

# Bulletin



National  
Family Carer  
Network

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

Tel: 07747 460727

November 8<sup>th</sup> 2012

## 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](mailto:info@familycarers.org.uk).

### National

1. Commission appoints Independent Reviewer for its Disability Committee
2. Learning for Carers grant launched
3. Guardian article: SCIE has launched the Find Me Good Care website
4. The Economic and Social Research Council: Carer Seminar Series
5. Over £1m of Government funding awarded to grassroots disability organisations
6. Carers with Learning Disabilities Network – minutes of meetings

### London

7. Real Life Options and ARC: Free Conference in Euston 19<sup>th</sup> November

### South East

8. Personalisation Team: Surrey County Council job vacancies

### North West

9. Salford-based disability radio station goes on air

**National Family Carer Network**  
Tel: 07747 460727 • [www.familycarers.org.uk](http://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. Commission appoints Independent Reviewer for its Disability Committee

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has appointed Agnes Fletcher, a leading figure in the disability movement, to the role of independent reviewer of its Disability Committee.

A widely respected expert on equality legislation, policy and practice; former director of the Disability Rights Commission and adviser to government; Agnes will undertake the statutory review of the Committee required by the Equality Act 2006.

The Equality Act made provision for the review after the Committee had been in operation for five years, to determine how long it should continue as a statutory body. The review will include a consultation with disabled people across England, Scotland and Wales.

The Commission's Disability Committee has decision making powers on the Commission's work in relation to those matters which solely concern disability, and the Commission seeks the advice of the Committee on all matters which relate to disability in a significant way.

Agnes starts work in November and will report back to the Commission's board by the end of March 2013. Having considered her recommendation, the Commission will then report to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, its sponsor department. An amendment will be made accordingly to the Equality Act 2006.

In finalising the Review's terms of reference, Agnes will confirm the criteria that she will use to inform her independent recommendation. These will be published on the Commission's website in November. Agnes Fletcher said:

"The effective operation of the Equality and Human Rights Commission is fundamental to progress on equality and human rights in Britain. I am both challenged and pleased to have such an important role in advising the Commission on its future governance structure."

Baroness Margaret Prosser, Interim Chair of the Commission said: "I am delighted that someone with Agnes' commitment and experience in the world of disability has been appointed to this important role and I know she will carry out her duties with the necessary rigour. I look forward to receiving her report."

## 2. Learning for Carers grant launched

[Skills for Care](#) has launched a new grant to support the learning needs of unpaid carers.

Carers spend a significant proportion of their life providing unpaid support to family, or possibly friends. This could be caring for a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems. Carers are distinct from those who work as paid or volunteer care workers.

The Learning for Carers grant is available to organisations, such as carers centres and networks of carers services that already have a role in supporting carers. This is important because carers often start their role lacking basic information, are frequently caring alone and have no one to turn to or the time to ask questions.

The grant will support opportunities for carers to access information and learning that benefits their caring role or wider lives. The grant will support practical learning like first aid or benefits advice, or focusing on the carer's own emotional and physical needs like helping to cope with stress.

"This grant is designed to make sure that carers can access learning that meets their needs. They are an essential but under-recognised part of the country's social care resource, alongside the workforce," says Skills for Care CEO Sharon Allen. "The fund also recognises the vital work of carers' organisations and we would urge them to apply for this new grant."

Skills for Care has recognised that carers cannot be supported in the same way as the care workforce, for whom standards and qualifications can be developed. The new fund is to help carers find alternative support that better suits their needs.

For further information on eligibility and how to apply, see [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/learningforcarers](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/learningforcarers)

The closing date for applications is 5pm, Friday 23 November 2012 and the fund will close on 31 March 2013.

For an informal chat email Project Manager Diane Buddery at [diane.buddery@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:diane.buddery@skillsforcare.org.uk)

## 3. Guardian article: SCIE has launched the Find Me Good Care website

The Social Care Institute for Excellence has created an online service to help people make decisions about their care.

Read the full article [here](#):

## 4. The Economic and Social Research Council: Carer Seminar Series

The Economic and Social Research Council are funding a series of four seminars entitled 'Carers in the 21st Century: Developing the evidence base'. The lead co-ordinator for the seminars is Dr Mary Larkin (De Montfort University) and they are being held between October 2012 and September 2013.

The aim is to provide a forum for people from the diverse field of caring to meet regularly over the period of a year to exchange information and generate ideas with the aim of advancing carer research to develop policies, services and interventions that will improve carers' lives and those for whom they care in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The participants have been carefully chosen and include service users and carers, PhD students, Academic researchers, and representatives from Third sector organisations, Research centres, Care providers, local authorities and government departments. Presenters from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines have been secured. The objectives of the seminar series are to:

- identify contemporary and future issues for carers in the UK (primarily)
- review existing research evidence about the effectiveness, including cost effectiveness, of policy and health and social care interventions for carers and those they support
- establish a future agenda for research around services that meet the needs of carers and improves their quality of life and/or health
- explore key theoretical, conceptual and methodological challenges facing the research community
- encourage academic, third sector, practitioner and policy debate on effective carer research
- establish a carers research network to take forward and further develop the research agenda

The locations with the seminar themes are as follows:

### **CARERS AND POLICY IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

Kings College, London (8<sup>th</sup> October 2012)

### **POLICY IN PRACTICE**

University of York (11<sup>th</sup> February 2013)

### **INDIVIDUAL CARERS, PERSONALISED NEEDS**

De Montfort University (3rd June 2013)

### **EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FOR CARERS**

University of Surrey (9th September 2013)

Although the seminars are by invitation-only (and are full) details of the presentations and discussions can be found on the seminar website at [www.dmu.ac.uk/carers-21](http://www.dmu.ac.uk/carers-21). Interested non-attenders are very welcome to contribute to the on-going debates via the blog on this website.

