

Bulletin



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.

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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. Final deadline approaches for NHS Continuing Healthcare claims

Final deadline approaches for NHS Continuing Healthcare claims. People who believe they should have an assessment of eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare funding are being reminded again that they should apply soon.

The Department of Health has set a deadline of 31st March 2013, which applies to claims for previously unassessed periods of care that happened during 1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012. If you, or a relative, received care that was paid for between 1st April 2011 and 31st March 2012, and were not assessed for NHS Continuing Healthcare and think you should be, you have until 31st March 2013 to contact your PCT about it.

NHS Continuing Healthcare is for individuals who have been assessed as needing health care which can be provided in a range of settings, including residential care homes, (with or without nursing), or their own homes. When eligibility is agreed, NHS funding provides all of the individual's assessed needs – including accommodation in some cases.

Once individuals have contacted their PCT, they will be told about the process and sent the relevant forms to complete. If appropriate, their case will be considered against the framework applicable for the time period under review.

2. Personal health budgets 'Update' Spring 2013

The Spring 2013 edition of 'Update', the personal health budgets information sheet, has been published - including the new direct payments public consultation.

This edition includes:

Headline story: Direct payments public consultation opens - have your say
Move to the NHS Commissioning Board
Making health and social care budgets a reality
Personal health budgets peer networks go local
Preparing the workforce
Personal health budgets resources

You can view the interactive PDF newsletter online here: [Personal health budgets 'Update' Spring 2013](#)

You can also find further news and information on the Department of Health website [here](#)

3. Grassroots peer support for Access to Work

DWP are working with grassroots disability organisations (Disabled People's User Led Organisations) to provide one-to-one peer support to disabled people using the Access to Work scheme.

Through the [Strengthening Disabled People's User-Led Organisations programme](#), 11 disability organisations from across Great Britain will be funded by the Facilitation Fund to pilot projects delivering innovative peer support for people using Access to Work.

The projects are being piloted as part of the package of measures recommended by the Access to Work expert panel who are advising on how best to take forward the Sayce review recommendations.

From 18th February a number of measures have been implemented to improve Access to Work support, including:

- promoting the transfer of awards and funding the physical transfer of equipment when a customer moves employment or location
- introducing a 'fast-track' application process where appropriate, and
- working with employers to find more imaginative solutions to support individuals.

These follow the announced improvements to the scheme introduced in January:

- Businesses with up to 49 employees no longer have to pay a contribution towards the extra costs that disabled people in work have. This will save businesses up to £2,300 for each employee who uses the fund
- Access to Work advisers have more flexibility in deciding what equipment is funded through the scheme. This gives more choice to disabled people in work.
- Disabled people can get support through Access to Work when they set up their own business, if they are enrolled on the New Enterprise Allowance (NEA). The NEA provides expert coaching and financial support for jobseekers with a business idea.

You can find further information via the following links:

www.gov.uk/access-to-work
[Access to Work Factsheet](#)
[Employer's Guide to Access to Work](#)

If you have any questions or would like to share your views or suggestions, please email atw.feedback@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

4. Personal Independence Payment communication products launch

DWP is sending information about PIP to existing DLA claimants as part of the DLA uprating letters. These will be issued between early February and 22 March 2013 and will explain how DWP plans to introduce the new benefit, as well as helping claimants to understand how the changes might affect them. These letters are for information only and claimants do not need to contact DWP.

DWP has developed a PIP toolkit for advisers in support organisations. The toolkit includes a range of material, from a simple Quick Guide to details of the full claims process and copies of PIP claimant letters and forms.

There are also suggested articles that can be easily adapted for use in your in-house communications, and a checklist of specific actions that can help your organisation get ready for the introduction of PIP on 8th April 2013.

More information and tools will be added to the toolkit over the next few months.

The toolkit is available on the [DWP website](#).

5. Down's Syndrome Association - Health Book Pilot

In April 2013 the [DSA](#) would like to post 250 copies of their easy read health book to adults with Down's syndrome and families and carers of adults with Down's syndrome as part of a pilot project. It is important that they hear from people with Down's syndrome and families what they think of the health book.

Please note that they are only looking for people with Down's syndrome who are over the age of 18 years and their families and supporters.

Feedback will help to shape the finished product which will be posted to our 3000 adult members with Down's syndrome in 2014.

If you would like to take part in the pilot, please email Stuart Mills stuart.mills@downs-syndrome.org.uk with the name and address of the person the health book is to be sent to by 8th March 2013. The DSA will not be sending out any more than 250 copies at this stage so participation will be on a first come first served basis.

Further information can be found on the DSA website [here](#).

6. What happens when people with learning disabilities need advice about the law?

An invitation to family carers to take part in an important new research study

The Norah Fry Research Centre at the University of Bristol is carrying out research into the experiences of people with learning disabilities when they need advice about the law.

