

Bulletin



National
Family Carer
Network

www.familycarers.org.uk

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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.

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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. Free Benefit Guide 2013 for family carers

[HfT Family Carer Support Service](#) have written a '[Guide to benefit changes for family carers and people with learning disabilities from 2013](#)' and two appendices giving information about [PIP activity descriptors and scoring](#), and [PIP passported benefits](#).

The guide gives detailed information about the changes coming up to; Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Carers Benefits, Council Tax Benefits, Social Fund, changes to the appeals processes, and work related benefit support. It is a working document and will be updated as soon as we receive news of any more changes.

HfT are aware it is a large document to print off at home, so if you would like a hard copy (for free, they only ask for cost of postage), please could you send a self-addressed envelope with stamps to the value of £1.20 (first class) or £1.10 (second class) to:

Benefits Guide 2013
Family Carer Support Service
Hft
5/6 Brook Office Park
Folly Brook Road
Emersons Green
Bristol
BS16 7FL

2. Access to work update

From 14th January 2013, disabled people who want to set up their own business will be able to get help from Access to Work if they enrol on the [New Enterprise Allowance \(NEA\)](#).

The NEA provides expert coaching and financial support for jobseekers with a business idea. Strong take up of the NEA scheme in its first year has seen more than 8,000 businesses set up by jobseekers across the country.

Access to Work support can help pay for specialised equipment, support workers and travel costs when setting up a business. The measure aims to boost the half a million disabled people already self-employed who make up 15 per cent of those who are in work.

For further information, please see the following links:

www.gov.uk/access-to-work

[Access to Work Factsheet](#)

[Employer's Guide to Access to Work](#)

www.gov.uk/moving-from-benefits-to-work/starting-your-own-business

3. 38 Degrees campaign: Private health companies - Pay Your Tax

[38 Degrees](#) are campaigning to make sure that private companies who provide NHS services pay full levels of tax.

Private health companies are lobbying Monitor, the government body in charge of the review. They want to be exempt from paying taxes like corporation tax on the profits they make from taking over NHS contracts. If they are successful, millions could be lost in tax revenue and NHS contracts will be even more profitable for private health companies.

To join the 38 Degrees campaign click here and email Monitor:

<https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/nhs-monitor-tax-consultation>

4. Reform of Judicial Review

In December the Government announced a Judicial Review Reform Consultation which ends on January 24th. This has potentially huge implications for everyone, including carers who may need to challenge (or help someone they are supporting or caring for to challenge) decisions or processes.

The Public Law Project have produced a briefing paper to help organisations respond to the consultation. Click [here](#) to read.

This note explains why the consultation should matter to all those concerned about preserving judicial review as one of the most important checks on the abuse of state power. When carefully analysed, it emerges that the key proposals could seriously damage access to justice if implemented in their current form – it is vital that these implications are understood, and, where appropriate, the proposals are resisted.

5. Postural Care and the eLearning Zone

[Debra Moore Associates](#) in conjunction with Sarah Clayton and Postural Care CIC have announced the launch of a new elearning course for Postural Care.

What is Postural Care?

People who find it hard to move are most at risk of developing body shape distortions, children with cerebral palsy would be an example of this or older people who may have experienced a stroke. This is because they often sit and lie in limited positions. Postural care is about using the right equipment and positioning techniques to help protect and restore body shape. The earlier the intervention, the better - but it is never too late to start protecting someone's body shape.

To find out more please follow this link to the [Debra Moore Associates eLearning Zone](#) or visit the Postural Care course information [here](#).

6. Invitation to consultation focus group on provider code for supporting people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges

The Driving Up Quality Alliance invites you to attend a consultation focus group on developing a code for providers of services to people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges. It is proposed that the code will include a set of principles that providers will publicly sign up to and self-assess against and open up to validation by independent experts by experience.

The Driving Up Quality Alliance is a group of provider representative organisations and large individual providers that are committed to taking radical steps to both avoid the recurrence of what happened at Winterbourne View and ensure that people with learning disabilities with behaviour that challenge can look forward to an ordinary life with high quality housing and support in their communities. The organisations involved in developing the proposal are the Housing & Support Alliance, English Community Care Association, Voluntary Organisations Disability Group, Sitra, Association for Real Change, National Care Association, Adults with Learning Disability Services forum, National Care Forum, NHS Confederation, Shared Lives Plus, Four Seasons Healthcare Group and the Independent Healthcare Advisory Service.

The draft code will be produced in early February and we would like to make sure that there is as much input as possible from providers, commissioners, people with learning disabilities and families, as well as other national organisations who are working to improve services for people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges.

The Driving Up Quality Alliance proposes to develop a web site based on the code that enables providers to openly publish how they are working towards the code. The website will also include links and resources that support them in driving up quality. In addition, the alliance proposes to support a network of Experts by Experience that work independently of providers that can be recruited by providers to give an independent assessment on how the provider is working towards the code. We will also be consulting on how best to do this.