## 5. Over £1m of Government funding awarded to grassroots disability organisations

Over one million pounds has now been awarded as part of a programme to help bolster small grassroots disability organisations, the Minister for Disabled People, Esther McVey announced on 4 November 2012. The programme is now set to be extended to Northern Ireland so that other organisations can benefit from the GBP3million fund which was launched last summer.

Esther McVey said: "Disabled Peoples User Led Organisations are run by and for disabled people and play a vital role in making sure disabled people have their voices heard at every level.

"In many cases DPULOs already provide support and services alongside those provided by the public sector and often they are better at doing so as they can draw on their own first hand experiences of a disability. They have clear ideas about what works and what doesn't.

"The idea of the fund was based on feedback we had received from small disability organisations that a little funding at the right time can make all the difference to the support they are able to provide to disabled people.

"We still have millions of pounds left, so if you are already part of a DPULO, then this is an opportunity to raise its profile and build on the successes you have already achieved."

The DPULO programme is making a significant difference to grassroots organisations and their local communities through awards from the Facilitation Fund to organisations such as the Communication for Blind and Disabled People.

One of the DPULOs received an award after developing a smart phone navigation app for blind people. The app – called "Georgie" – has since won the "Google Outstanding Use of Technology in the Field of Diversity" award at the European Diversity Awards 2012 at the end of September.

Roger Wilson-Hinds of Communication for Blind and Disabled People thanked the DPULO programme and said: "Without you it wouldn't have happened!"

Cheshire Centre for Independent Living was awarded £28,735 to develop an online peer support forum in the north west. Lindsey Walton-Hardy, Deputy Chief Executive of the Centre, said: "We've wanted to develop our peer support offer to disabled people locally for a long time. This welcome award provides us with the opportunity to turn our idea into reality. Not only will this be of great benefit to disabled people locally, but it will also support Cheshire CIL to become more sustainable."

Any organisations wishing to bid for money for specific projects and help shape the future provision for disabled people, can do so by visiting – [www.odi.gov.uk/dpuloprogramme](http://www.odi.gov.uk/dpuloprogramme) or [www.facebook.com/dpulos](http://www.facebook.com/dpulos).

## 6. Carers with Learning Disabilities Network - minutes of meetings

Minutes from meetings held by the Carers with Learning Disabilities Network are now being hosted on the National Family Carer Network [website](#), and can be read [here](#).

## London

### 7. Real Life Options and ARC: Free Conference in Euston 19<sup>th</sup> November

*When staff are the service, how do we achieve and maintain a skilled, qualified and well motivated social care workforce?*

Real Life Options is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and, in partnership with ARC, is running a series of free conferences for colleagues in the social care sector. Some tickets are still available.

See the links below for further information and how to book:

<http://www.reallifeoptions.org/news/rlo-and-arc-conference>  
<http://arcuk.org.uk/events/event/have-the-staff-stopped-smiling/>

## South East

### 8. Personalisation Team: Surrey County Council job vacancies

Please see the links below for information about a number of vacancies currently being recruiting to:

Building a Team for the Future <http://www.choiceforum.org/docs/batt.pdf>  
Personalisation Team Flyer <http://www.choiceforum.org/docs/ptf.pdf>

We are creating a dynamic new team, bringing together a range of skilled, person-led Practitioners to enable people using our services to identify and meet their social care needs. We are searching for pioneers in social care practice to take up this opportunity to enable people to take up personal budgets, support innovation and the development of new services. If you're looking to be part of an effective, innovative and well supported team where you can help promote independence, choice and control to individuals, or you would like to be part of a dedicated admin team that will provide valuable support through scheduling, recording and reporting, then one of these roles may be for you.

Please log on to [www.surreycc.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/jobs) and search for Personalisation Team  
If you have any queries, please contact Gail Petty using the details below.

Gail Petty Training - Consultancy - Facilitation Changed and Able tel: 07958 473130 email: [gail.petty@changedandable.com](mailto:gail.petty@changedandable.com)

## North West

### 9. Salford-based disability radio station goes on air

[LDOK.net](#): a new, inclusive, online radio station made by people with learning disabilities has begun broadcasting in Greater Manchester. Click [here](#) to read the full story on the BBC news website and click [here](#) to see the full LDOK radio schedule.

National Family Carer Network  
07718 134877  
[www.familycarers.org.uk](http://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](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.*