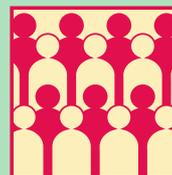


Bulletin



National
Family Carer
Network

www.familycarers.org.uk

Tel: 07747 460727

16th January 2014

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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. National Family Carer Network new social network pages

The National Family Carer Network is now on Facebook and Twitter.

You can find us on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/nationalfamilycarernetwork>
And you can find us here on Twitter: @NFCN_info https://twitter.com/NFCN_info

Be sure to like our page and follow us on Twitter to keep up-to-date with all our news throughout the week.

2. Bedroom tax loophole could exempt 40,000 wrongly identified as liable

Thousands of people have been wrongly identified as liable for the bedroom tax, including some who now face eviction or have been forced to move to a smaller property, as a result of an error by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Housing experts believe as many as 40,000 people could be affected by the mistake. The DWP says it believes only a "small number" of tenants are affected, which it estimates number 5,000.

All could be eligible for refunds worth on average at least £640 per claimant and millions in aggregate.

The error affects working age tenants in social housing who have occupied the same home continuously since 1996. An oversight by the DWP when drafting the legislation means that the housing benefit regulations dating from 1996 were not updated when the coalition legislated for the bedroom tax.

You can read the full Guardian article on their website [here](#).

3. How to complain about your personal independence payment (PIP) medical

[Benefits and Work](#) have recently published an article regarding the DWP misinforming claimants seeking to complain about their personal independence payment medical.

Click [here](#) to read the article on their website.

4. Free places available for PIP tips for family carers sessions

Do you want to know more about applying for Personal Independence Payment (PIP)? [Hft](#) are offering a number of free half-day sessions for practical tips and information about:

- preparing for the PIP application
- filling in forms
- how the DWP assesses and scores people
- preparing for the face to face assessment
- the new appeals process
- and more

Some places are still available for the following sessions:

Wednesday 22nd January 2014 - Bath (in partnership with Carers' Centre, Bath & North East Somerset)

10.30am to 12.30pm

Venue: The Carers' Centre, The Woodlands, Lower Bristol Road, Bath BA2 9ES

If you would like to attend, please contact the Carers' Centre on 0800 0388 885 or 01761 431388

Thursday 6th February 2014 - Hemel Hempstead (in partnership with Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust)

10.00am – 1.00pm

Venue: Hemel Hempstead Quaker Meeting House, 1 The Alleys, St Mary's Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 5ZB

If you would like to attend: Please contact Lisa Ford at Specialist Learning Disabilities West Herts Community Assessment and Treatment Team on 01442 275411

Friday 7th February 2014 - Beckenham (in partnership with Bromley Mencap)

10.15am - 12.30pm

Venue: Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham, Kent

If you would like to attend:

For **Burgess Autistic Trust families**, visit the website www.burgessautistictrust.org.uk and click on the link in the 'Family Service' box.

For **other families**, email Gill Eldridge at Bromley Mencap:

Gill.Eldridge@bromleymencap.org

If you can't come to any of the events, Hft have a number of useful videos on YouTube:

PIP 1: [Rules and how people are assessed](#)

PIP 2: [How to fill out the form](#)

PIP 3: [Going to a face to face assessment](#)

PIP 4: [Your award and appeals](#)

You can also contact Hft for a copy of their *Guide to benefit changes for family carers*: www.hft.org.uk/benefitsguide.

5. Making Disability Data Work for You: A Community Data Toolkit (Part 1)

This Toolkit published by the [Office for Disability Issues](#) (ODI) is one of the commitments in the "Fulfilling Potential: Making it Happen - Action Plan". It has evolved from ideas and comments received from disabled people and disability organisations during the development of the Fulfilling Potential disability strategy.

It is designed to help small disability organisations find and use data which is already in the public domain. To help enable them to:

- better understand their local communities;
- improve their services;
- better target their actions;
- evaluate their performance; and/or
- assist in bidding for new work.

The Toolkit covers basic information about identifying and using data. It provides:

- links to various sources of disability data which look at different disability related themes (education, employment, income, health and wellbeing, transport, housing and other data);
- information on basic data types and analytical methods; and
- advice on sample sizes and pitfalls to avoid when using data.

While the toolkit has been prepared to complement the Fulfilling Potential disability strategy, it is relevant to anyone who wants to use existing data, not just those who are interested in disability issues.

A second document is also being prepared to help small organisations collect their own data when existing data sources do not meet their needs. The ODI aims to release this second part of the Toolkit in late spring 2014.

You can download the toolkit from the ODI website [here](#).