The research is being paid for by the Legal Services Board. The Board ensures that the interests of people who use legal services are placed at the heart of the regulatory system.

People with learning disabilities are often not aware that they could get help to deal with a range of legal issues; they may not know where to go to get help and legal services are not always equipped to help them.

They have asked us to find out about the experiences of people with learning disabilities when they need legal advice. We are looking at the issues that people with learning disabilities need advice about, how easy it is to get the right advice and what could be done to make it more accessible.

The Legal Services Board will use our report to make legal services more accessible for people with learning disabilities.

You can find out more from the study webpage by [clicking here](#).

An important part of the study is finding out more about the role that family carers, friends and other supporters play in helping people with learning disabilities get legal advice. We also want to find out about the legal advice that family carers seek in their own right: for example when making a will or establishing a trust to safeguard the future of a relative with learning disabilities.

How you can help

You can help by agreeing to be interviewed over the telephone. We would like to talk to you if you have:

- Supported a relative to get legal advice, whether or not they were successful in getting that advice
- Sought legal advice about an issue relating to your status as a family carer
- Helped other family carers get legal advice.

If you would like to know more about the project or arrange a time to speak with us, please contact: Nour Shiyyab (tel) 0117 3310975 (email) nour.shiyyab@bristol.ac.uk or Paul Swift (tel) 07740 946564 (email) swpms@bristol.ac.uk.

7. 'Put disabled down' councillor Collin Brewer resigns

A councillor who said disabled children should be "put down" has resigned. Collin Brewer, a Cornwall councillor, made the comment to a charity worker in 2011, saying disabled children cost the authority too much money. He made the comments to a Disability Cornwall member at a stall at County Hall in Truro. Mr Brewer said it was unlikely he would be a candidate in the May elections. "I was wrong, I admit it. I will continue to apologise," he said.

You can the full story on the BBC news website [here](#).

Molly Mattingly, Head of Learning Disability Programmes at the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities and Trustee of the National Family Carer Network made the following statement:

"The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities was horrified by the comments made by Cornwall Councillor Collin Brewer. Such irresponsible comments will have caused enormous anxiety and distress to many thousands of individuals and their families who in a time of austerity and cuts are finding that even their most basic support needs may not be met by local services.

We welcome Mr Brewer's unreserved apology, and believe he has done the right thing in resigning. The work done by the Foundation in Cornwall over the last six years highlights the many gifts and talents that people with disabilities bring to our communities. It is essential that all councillors should have regular contact with people with disabilities, who can face discrimination on a daily basis, to understand the real issues that impact on their lives, and the contribution they can make. "

8. Free Makaton resource - signs for Easter

[Makaton](#) is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people to communicate. It is designed to support spoken language and the signs and symbols are used with speech, in spoken word order. There are a number of free resources available to download from their [website](#), including Makaton symbols and signs for Easter.

9. Transition to adulthood - a guide for practitioners

[Cerebra](#) have produced a guide for practitioners working with disabled young people and their families, focusing on those young people aged between 16 and 25. It explains the legal and policy frameworks, for England and Wales, that are relevant to areas in which these young people and their families are likely to need support and advice as the young person enters adulthood. Its purpose is to help practitioners understand the relevant law and policy so that they can guide young disabled people through this transition to adulthood.

You can read the guide [here](#).

10. Supporting people with learning disabilities to return from out-of-area placements

Supporting people with learning disabilities to return from out-of-area placements requires thorough assessment, person-centred commissioning and time, according to social workers in one service praised by government.

From 2009-12, only one person with learning disabilities from Salford was placed in a hospital assessment and treatment unit, while from 2007-12 16 people were supported to return to Salford from out-of-area placements.

Salford's success is built on integration across health and social care. A pooled budget between Salford Council and Salford NHS, via section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006, has helped set up a single-point-of-entry learning disability service, co-located under a single manager.

You can read the full article on the Community Care Website [here](#).

North West

11. Disability Hate Crime - Free course

Friday 15th March 2013, 12.30-4.00pm

Venue: Brockman Hall, 1B Snaefell Avenue, Tuebrook, Liverpool, L13 7HA.

This free course is hosted by [Daisy UK](#) in partnership with City Safe. It will give you the information and knowledge required for you to address the problem that is disability hate crime. The aim of this training is for participants to understand and recognise incidents of disability hate crime and methods of intervention and support mechanisms.

Further details of the training objectives are available on the Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services website [here](#).

This accredited course includes refreshments throughout the day, information packs and certificates.

To book your free place, e-mail info@daisyuk.com or call 0151 220 2319. This course can also be delivered at your organisation to a minimum of 10 participants.

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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.