

# Bulletin



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

Tel: 07747 460727

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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](mailto: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 guidance for Social Workers

[The College of Social Work](#) has published good practice advice for social workers working with people with learning disabilities and mental health conditions to help improve standards following the Winterbourne View case.

The good practice guidance was drawn up in collaboration with members of the service user community, the British Association of Social Workers (BASW), the trade union UNISON and the learning disability charity Mencap.

The guidance aims to address the special factors that need to be considered when social workers work with learning disabled people whose behaviour is challenging and distressing, and to promote high standards of professional practice.

It highlights the importance of the human rights of the service user, the need to not only prevent harm but also promote quality of life, the importance of 'whistle-blowing' on instances of harmful practice and liaising with expert colleagues to seek further advice on cases where appropriate.

To download the guidance, please click [here](#).

## 2. Making Reasonable Adjustments to Dementia Services for People with Learning Disabilities

Making Reasonable Adjustments to Dementia Services for People with Learning Disabilities is the sixth in a series of Improving Health and Lives (IHaL) reports which focus on reasonable adjustments to mainstream services so that they meet the needs of people with learning disabilities.

This report can be used by, for example, people with learning disabilities, carers, commissioners, providers, public health, advocacy services, etc to improve services.

To read the report, click [here](#).

## 3. Trust is the key: Increasing the take-up of direct payments

This report aims to update councils on the most effective strategies for increasing take up of direct payments, especially for groups where numbers are low.

'Trust is the key: increasing the take-up of direct payments' was commissioned by [Think Local Act Personal](#) and written by [Disability Rights UK](#).

To read the report, click [here](#).

## 4. Service User or Carer Member recruitment

The NICE Collaborating Centre for Social Care (NCCSC) is a consortium led by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) in partnership with the:

- Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Coordinating Centre, which is part of the Social Science Research Unit at the Institute of Education, University of London
- Personal Social Services Research Unit at the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of Kent
- Research in Practice
- Research in Practice for Adults

The NCCSC has been commissioned by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to produce social care guidance on Co-ordinated transition between social care and health care services. The NCCSC is seeking to recruit a **Service User or Carer Member** to advise the scoping group.

The scoping group meets three times to help shape the 'scope' (or the framework) for the Co-ordinated transition between social care and health care services guidance. The role of the service user or carer member will be to provide insight and challenge based on their experience and knowledge of care services.

Following the completion of the scope, a Guidance Development Group (GDG) is formed, whose role it is to review the evidence on the topic and develop guidance. The Service User or Carer Member of the Scoping Group can apply for membership of the GDG as well, if this is of interest. This will be a formal recruitment process managed by NICE in January/February 2014.

For full details and how to apply, please visit the NCCSC website [here](#).

## 5. Wheelchair-users must have right to space on buses enforced, says court

In a landmark decision, a court has ruled that bus companies must ensure their wheelchair spaces are available for any wheelchair-users who need them.

After a hearing at Leeds County Court, Recorder Paul Isaacs decided that the "first come, first served" policy operated by First Group discriminated against disabled people under the Equality Act.

The case was taken by wheelchair-user Doug Paulley, from Wetherby, who had been planning to travel to Leeds in February last year, but was prevented from entering the bus because the driver refused to insist that a mother with a pushchair should move from the wheelchair-space.

To read the full article, please visit the Disability News Website [here](#).

# London

## 6. Judith Trust Inclusion Project Officer Post

**10-12 hours per week, over 2 days**

**Salary: £23,000 pro rata**

**Fixed term contract to end of August 2015**

The Judith Trust Inclusion Campaign is now looking for an experienced and innovative project officer to work within the Jewish community to take the project to the next level, improving the inclusion of people with learning disabilities and mental health needs.

You will need experience in the field of learning disabilities and/or mental health, knowledge of the Jewish community and an ability to deliver support, information and training to a diverse audience.

To find out more about the Campaign and download a job description and person specification, please visit the website: [www.judithtrust.org.uk](http://www.judithtrust.org.uk)

To apply, send a cover letter and CV to [sharondaniels@judithtrust.org.uk](mailto:sharondaniels@judithtrust.org.uk) by 1pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

Interview date: 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## 7. Accessibility for all

Transport for London is looking for disabled people to take part in research to see how easy it is for them to get around the capital.

The mystery travellers will be asked to make journeys across London on public transport and complete questionnaires about their trips.

They will be trained and paid for every journey they complete.

The Accessibility Mystery Traveller Survey is being carried out by market research company GfK. It requires people who use wheelchairs or assistance dogs, have reduced mobility, or hearing and sight loss.