6. TabToob shock resistant Ipad case

Liz Beattie works with children with Special Educational Needs and wanted her class to be able to use their iPads independently, with no worries about the iPads being damaged. Liz came up with the TabToob: a durable, shock resistant protective case to defend iPads from damage. The case protects iPads from falls, drops and throws, is lightweight, and has a non-slip easy grip.

To find out more, and how to buy, please visit the TabToob [website](#).

7. Filmmaker with learning disabilities wins national award

A filmmaker with learning disabilities from Bradford has won an award for his short film about the inspiration his big screen hero, James Bond, has had on his life. Thomas Kitcheman, won The uScreen Best Film Award 2013 in the uSparks Shorts competition. His three minute video illustrated how his idol has been an inspiration to him and showcased his extensive collection of Bond memorabilia which ranges from books, mugs and postcards to DVD's, CD's, signed photographs and cars.

Thomas, who is supported by [Hft](#), beat more than 100 entries from budding film makers submitted over the past year to win the online competition aimed at finding original films made by young people which will inspire others.

You can read the full story on the Hft [website](#) and watch Thomas's film [here](#).

South West

8. Changes to Specialist Education Needs Services: Parent and Carers engagement events - South Gloucestershire

From September 2014 the service for all children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families will be changing. The new service will extend the support available from birth to young adults aged up to 25, giving children, young people and their parent's greater control and choice in decisions to ensure needs are properly met.

South Gloucestershire Council is working together with the South Gloucestershire Parents and Carers Forum to talk to families and carers about what these changes will mean for you and the services and support you receive, and to voluntary organisations which work with and support those children, young people and their families.

The following events are aimed at parents, carers and service users

- Wednesday 22nd January 9.30am, Turnberries, Thornbury
- Thursday 23rd January 9.30am, Greenfield Centre, Winterbourne
- Thursday 30th January 9.30am, Longwell Green Community Centre

To book your place online, visit the South Gloucestershire Parents and Carers [website](#) or alternatively, call 01454 501009.

You can also find more information about the changes, including easy read versions, along with how you can have your say, on the South Gloucestershire Council website [here](#).

South East

9. Kiss My Disco event - Eastbourne

Wednesday 19th February 7.00pm – 11.00pm

Jesters Bar, 123 Seaside Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 3PH

These disco nights, organised by Stay Up Late, are run by DJs with learning disabilities and are open to everyone (18+). Costs: £4 on the door and carers go free.

Click [here](#) for the event flyer and [here](#) to visit the Stay up Late website.

East England

10. Funky Flamingo Club Night & call out for Volunteers

Friday 14th February 7:30pm-12:00am

Junction night club, Clifton Road, Cambridge

Funky Flamingo is a club that originated in 2001 for people with disabilities to perform or enjoy the company of people who are in the same situations as them.

The next club night is 14th February where there will be live bands and acts, impersonators, and guest DJ's. Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Concessions/Carers £3.

Click [here](#) to visit the website with full details and how to book.

Funky Flamingo is also looking for volunteers to help organise and promote the event. This would include: attending Funky Steering Groups, sharing ideas, making the Club Night popular, helping on the night as a steward, and generally getting involved.

If you would like more information about volunteering, please call the team on 01223 420850.

West Midlands

11. Oral Health and people with learning disabilities

Tuesday 25th March 2014

Birmingham

This BILD CPD Learning and Development Day is aimed at frontline staff, families and anyone interested in the oral health care of people with learning disabilities.

Costs £50+VAT and includes lunch and refreshments.

Click [here](#) to visit BILD's website with more details.

North West

12. Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Strategic Engagement Events: Liverpool

Liverpool City Council and NHS Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group are working closely together on what needs to be done to improve people's independence, health and wellbeing and their experiences of health and social care.

They are joining up their plans and would like to discuss with you:

- What they have learned from discussions across the city so far
- The areas and themes they are focusing on
- How they involve people in developing and delivering future plans

Three events will be held as follows:

- **Friday 24th January 2014 10.00am-1.00pm**
The Communiversity, Altcross Road, Liverpool, L11 0BS
- **Wednesday 29th January 2014 1.00 – 4.00pm**
Bridge Chapel Centre, Heath Road, Liverpool, L19 4XR
- **Friday 31st January 2014 1.00pm – 4.00pm**
The Florrie, 337 Mill Street, Liverpool, L8 4RF

Each event will include the same information and you are invited to attend one event on the date most convenient for you.

These are open events and all venues are fully accessible. A light lunch will be served at each event.

To reserve a place, please e-mail gail.jordan@lcvs.org.uk or call 0151 227 5177 and let her know if you have any particular requirements such as large print materials, a signer, a hearing loop, dietary or mobility issues. Public Transport information is available from 0871 200 2233. You can also find more details on the Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services (LCVS) [website](#).

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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.