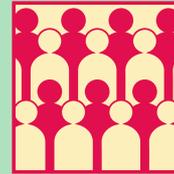


Bulletin



National
Family Carer
Network

www.familycarers.org.uk

Tel: 07747 460727

10th October 2013

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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. Motability to hand £2,000 to every customer who falls foul of PIP

The Motability car scheme has won praise after announcing that it will hand £2,000 to every disabled person who has their vehicle taken away after being reassessed for the government's new personal independence payment (PIP).

It is one of a series of measures designed to ease the pain of those who will be assessed as no longer eligible for the higher rate of mobility support, and so also no longer eligible for the Motability scheme.

The Department for Work and Pensions is to reassess about two million disabled people aged between 16 and 64 who currently claim disability living allowance (DLA) over the next five years.

Motability believes that – as the reassessment process only applies to working-age claimants – about 360,000 of its 620,000 customers will be affected.

Because the reassessment process does not start until later this month, the first cases of customers losing their vehicles are not expected until early next year.

One Labour peer has estimated that 180,000 disabled people could have their Motability vehicles repossessed in the transition from DLA to PIP, while Motability has suggested that up to 100,000 existing customers could lose their eligibility in the three years to 2016.

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

2. Open consultation - Draft 0 to 25 special educational needs (SEN) code of practice, draft regulations

The Children and Families Bill, currently in Parliament, will bring radical changes to the special educational needs (SEN) framework, subject to royal assent. The Department for Education and the Department of Health are consulting on a draft new 0 to 25 SEN code of practice. The code is statutory guidance. They are also consulting on associated draft regulations.

The bill proposes replacing SEN statements (for schools) and learning difficulty assessments (for young people in further education and training) with single 0 to 25 education, health and care plans. They are consulting on the arrangements for the transfer to the new plans.

The consultation documents can be downloaded from the Gov.UK website [here](#).

The consultation closes on 9th December.

3. Disabled people forced to choose between staying thirsty and going to the toilet

Two-thirds of local councils are commissioning 15-minute visits despite major concerns they deprive disabled people of essential care, according to a new report by leading charity Leonard Cheshire Disability. Over the past five years the proportion of visits of 15 minutes or less has risen by 15%. And in extreme cases, some local authorities are commissioning three-quarters of all their home care visits in 15 minutes or less.

TV personality and founder of the children's helpline ChildLine and the Silver Line, Esther Rantzen, is backing the charity's call to end 15-minute care visits. She said: 'I believe it is cruel to treat people like products on a conveyor belt. Providing this kind of care is a personal service and should be accompanied by conversation and at least half an hour of the care worker's time. It must be deeply distressing for the care worker too when they are unable to treat their client with any dignity or respect because they simply haven't got the time.'

The report, Ending 15-Minute Care, reveals that UK adults take on average at least 40 minutes to carry out essential tasks including getting up, washing, dressing and eating breakfast. However, local councils are increasingly expecting disabled people to complete these tasks in 15 minutes.

The charity's report and opinion poll is published to coincide with the Report Stage of the Care Bill in the House of Lords on Wednesday 9th October. Clare Pelham, chief executive of Leonard Cheshire Disability, called on members of the House of Lords to back an amendment to make care visits at least thirty minutes long.

To find out more about the Ending 15-Minute Care campaign and to read the full report, please visit the Leonard Cheshire Disability website [here](#).

4. PIP - free guide to making a claim

[Disability Rights UK](#) has produced a free guide to help you through the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) claiming process. The guide covers information on:

- The PIP rules
- The scoring system
- The activities and descriptors
- Filling out the claim form
- Keeping a diary
- The face to face consultation with a healthcare professional
- What to do if you are not happy with your decision
- Further help and information

To download the guide, please click [here](#). An easy read format is available [here](#). You can also find more resources on the Disability Rights UK [website](#).

5. Photostory: the rights of people with learning disabilities

[Inspired Services](#) have produced a new photostory for American based IPMG services to illustrate the rights of people with learning disabilities. This is part of a selection of video stories which can be used as an alternative or in addition to EasyRead publications.

To view the photostory on YouTube, please click [here](#).

6. 'Dear Auntie Betty' A blogpost by Mark Neary

Mark Neary, writer and father of an autistic son, recently wrote about the jargon he frequently encounters in the social care system. He has now written a new blog post about the closure of local day centres, which you can read [here](#).

South East

7. Free First Aid training and Family Voice Surrey information workshops

[Family Voice Surrey](#) are working together with the British Red Cross to offer free First Aid training events to parents and carers of children and young people with SEN and disabilities. There may be the option for the training to be tailored to meet the individual needs of each group of parents, providing they can give the trainer requests in advance. There will be the chance to specify particular areas you would like to see addressed as part of the registration process.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about the purpose of Family Voice Surrey and how you can be involved in what they do.

Dates and Venues:

Monday 14th October
The Children's Trust, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 5RU

Wednesday 23rd October
White Lodge Centre, Holloway Hill, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 0AE

Friday 25th October
Disability Challengers, Stoke Park, Guildford, GU1 1TU

The timings for each workshop will be from 10.00am to 1.00pm and free refreshments will be provided.

To register for a place please click [here](#).

Yorkshire and Humber

8. Sounds of Intent Regional Workshops

[YAMSEN:SpeciallyMusic](#) sponsors workshops and training days for staff and interested people who are looking for new, different and better ways of teaching and interacting with people with special needs.

It is running two regional events to introduce and explain more about Sounds of Intent, a freely-available curriculum framework and software package for making music with children and young people with special needs, including learning difficulties and autism. The easy-to-use software enables users to assess musical development, record and monitor attainment and progress, and download musical materials.

Leeds - 8th November at St Chad's Hall in Far Headingley.
This will be an introduction to SOI plus more information about how to implement it across your school.

Rotherham - 22nd November at the Rockingham Professional Development centre.
This will be a general introduction to the Sounds of Intent Framework.

Both will include a session introducing music ipad apps.

Please choose the workshop which suits you best and fill in the relevant booking form:

Click [here](#) for the Leeds workshop flyer and booking form.

Click [here](#) for the Rotherham workshop flyer and booking form.

You also can find out more on the YAMSEN [website](#) and learn more about Sounds of Intent [here](#).

North East

9. The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company need your vote!

The Twisting Ducks have been shortlisted for the Lloyds Community Fund and are asking people to vote for them to be awarded the grant. The fund would allow them to create a fun, informative local TV magazine show made by and for people with a learning disabilities. It will celebrate all the great work that learning disabled groups are doing in Newcastle, showcase talent, and create a dynamic space for debate about important issues.

If you would like to vote, please click [here](#).

You can also find out more about The Twisting Ducks [here](#).

West Midlands

10. Great Life Zone at BILD Conference 2013 - because life doesn't stop at 9pm!

Friday 18th October

Conference Aston (Business School), Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham, B4 7ET

Many people with learning disabilities aren't living the lives they would choose. The BILD conference's Great Life Zone aims to be an active, hands-on, and hopefully challenging and provocative look at the things that need to change in order for people with a learning disability to lead the lives they really want.

This will all revolve around creating [Stay Up Late's 'Manifesto for Change,' and the 'Anti-Manifesto'](#) which will draw attention to the cultures, practices and ideas that are holding people back.

The focus will be on shared learning and people with learning disabilities talking about those things they'd like to see changed.

The session will also be asking practitioners to be self-critical and challenge the things they think need changing, but might not know how to.

You can find out more about the Great Life Zone [here](#) and more about the conference itself [here](#).

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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.