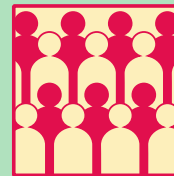


# Bulletin



National  
Family Carer  
Network

[www.familycarers.org.uk](http://www.familycarers.org.uk)

Tel: 07747 460727

30<sup>th</sup> May 2013

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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. Report from the 2nd TLAP National Personal Budget Survey

Personal budgets (PBs) and Personal Health Budgets (PHBs) are a way of informing individuals who need support and their families how much money their council or the NHS will make available to them to meet their needs.

Twenty-two volunteer councils in England took part in the 2nd National Personal Budget survey. The work was carried out on behalf of [TLAP](#) by the charity In Control, the survey was undertaken using In Control's Personal Budgets Outcomes Evaluation Tool (POET). The tool asks local users and carers about the impact of PBs in important areas of their lives and support. It also gives them a chance to express their views about outcomes and process.

The survey of more than 3,300 people who use PBs in social care and their carers has found positive results when people have taken up PBs.

The survey found that:

- Over 70 per cent of people who hold a PB reported a positive impact on being independent, getting the support they need and want and being supported with dignity
- Over 60 per cent reported a positive impact on physical health, mental wellbeing and control over their support
- A further 50 per cent reported a positive impact on feeling safe in and outside their home, and in their relationships with paid supporters. The survey found only small numbers of people reporting any negative impact.

For the first time, the same survey was also run with 195 people who hold personal health budgets (PHBs) and 117 of their carers. This group reported similar positive results as those with social care PBs.

The full reports and documents are available on the TLAP website [here](#), which include details of the key findings and the methodology employed.

## 2. Turn2us Benefits Awareness site launches

[Turn2Us](#) is a charitable service which helps people access the money available to them: through welfare benefits, grants and other help.

They have recently launched its dedicated Benefits Awareness website which aims to make it as easy as possible for anyone who is concerned or unsure to find out if, when and how the changes to benefits and the benefit system may affect them.

To find out more, please visit the Turn2Us website [here](#).

### **3. Leeds council tackles bedroom tax with semantic solution**

Leeds council has come up with a novel way of sidestepping the controversial bedroom tax: reclassifying more than 800 "spare" rooms in its social homes as "non-specific rooms".

The creative wordplay means tenants in affected properties are not classed as under-occupying their homes and do not have to pay a surcharge as a result.

The government's housing welfare reform, which came into effect in April, reduced housing benefit to council or housing association tenants, who ministers claim have more bedrooms than they need. The measure is estimated to have affected around 660,000 people, who are losing an average of £14 a week.

But in what appears to be a legitimate loophole, Leeds council is to reclassify around 837 spare bedrooms. Those who have already been subject to the bedroom tax and have lost out on housing benefit in the last two months are set to be refunded.

Read the full article on the Guardian website [here](#).

### **4. Guide to the Healthcare System in England**

This guide explains organisations in the healthcare system and how they work together and includes the Statement of NHS Accountability. The Guide to the Healthcare System in England covers:

- providing care
- commissioning care
- safeguarding patients
- empowering patients and local communities
- education and training
- supporting providers of care
- the role of the Secretary of State for Health

The accountability statement explains how decision making works in the NHS and fulfils the commitment set out in principle 7 of the NHS Constitution. The guide will be updated annually.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guide-to-the-healthcare-system-in-england>

### **5. Petition about the Work Capability Assessment**

Following the decision of 3 judges that the present Work Capability Assessment substantially disadvantages people who have mental health problems, autism and learning disabilities, 38 degrees have started a petition calling upon the Department of Work and Pensions to scrap the assessment until it has been revised and made fit for purpose.

The petition can be found at <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/scrap-the-unjust-work-capability-assessment>.

## 6. Petition to rule out limiting access to NHS GPs

The Conservatives are floating plans to cap the number of times we are allowed to visit our GP. If we run out of visits – because we've got a sickly child or long-term health condition, for example – we could be forced to pay to go elsewhere.

At the moment it's just a proposal. But if the Conservatives don't see a big public backlash, it could soon be a grim reality. 38 degrees have raised a petition to bring this to raise an outcry as quickly as possible and push them to drop the idea immediately.

Sign the petition now to tell health minister Jeremy Hunt to rule out limiting our access to NHS GPs: <https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/dont-cap-GP-visits>

## 7. A Picture of Health - easy read

This website helps clinicians across the South West of England provide Easy Read information to people with learning disabilities.

You can use this website to print these Easy Read examples that are being used by other clinicians in the South West to help you and your patients. If you modify any documents please acknowledge the original source.

The range of Easy Read information on this website has been developed either locally, nationally, or from other NHS areas, and is shared between many specialist clinical networks. These specialist networks have collected these examples to share with you, for you to adapt or use.

