

Bulletin



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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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. Winterbourne View Hospital: Department of Health review and response

The Department of Health has recently published its final report into the events at Winterbourne View hospital and has set out a programme of action to transform services.

The final report can be downloaded via the website [here](#). An easy read version is also available.

2. Call for Evidence - Mental Capacity Act 2005

The House of Lords Committee appointed to consider and report on the Mental Capacity Act 2005 has now published its call for evidence. The Committee welcomes all views from experts and those with first-hand experience of the Act. The deadline for submissions is 2nd September 2013.

The full text of the call for evidence can be viewed here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/mental-capacity-act-2005/news/committee-launches-its-inquiry/>

You can follow the progress of the inquiry via the Committee website here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/mental-capacity-act-2005/>

3. Hft: Family Carer News Digest

The summer 2013 edition of the Family Carer News Digest is now available from Hft's Family Carer Support Service. It includes the story of family carers in Yorkshire who led the development of new accommodation for their relatives, plus regular features on health, BME, ageing, money matters, safety, rights and technology; Government news, and lots more.

For your free copy, visit www.hft.org.uk/newsdigest or send an A4 self-addressed envelope with stamps to the value of £1.20 (1st class) or £1.10 (2nd class), to the following address:

News Digest
Family Carer Support Service
Hft
5/6 Brook Office Park
Folly Brook Road
Emersons Green
Bristol
BS16 7FL

4. People with Learning Disabilities in England 2012: Annual Report

Improving Health and Lives' annual report has now been published. It covers a wide range of information about population numbers, education, health and social care. The report, along with an easy read version, can be downloaded via the website:

http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/publications/1185/People_with_Learning_Disabilities_in_England_2012

5. Guardian article: Autism charity condemns new rules on eligibility for social care

The government has betrayed people with autism by proposing unrealistic thresholds for who should be eligible for help and by enshrining the poorest of care standards in law, say charities.

The National Autistic Society said new criteria for those who should receive social care completely "overlooks" autistic people who would not be recognised as needing support. Many people with autism already struggle to have their condition identified. Fewer than half of English councils have any system in place for diagnosis, and some can be particularly vulnerable to neglect and abuse, but councils would not be obliged to help under the new criteria, says the NAS.

Mark Lever, chief executive of the NAS, said: "The proposals for who qualifies for social care support leave the government's spending review promise in tatters. The government has been hailing its investment to join up health and social care, asserting it will mean vulnerable people receive the support they need in the first instance, and don't have to wait until crisis point before the system takes notice and steps in.

Lever added: "Only 63 out of the 152 local authorities [in England] have a diagnostic pathway in place for adults with autism, so a huge group are at risk. Social care support should be assessed by actual need, not just what's written on a piece of paper."

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

6. Vote Misfits

The team that led the Confidential Inquiry into deaths of people with learning disabilities is currently working with the [Misfits theatre group](#) (a group of actors with learning disabilities) to make a DVD of the key messages from the Inquiry. This will be available in the autumn. The Misfits have now reached the final 7 (of over 900 entries) in the Arts Category of this year's National Lottery Awards. The winner will have a BBC programme made about their work and will be interviewed on the One Show.

The group would really appreciate it if you could spare a moment to vote for them, which you can do online [here](#).

7. Getting it Right from the Start - volunteer-led healthcare project

Getting It Right From The Start is a project being piloted by Mencap in partnership with four clinical commissioning groups: East Surrey, Exeter and Mid Devon, Northamptonshire, and North Tyneside, supported by a locality co-coordinator and a Lead GP.

The main aim of this three-year project, which started in August 2011, is to make reasonable adjustments to primary care services for people with a learning disability. This will improve the quality of service at GP practices.

Mencap is working with a group of volunteer champions (people with a learning disability) and mentors (who support the champions) to support GP surgeries. Volunteers provide action plans on 'reasonable adjustments', and deliver workshops on learning disability awareness to GP surgery staff. The outcomes of the project are to create online resource on learning disability for GPs, Quality Standards which GPs can implement in their practices, formative and summative evaluation reports, and a range of other useful resources including newsletters, videos and case studies.

You can read an interim evaluation report [here](#) which details the progress, learning and recommendations from the project, as well as the key challenges faced when implementing this partnership working project with CCGs. You can also read more information about Getting It Right – From the Start project, on the Mencap website here: <http://www.mencap.org.uk/what-we-do/our-projects/getting-it-right-start>.

