

Bulletin



www.familycarers.org.uk

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26th September 2013

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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. MPs warn access to transport for disabled people still unacceptably poor

The Government must work harder to improve accessibility for disabled people across the nation's transport networks, warns the Transport Committee in a wide ranging report published recently.

Launching the report, Louise Ellman, Chair of the Transport Committee, said:

“In the UK some 11.5m people already live with a recognised disability and more than a fifth of them experience some difficulty when using transport networks. So it's essential that the Department for Transport delivers an ambitious Accessibility Action Plan.

“Changes made ahead of the 2012 Paralympic Games delivered access for disabled people to significantly more parts of the public transport network for the first time and highlighted the immense value of such improvements for all.

Yet a year later, there is a risk that some of the momentum from London 2012 is being lost because further key accessibility improvements planned by the Department for Transport are being watered-down or abandoned.

To read the full article, please visit the Parliament UK website [here](#).

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

You can also read more about the **Inquiry: Access to transport for disabled people** [here](#), and find full details of the Transport Committee [here](#).

2. Cumulative impact assessment petition

The Government has agreed to consider for debate a cumulative impact assessment of cuts and changes that affect people with disabilities and their family carers if the number of signatories reaches over 100,000. Around 44,000 more signatures are needed before the petition closes on 12th December this year.

The petition also calls for an immediate end to the Work Capability Assessment, as voted for by the British Medical Association, and a consultation between the Departments of Health and Education to improve support into work for sick and disabled people.

For full details of the petition, and to add your signature, please click [here](#).

3. Learning Disability A-Z

The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities (FPLD) has recently launched an [A-Z of Learning Disabilities](#) to provide information on key topics which are relevant to people with learning disabilities, their families, carers and friends. Topics range from employment and circles of support, to dementia and Rett Syndrome.

There is a long list of topics to add to the A-Z in the coming weeks and months, and if you have ideas on what else you would like to see included, the FPLD would like to hear from you. You can contact them [here](#).

4. Using mobile phones: easy read guide

[Inspired Services](#) and Ofcom have recently produced an easy read guide about using mobile phones, paying for calls, costs, and what to do if things go wrong.

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

5. Free Wills and Trusts Information Events in October

Mencap have organised a series of upcoming free wills and trusts events throughout October.

For a list of dates and venues, please visit the Mencap website [here](#).

A specialist local legal professional will talk at the events about how best to leave money behind to someone with a learning disability. The events are free and are a great opportunity for families and carers to get straightforward, face-to-face advice.

To book your place at any of the events, please use the online booking form [here](#).

You can also contact the team with any questions you might have, or to book a place on 020 7696 6925 or willsandtrusts@mencap.org.uk.

6. Safer Net: how to stay safe online

Safer Net, a project managed by [Respond](#), is a national network of groups and campaigners, who want to support people with learning disabilities to stay safe when using the internet. The project aims to make sure that people know about online abuse, the different ways that this can happen, and what to do if it happens to you or to someone you know.

Click [here](#) to visit the Safer Net website.

South East

7. Hampshire Learning Disabilities Plan consultation

Hampshire Learning Disability Plan for Adults has entered its consultation period which is open until 6th December. The Plan is for every adult with a learning disability, even if they do not have support paid for by Adult Services.

To view the draft Plan, or to complete the online questionnaire with your feedback, please click [here](#).

A number of events have been scheduled throughout the county to provide information on the Plan. Click [here](#) for full details of dates and venues.

If you cannot come to one of these events, you can also fill in the questionnaire by post. Please telephone 01962 847946 and a Questionnaire and Draft Plan can be posted to you.

West Midlands

8. New Disco Night for People with Disabilities

Every Thursday night 7pm until late

Chicago Rock, Foundry Street, Hanley, Stoke On Trent, ST1 5HE

A new disco night is being launched on Thursday 26th September and will take place every Thursday night after that. People of all ages and abilities are welcome.

A professional DJ will be playing all your favorite songs, and an onsite bar will be selling hot and cold drinks/snacks on the night.

The admission price is £2 per service user. Free entry for carers and staff (carers - please bring I.D).

There is a large free drop off area for all cars and mini buses, and Chicago Rock boasts great disabled toilet facilities, wide access spaces and ramped areas throughout. Chicago Rock has won many awards for being Hanley's safest and most popular nightclub.

There will also be a number of helpers and support workers available on the night to help and support you in any way they can.

If you would like directions, or more information about the new venue or disco, please contact the organiser, Matt Hill on 07787 966621 or disability.disco@gmail.com.

North West

9. Kidz up North - free event

Thursday, 21st November 2013 - 9.30am - 4.30pm

EventCity, Barton Dock Road, Urmston, Manchester, M17 8AS

Kidz up North is holding a free exhibition for children and young adults with disabilities and special needs, their parents, carers and the professionals who support them.

For the full programme and free entry ticket, click [here](#). Although tickets are not compulsory they do save time on registration if completed beforehand.

The tickets also include a full timetable of all the free CPD seminars taking place throughout the day, as well as the exhibitors list.

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