The survey is designed to assess the progress of Transport for London's multi-million pound investment in making the capital more accessible to everyone.

The programme includes creating more step-free stations, improving information for passengers and making sure staff have the training and support they need to help disabled customers.

All those interested in becoming a mystery traveller should contact GfK by email at [AMTS@gfk.com](mailto:AMTS@gfk.com), or by writing to 'AMTS', GfK Mystery Shopping, King Charles House, Park End Street, Oxford, OX1 1JD.

## South West

### 8. Cornwall Assistive Technology Service Day

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013 11.00am – 4.00pm**  
**Atlantic Reach, Whitecross, Cornwall TR8 4LX**

Cornwall Assistive Technology Service is hosting an event (CATS day) for adults and children with communication difficulties, parents and carers, personal assistants and professionals.

CATS day will be a combination of “Hands On” sessions and seminars to look at equipment that can support communication and independence. You can drop-in any time between 11.00am and 4.00pm.

Please see the flyer [here](#) for more information.

## East England

### 9. Nightclub for adults with learning disabilities

**First Wednesday of each month 6.00pm – 10.00pm**  
**The Function Rooms, 4 Waterhouse Street, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1ET**

The Ministry of Mencap is a new regular nightclub at [The Function Rooms](#) for adults with learning disabilities/difficulties, hosted by [Dacorum Mencap](#).

Clubbers get the same nightclub experience as everyone else, but in a safe and secure environment, as it is not open to the general public at that time. It is ground floor fully accessible with disabled toilet, and the venue is right next to the bus station, so easy to get to on public transport

People need to bring their own carers, if required, or come as a group.

Tickets are £5 on the door, and one carer per person is admitted free.

You find out more about Ministry of Mencap [here](#), and keep up to date with events via the Facebook group [here](#).

For any further details, please contact Elaine Precious at Dacorum Mencap:  
[elaine.precious@dacorummencap.org.uk](mailto:elaine.precious@dacorummencap.org.uk)

## North East/Yorkshire and Humber

### 10. Inclusion North Project Support Coordinator

**Salary: Up to £32,000**

**Hours: 37½ hours a week**

**Based in the Leeds office or will consider home base in the North East or Yorkshire & Humber**

Inclusion North have a vacancy for a full time Project Support Coordinator. This post will:

- Support Inclusion North's projects team in delivering projects, or training to members and customers
- Directly support the inclusion of people with learning disabilities, family members and others in projects Inclusion North is delivering.
- Contribute to Inclusion North adding significant value to the efforts of people with learning disabilities, their families, local commissioners and providers in implementing government policy, and best practice to achieve inclusion.

For full details, job application, and job description pack, please visit the website [here](#).

The closing date for completed applications is 12pm (midday) on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and the interviews will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

## North West

### 11. Simpson Board Choreographers Course for People with Non-Verbal Communication

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013 plus follow up day in February 2014 – (Date TBC )**

**9.30am – 5.00pm**

**Merseyside Dance Initiative, 24 Hope St, Liverpool, L1 9BX**

Are you a disabled person interested in creating dance? If so, this 2-day course to train enablers/creative assistants for dance makers with non-verbal communication to create their own work is an ideal way of learning a new skill. You do not need to be a dance expert or have a great degree of mobility to enjoy this unique course.

Price: £25 for both days.

For further details, please see the flyer [here](#).

You can also contact Rachel Rogers at [MDI](#) on 0151 708 8810 or email [Rachel@mdi.org.uk](mailto:Rachel@mdi.org.uk) for more information and to book a place.

## 12. Free computers for voluntary organisations

Liverpool City Council is making available 300 reconditioned personal computers to voluntary sector organisations, for community use. They will be installed with Windows 7, Microsoft Office and internet connectivity. They have no support or maintenance package attached and are distributed as seen. There is no grant funding attached to the machines.

Liverpool City Council specifically wants to support voluntary and community organisations to develop or continue to deliver projects which will build skills, knowledge and capacity of local and vulnerable residents in Liverpool to improve their quality of life, through computer skills, budgeting, job seeking, CV writing etc.

Organisations are invited to submit a project proposal in line with the priorities set out in the guidance document.

Closing date for submissions: Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013. Maximum number per applicant: five computers. If you are interested in bidding for any of these computers, you must read the Computers for Communities Criteria, ensure you understand the eligibility criteria and the priorities and then apply online ([click on this link](#)).

If you need any assistance with the application form, contact Liverpool City Council on 0151 233 4436.

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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.*