.

Presently we are able to offer the half day workshops on 18th January at a lower rate. This rate is open to family members/carers/supporter on restricted/low or no income.

Books Beyond Words are able to offer these places for the cost of refreshments and materials as follows:

Half day course without lunch but with refreshments and a free book and discount code for additional book purchase **£11**

Full day course including lunch and refreshments, one free book and discount code for additional book purchase **£18**

Provisional dates and topics for 2013 are as follows:

14th March 2013 - Book Club Workshop

19th April 2013 - Therapy Workshop

11th July 2013 - Morning workshop - Book Club Afternoon workshop - Schools and Education

11th October 2013 - Book Club Workshop

5th December 2013 - Workshop

Tickets for a full day workshop cost £145 including lunch, refreshments and training pack. A special rate of £95 applies for students, supporters accompanying self-advocates and if you buy two or more tickets together. There is no charge for self-advocates. Subsidized places may be available, please contact Mel Coulton.

If you are interested in attending any of the above workshops or need any further information, please contact Melanie Coulton on 020 8725 2784 (Mondays) or email mcoulton@sgul.ac.uk

7. From child to adult: a guide to disability, transition and family finance

A free booklet has been produced by [Working Families](#) with sections for parents and carers and disabled young people, a step-by-step guide to better-off calculations, and a list of useful publications, organisations and websites.

It answers questions such as: How are family finances affected when a disabled child becomes an adult? When is it most advantageous for a young person to start claiming their own benefits? Can parents change working hours to fit with a disabled young person's new regime?

The booklet can be accessed [here](#).

8. BILD Staff member appearing on The Undateables



BILD staff member Kate Brackley (pictured above, left) is appearing on the Channel 4 programme [The Undateables](#) on 22nd January. To promote the show, she appeared on ITV's This Morning with Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby on 8th January, which you can still view for the next few days on the ITVPlayer [here](#).

Kate has written a piece her appearance on This Morning, which you can read here: <http://www.bild.org.uk/news-and-whats-on/bildnews/>. This will be updated next week with Kate's story about how she got to go onto the Undateables and what being filmed was like, then after broadcast she will be writing about how she felt about the programme and the whole experience. You can also visit Kate's page on the on the Undateables website [here](#).

9. Questionnaires on Easyhealth

In order to prove that Easyhealth is a needed and invaluable resource, they are asking for your feedback in order to try and attain funding from April 2013 onwards.

Please could you take a few moments to fill in the questionnaire that most applies to you:

If you are a parent or carer ,please use this [link](#) or put it into your URL bar at the top of your computer: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VJLMW9S>

If you are a professional, please use this [link](#) or put it into your URL bar at the top of your computer: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V3BTN5Y>

If you are someone with a learning disability or you work with someone with a learning disability who could fill this in, please fill in the PDF questionnaire [here](#). alternatively you can access this questionnaire here: <http://www.ldhealthnetwork.org.uk/docs/ques.pdf>

10. Oska Bright Short Film Festival

The 6th festival of short films made by people with learning disabilities takes place later this year, and is open for entries until Tuesday 30 April.

Full details of how to enter are on the website at www.oskabright.co.uk.
Alternatively you can email oskabright@carousel.org.uk or telephone 01273 234 734.

The festival itself is 17th-19th November 2013, in Brighton.

11. Mencap CEO leaving

Mencap's CEO, Mark Goldring has announced he will be leaving in April to take up the post of chief executive at Oxfam GB.

Click [here](#) to read the message from Jim Glover, Mencap's Chair.

East England

12. Better eye care for people with learning disabilities - Free event

Thursday 24th January 2013

9:30am- 4:00pm

Park Inn by Radisson, Telephone House, Wentworth Street, Peterborough

This free event by SeeAbility and the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi), is designed to give participants the knowledge and tools to improve eye care for people with learning disabilities.

For further information and to book a place, please go to -
<http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/events/event.php?eid=2208>

13. We Do Care - January events

[We Do Care](#) are running a Karaoke Disco for people with learning disabilities on Thursday 17th January 2013 from 7.00pm to 10.00pm at The Fairway Tavern, Old Hens Lane, Welwyn, AL7 2ED.

Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Support staff free.

There is a licensed bar and free parking. Ages 18 and above.

There is also a Creative Dance and Drama Session combining role play, mime, music and drama on Thursday 24th January 2013 at 11.00am to 1.00pm at the Corn Exchange, Fore St, Hertford, SG14 1AL. Please note due to age of this venue there are limited facilities for wheelchair users. Please contact We Do Care on the numbers below for further information.

The cost is £4. Support staff free.

We Do Care can provide support staff and transport to events. Please call Carolyn on 07763 120438, or Jacqui on 07922 804039 to discuss your requirements, or visit the [website](#).

South West

14. Care manager in court over neglect charge

A second care manager has appeared in court accused of ill-treating or neglecting a disabled man who scalded himself in the bath. Martin Collingwood, faced Plymouth magistrates after the man was badly injured by hot water at an address in Wotter.

Gareth Warden, for the Crown Prosecution Service, said Collingwood had been a manager for Apex Care Solutions, which took on the care of a man with severe learning difficulties. He added: "He was put into a bath which was extremely hot and severe injuries were caused." Mr Warden said that the disabled man needed several operations and skin grafts.

Magistrates ruled that the case was so serious that it should be heard at crown court. Collingwood was released on bail to appear before magistrates again on March 18th. The full news article can be read on the "This Is Cornwall" website [here](#).

South East

15. Challenging Behaviour Training Courses

The [Kent Challenging Behaviour Network](#) has launched new one-day training courses designed for front line staff and managers.

Challenging Behaviour in Learning Disability Level 1 looks at how services can reduce the likelihood of challenging behaviours. Challenging Behaviour in Learning Disability Level 2 explains how Positive Behaviour Support techniques can be used to plan effective responses to reduce challenging behaviour.

The cost of the training is subsidized by the KCBN to keep the price to £30 per delegate. The course is administered by the Kent County Council Adult Services Learning Resource Team. Each delegate will receive a certificate authorized by both KCC and the KCBN. For further information and an application form, please see <http://kcbn.co.uk/>.

North West

16. Venture Arts opportunity: Consultant - Organisational Development

[Venture Arts](#) has secured funding from Arts Council England for a focused piece of organisational development to support the organisation through a period of exploration and options appraisal towards developing a five to ten year business plan.

Venture Arts is looking for an experienced arts consultant or consultancy team, to work closely with its Management Committee, Manager and staff team to help formulate and deliver a business development strategy that will secure a sustainable future for the organisation.

Venture Arts works within the field of visual arts predominantly with people who have a learning disability. Having expanded greatly over recent years the organisation now needs to evaluate its current work and establish future pathways which will:

- Identify potential strategies for sustainability and growth for the organisation
- Strengthen opportunities in the arts for learning disabled people in the North West

Download further information about this opportunity [here](#) and visit the Venture Arts website: <http://www.venturearts.org>.

Please direct all enquiries to amanda@venturearts.org.

The closing date is Friday 25th of January 2013.

National Family Carer Network
07747 460727
www.familycarers.org.uk

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.