London

8. 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 really want to hear your views about personal services, direct payments, and what the future of support should look like. They want to hear what you think about individual support - are you keen to go down this path or have you tried and it hasn't worked? What would the ideal look like for you? If you would like to have your say, please do come along.

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. 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 or ring 07747 460727.

9. Learning Disability Today London 2013

Thursday 28th November 2013

Olympia Conference Centre, London

This year's conference and exhibition event features keynote speaker, Norman Lamb MP, as well as a panel discussion hosted by David Brindle, Public Services Editor at The Guardian. The panel will discuss the current landscape of the sector in response to budget cuts and the progress of the changes set out in the Department of Health paper 'Transforming care: a national response to Winterbourne View hospital' and the accompanying 'Concordat: Programme of Action.'

The CPD certified Seminar programme includes topics such as Evaluating services and outcome measures, Hate crime, A life with Autism, Personalisation, and Mental health services for people with learning disabilities.

There will be more than 70 exhibitors including: the Care Quality Commission, RNIB, Lifeways, and the Housing and Support Alliance. There will also be a number of interactive zones on the exhibition floor covering areas such as Health, Advocacy, Going Out, and Families.

Cost: Free to attend for people with a learning disability, unwaged carers, natural supports, and full-time students (£25 for waged).

For full programme details, and to register for a place, please visit the website:

<http://pavilion-live.co.uk/learningdisabilitytoday-events/>

South East

10. United Response's family fun day

Saturday 6th July 2013 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Seaford College, Lavington Lane, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0NB

United Response is a national charity that supports people with learning disabilities, mental health needs, and physical disabilities to take control of their lives.

As part of their 40th anniversary celebrations, they are holding a flagship event at Seaford College in West Sussex. There will be a range of activities for all the family, including a climbing tower, archery, and garden games. Refreshments and a BBQ will also be available.

The party starts at 2pm and finishes at 6pm and is free to attend.

For more details, please visit the website [here](#).

Yorkshire and the Humber

11. KeyRing Self Advocacy Support Service

Based across North Yorkshire, the KeyRing Self Advocacy Support Service works alongside people with Learning Disabilities, to ensure that they have their say about the services available in their communities.

They support self advocates to tell the North Yorkshire Learning Disability Partnership Board and Local Area Groups their opinions and recommendations on things such as:

- Using Transport
- Feeling Safe
- Health and wellbeing
- Day opportunities
- Housing
- Money and personal budgets

Self Advocates have said the following things about their involvement with the service, 'I feel important' and 'I know my rights'.

The service is open to anyone who has a Learning Disability and lives in North Yorkshire (all areas except York). Keyring are actively encouraging new people to be involved as they firmly believe that everyone should be able to have their voice heard. There is no cost to the individuals involved, and each area of North Yorkshire has its own accessible Local Area Group, so there is an opportunity for everyone.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in getting involved, please contact Belinda on 07824 327 149 or email on Belinda.Croce@keyring.org.

Keyring would also be interested in hearing from you if you would like to offer your time as a volunteer. Volunteers could help build the confidence and skills of the Self Advocates, assist them in travelling to and participate in meetings, help them to understand information and present their opinions, and to share this knowledge with others in their communities.

Please contact Kirsty on 07779 297875 if you would like to have an informal chat about how you could get involved. Kirsty.morgan@keyring.org.

You can also find out more about the work of Keyring on their website [here](#).

North West

12. Kidz up North - free exhibition event, Manchester

Thursday 21st November 2013 9.30am – 4.30pm

Event City, (next to the Trafford Centre), Phoenix Way, off Barton Dock Road, Urmston, Manchester, M41 7TB

Kidz up North is holding a free exhibition for children and young adults with disabilities and special needs, their parents, carers and the professionals who support them.

The event features more than 130 exhibitors offering up to date advice and information on equipment, products, and services. It also includes a Funding Point, where you can access information on alternative funding streams for equipment and much more.

A full programme of free CPD seminars for professionals and parents will be running alongside the exhibition. You will have the opportunity to update your knowledge and understanding on particular topics such as moving and handling, transition, sleep issues, toileting issues and much more. A full timetable will appear on Disabled Living's website and within the visitors free entry ticket as plans progress.

The visitor's free entry tickets will be mailed/emailed to those who have requested them approximately 6 weeks prior to the event. To pre order your tickets, or for more information, please contact Disabled Living on 0161 607 8200 or email info@disabledliving.co.uk. You can also find out more on their website: www.kidzupnorth.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.