

Bulletin



National
Family Carer
Network

www.familycarers.org.uk

Tel: 07747 460727

28th November 2012

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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. National Family Carer Network AGM

The National Family Carer Network AGM will be held on Friday 7 December, 11am-12 noon at the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities, 1st Floor, Colechurch House, 1 London Bridge Walk, London SE1 2SX.

All members are welcome to attend, however we would be grateful if you would contact Rachel Gibson, t: 07747 460727 or email: info@familycarers.org.uk to let us know for numbers.

2 Department of Health Review: Winterbourne View Hospital - Good Practice Project

Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb has written to directors of social services and PCT chief executives to gather information on good practice to improve the quality of services for people with learning disabilities and their families. This follows publication of the Department's interim report on the Review of Winterbourne View Hospital published on 25th June. The Department is seeking information on how services can deliver the right model of care and deliver better outcomes for people with learning disabilities and/or autism, and behaviour which challenges.

The good practice project, led by the National Valuing Families Forum, working with the National Forum for People with Learning Disabilities, will focus on local authorities and will also reflect good practice in integrated working with the NHS. It aims to find out what good looks like and share this with people with learning disabilities, family carers, and other organisations in the new health and care structure to improve the quality of services.

You can read the letter here: [DH Review: Winterbourne View Hospital – Good Practice Project “What Does Good Look Like”](#) and the Good Practice Project framework document can be downloaded [here](#).

3. CQC State of Care report

The 2011/12 [State of Care report](#) to Parliament describes the state of health care and adult social care services in England for the period from April 2011 to March 2012. It draws on evidence from the register of care services, inspection activities and the experiences of people who use services, and published national statistics. The report can be read [here](#).

This was the first time the CQC inspected NHS, independent healthcare and adult social care services for a complete year under its new system of registration, and therefore against one set of national standards of quality and safety. The report has two main sections dealing with the shape of care provision and the quality and safety of services. Each section looks at the different care sectors in turn.

The CQC are currently running a consultation that asks for your views on how it should work in the future. The deadline for feedback is 6th December and can be done via the following link: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/public/news/tell-us-how-we-should-work-future>

The CQC are also interested to hear your views on the issues it raises and how you feel those link with the day to day challenges you are facing in your organisation. You can share your views by contacting the Public Affairs team on 020 7448 0825 public.affairs@cqc.org.uk.

4. Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework

The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework measures how well Care and Support achieves the things we would expect for ourselves and for our friends and relatives – care that treats people with dignity and respect, and that supports them to keep well and independent, and able to play an active role in their communities. People who use care and support, carers and the public can use this information to see how well their council is performing, making local authorities genuinely answerable to their communities for the quality of care. Councils themselves use the measures to help them drive up standards of care, and give people genuine choice and control over the services they use.

The new ASC Outcomes Framework for 13/14 is available to read [here](#).

5. Photosymbols - Winterbourne Resource

[Photosymbols](#) have developed some symbols to help discuss issues relating to Winterbourne View. Click [here](#) for the Facebook page.

6. Mencap - Short Breaks - Real life stories needed

Mencap has previously raised the issue of the lack of short breaks for carers in their 'Breaking Point' reports, and would like to know how people feel about their short breaks services today in light of recent local authority cuts.

Mencap needs powerful real life stories of people who care for adults and children with a learning disability who are willing to share experiences. Mencap might use stories in their report, in the media, in parliament or in other ways, but will always check with people first and make sure people have support. In some cases they can use anonymous stories, and all stories collected are stored on their secure database.

Questions to consider might be - Do you feel you are not getting the time off you need? Have your short breaks hours been cut? Have things suffered due to lack of breaks? (job, health, relationships etc)

If you would like to share your story, you can contact Mencap's case study officer, Naomi directly on 020 7696 5603 or email casestudies@mencap.org.uk
Alternatively you can fill in an online template: <https://www.mencap.org.uk/webform/yourstory>

7. Safeguarding Adults in Residential Services guide - Identifying early indicators of concern

The *Abuse in Care? Project* at the University of Hull is a long term research and development initiative focused on the abuse, neglect and mistreatment of people who receive support in staffed settings such as residential and nursing homes. To date, the project has concentrated on services for older people and people with learning disabilities.

Information developed is presented on the website of the Centre for Applied Research and Evaluation for both older people and people with learning disabilities. For each client group there is a document containing the full list of early indicators and a corresponding guide. These guides help people to record what they have seen and encourage them to reflect on their concerns, share their observations and take appropriate actions.

The University of Hull have developed a simple guide which has been used and tested by a number of services, and people seem to find it helpful as a way of reflecting on concerns about services. This can be read [here](#) and further documents are available [here](#).

London

8. Enfield Carers Centre - Free Carers Information Session

Caring & Coping with Learning Disabilities including how to deal with challenging behaviour

Tues 4th December 10am—12 noon

A Clinical Psychologist will be leading a workshop to discuss different treatment options, techniques for caring for someone with a learning disability and how to handle difficult and challenging behaviour. Come along - meet other carers, discuss & share your experiences, ideas and coping strategies. Please call 0208 366 3677 to book a place. You can find out more about Enfield Carers Centre [here](#).

South East

9. The Hampshire Autism Strategy for Adults 2012-2015

The Hampshire Autism Strategy for Adults 2012-2015 was launched on 5 November 2012 and is the first of a two part 'across the lifespan' autism strategy. The second part, the Hampshire Autism Strategy for Children, is expected in 2013. The new strategy can be read here:

[Hampshire Autism Strategy](#)

[Easy Read Hampshire Autism Strategy](#)

Or you can request a hard copy by calling 01962 847946.

10. Basingstoke Workshop: How to get your voice heard!

A free workshop for family carers on **Thursday 29th November, 10.00am - 1.00pm** at The Chapel, St Thomas Care Home, St Thomas' Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 5NW. An informal and interactive workshop to include:

- Talking to health or social care professionals and getting what you need.
- Developing your knowledge, skills and confidence in order to be more effective.
- Expressing your views.
- Representing the views of others at meetings.

If you would like attend, please ring 01794 519495 or email bernie.newitt@carerstogether.org.uk

[Carers Together](#), 9 Love Lane, Romsey, SO51 8DE

South West

11. Ofsted: Good practice resource - Working with families through the 'LIFE' programme: Swindon Borough Council

This example describes the 'LIFE' programme that has been developed by Swindon Borough Council, Participle, and other partners in response to the challenges of working with families who have chronic problems, to improve outcomes and reduce costs. This resource is available to download [here](#).

North West

12. Community Resources Unit Funding Programme

Liverpool City Council's Community Resources Unit Funding Programme has funding available for constituted, not for profit voluntary and community organisations serving Liverpool citizens, and will be for grants for up to three years' duration. Grants are expected to be reduced in year 2 (2014-15) and again in year 3 (2015-16), in line with the final budget decision of the Council. Revenue grants will be available commencing in April 2013.

The programme is designed to support a broad range of activities, whilst enabling the Council to ensure that any funding allocated is supporting its vision to develop thriving neighbourhoods and health and wellbeing, and contribute to its corporate aims to build strong, attractive and accessible neighbourhoods and empower residents. A vibrant, effective and diverse voluntary and community sector is critical to this vision.

Funding will be available under the following four themes:

- Community Legal Advice Services
- Support for Victims of Domestic Violence
- Stronger Communities
- Capacity Building Community and Voluntary Organisations

The application form and full guidance about the programme including eligibility and programme objectives are available online [here](#).

Prospective applicants can ring the Community Resources Unit on 0151 233 4436 for more details.

The closing date is 12noon Friday 7 December 2012.

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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.