The consultation workshops will be held on the following dates for 2013;

Birmingham : Monday 18th February

Leeds : Wednesday 20th February

Bristol : Thursday 21st February

London : Friday 22nd February

Workshops will run either from 10-12.30 or 1.30-4pm on each of the above dates.

Venue details will be confirmed in January.

If you wish to book a place please email kate.newrick@housingandsupport.org.uk by Friday 1st February 2013 and confirm which date and AM or PM session you will be attending.

7. WELD article: People with learning disabilities over-represented in criminal justice system

Last week, the [UK forensic and learning disabilities network](#), one of a range of networks run throughout the UK to provide information to people supporting people with learning disabilities, circulated a note about a report from west Yorkshire.

Although a local report, the findings have a wider relevance. The report was commissioned by the West Yorkshire Probation Trust and set out to review the evidence on the probation journey experienced by people with a hidden learning disability or limited English.

The review was carried out by background research and interviews with staff and service users. The review team found a good deal of evidence to support the notion that people with learning disability and learning difficulties are over-represented in the criminal justice system.

The review team pointed out however that the probation service did not have a systematic approach to ensuring such people are provided with an accessible and equitable service.

To read the full article, please visit the website [here](#).

8. BBC 4 Radio Broadcast - Word Of Mouth: Autism and Learning Difficulties

Michael Rosen meets parents, researchers and carers to explore the ways we communicate with people with autism or profound learning disabilities. Phoebe Caldwell talks about the principles of "intensive interaction", and why listening and non verbal communication are central to her work. Researchers at the Norah Fry Research Centre in Bristol explain why changing the way we communicate with people with disabilities can challenge preconceptions, and make relationships more open, friendly and equal.

Click [here](#) to visit the BBC 4 website and listen to the broadcast.

9. Training for carers with learning disabilities

[Mencap](#), on behalf of the Carers with Learning Disabilities Network, have been given some funding by [Skills for Care](#) to run two workshops.

The workshops are for carers with learning disabilities. The first will find out what training would be helpful, and the second will try out the training ideas.

The training will give carers a chance to share their experiences, learn from others, develop new skills and help other carers with learning disabilities. Hopefully, it will also be fun!

There are 15 places available, and Mencap ask that people sign up for both sessions as the content of session 2 will be based on the needs identified by participants at session 1.

The sessions will take place in London, at the [Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities office](#) at London Bridge.

Workshop 1 is on Friday 15th February, 11am - 2.45pm

Workshop 2 is on Monday 18th March

Unfortunately, whilst Mencap aim to make the sessions as accessible as possible, they do not have the funding to provide supporters for participants.

They would be grateful if organisations who have carers with learning disabilities who would like to be part of these sessions could support this pilot work by sending along supporters.

Please see [here](#) for more information and how to apply to be a participant.

If you have any queries, please contact Lucy Virgo at lucy.virgo@mencap.org.uk or on 07796 948 733

South East

10. Oxford based learning disability charity seeks social enterprise manager

[“Yellow Submarine”](#) is setting up a social enterprise in Oxford: a kitchen/cafe where sandwiches and smoothies are made and sold on the premises by young people with learning disabilities.

The aim is to provide training and real jobs in the heart of the community as well as a safe/supported meeting place. Yellow Submarine have secured a retail unit in the centre of Oxford on a road with significant footfall and plan to start trading in March 2013.

They are looking for an energetic, creative individual to manage this social enterprise.

For more details, and how to apply please visit:
<http://www.yellowsubmarine.org.uk/vacancy.php>

Closing date: 31 January.

Interviews: 8 February.

11. Free Workshop - Mental Health in Learning Disability

The [Kent Challenging Behaviour Network](#) is pleased to present this half-day workshop facilitated by the mental health charity [Rethink](#).

The workshop is designed to provide an introduction to mental health issues for people with learning disabilities. The session will cover:

- assumptions about behaviour of people with learning disabilities and how this may be influenced by mental health issues
- recognising signs that someone may have a mental health problem
- where to get help
- tips to support people to maintain good mental health

This workshop is free to attend, however spaces are limited. For more information and to apply for a space, [download the flyer here](#).

North West

12. North West Associate Musicians Needed

[Drake Music](#) breaks down disabling barriers to music through innovative approaches to teaching, learning and making music.

They are looking to appoint freelance associate musicians on a project-by-project basis to build the team in the North West. The successful candidates will contribute to the design and delivery of an extensive programme of music workshops, training, and research & development.

Please visit the website [here](#) for further details.

Application is by letter and CV to abigailward@drakemusic.org. Deadline: 5pm January 31st

If you are shortlisted you will be asked to meet for an informal interview. Job descriptions are downloadable [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.