<http://www.apictureofhealth.southwest.nhs.uk/>

## London

### 8. MULTI ME Free Introductory day

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am-3.30pm

Choice Support, 100 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7XA

[Multi Me](#) is running a free introductory day kindly hosted by Choice Support in London.

The day is for people that want to find out more about the Multi Me platform and how it can help people with learning disabilities (and other vulnerable groups) as a communication and empowerment tool and can also facilitate the development of online person-centred plans and virtual circles of support sitting alongside and strengthening traditional safeguarding strategies.

Please contact Charlie Levinson on 07966 193930 or email [info@multime.com](mailto:info@multime.com) if you are interested in attending this event.

## 9. Carers Week in Camden: 'Prepared to Care'

The theme of this year's Carers Week is 'Prepared to Care' and [Camden Carers Service](#) has organised a varied range of events for your enjoyment.

### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 11.30am – 2.00pm**

Official launch of Camden Carers Service with Glenda Jackson, MP. Doreen Bazell Hall, Goldington Street, NW1 1UG

### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 10.30am – 3.00pm**

Carers Health and Wellbeing Fair, Centre 404, 404 Camden Road, N7 0SJ

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 10.30am – 2.30pm**

Forum Theatre Event on the theme of 'Prepared to Care', Kentish Town Congregational Church Hall, Kelly Street, NW1 8PH

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 11.00am - 2.30pm**

Working Carers' Relaxation and Pamper Day

More information is available on request. Please note that booking is essential for Thursday and Saturday events.

Please ring [CCS](#) on 020 7428 8950/55 and ask for details, or to book, and please bear in mind that some events fill up quickly.

## South West

### 10. South Glos Parents and Carers Special Education Needs and Disability Information Fayre

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am-1.00pm and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 6.30-9.00pm.  
Bawa, Southmead Road, Bristol, BS34 7RG**

[South Glos Parents and Carers](#) are running an information fayre which is an opportunity for parents and carers of children 0-25, with either a disability or additional needs, to find out about the groups or services available to help their families.

For details of the daytime event on 13<sup>th</sup> June, please click [here](#).

For details of the the evening session on 27<sup>th</sup> June, please click [here](#).

## South East

### 11. Funfest 2013 - Yateley

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 11.30 - 4.00 PM

Yateleys School, School Lane, Yateley, Hampshire, GU46 6NW

The International Association of Lions Club presents Funfest 2013, a free event for people with disabilities, their families and helpers. The emphasis will be on music and fun, for people of all ages and abilities: with bouncy castles, roundabouts, steam trains and sideshows.

For registration forms and more information, please visit the website [here](#).

## East Midlands

### 12. PMLD Network Conference 2013, Nottingham

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013 10.30am – 3.00pm

Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham

The Raising our Sights report by Professor Jim Mansell (2010) said what needed to change to improve the lives of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) in terms of services and support. Mencap and the PMLD Network have produced a series of 11 how-to guides and films, funded by the Department of Health, to help local areas implement the recommendations from this report. The guides cover a range of topics, such as What people do in the day, Personalisation, Support for families, Wheelchairs, and there is an overarching guide on Commissioning services for people with PMLD.

This conference will take you through key points from a selection of the how-to guides, including the commissioning guide. It is aimed at families, health and social care professionals, commissioners and anyone else with an interest in improving the lives of people with PMLD, who have the most complex needs.

All delegates will be given a DVD with the Raising our Sights how-to guides and films on it.

Cost: \*\*This will be free for people with PMLD and accompanying support staff, and free for family carers. £60 for everybody else.

\*\*However, please note, that all the free places are now gone. If you would like to leave your details, you will be added to the reserve list, and they may be able to offer you a free place nearer the time.

Click [here](#) for the programme and booking form. You can either email the booking form back to [sarah.hawkins@mencap.org.uk](mailto:sarah.hawkins@mencap.org.uk) or book your place on-line at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PMLDNetwork20June>

If you have any queries, please call Sarah Hawkins on 020 7696 5593.

## North West

### 13. Autism: A Hands on Approach 10th Annual Conference Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013 Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport

The 10th Annual National Conference organised by Professionals & Parents in Partnership will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Click [here](#) to see the flyer with details of confirmed speakers, which will also include parents, sharing their experiences.

Costs - Parents: £35 Professionals: £100.

For further Details, please contact Tanya Farley on 07966 399 709.

### 14. Manchester Know Your Rights event

Mencap, The National Family Carer Network, and Leonard Cheshire have organised a **Know Your Rights** event on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June** to give disabled people, their families and their carers information on their rights to social care services and welfare benefits, and what you can do if your support is cut.

This will be held at **London Scottish House, 24 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 3NN**. Click [here](#) for a map and directions. Please see the [flyer](#) and [agenda](#) for more information.

**To book, please contact Jo Davies by phone on: 0207 696 5462 or email [jo.davies@mencap.org.uk](mailto:jo.davies@mencap.org.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](mailto: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.*