

Bulletin



National
Family Carer
Network

www.familycarers.org.uk

Tel: 07747 460727

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Contents

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.

National

1. CSA response to the draft Care and Support bill pre-parliamentary scrutiny consultation
2. Another council loses High Court battle over fees for care home providers
3. Centre for Welfare Reform report
4. WELD Blog: Speech and language therapy screening tool in forensic service
5. Training course - Personal independence payment
6. DWP Official Statistics Consultation
7. Barriers to choice: public services review
8. Briefing on the replacement for CRB checks
9. Impetus/NPC joint report: Collaborating for Impact
10. New BILD book on health and safety
11. 'Show and Go' Books: Going to the Dentist
12. Guardian article: Easy News
13. IHAL & SeeAbility – report

London

14. Camden Carers Centre – free training events and health days

East Midlands

15. SeeAbility – Free event

West Midlands

16. 'Kidz in the Middle' – free event

East England

17. Essex Mencap Open Meeting

North West

18. DWP - Reports of disability hate crime treble in Blackpool

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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. CSA response to the draft Care and Support bill pre-parliamentary scrutiny consultation

The [Care and Support Alliance](#) (CSA) was set up in July 2009 and is a consortium of over 60 organisations that represent and support older and disabled people, including disabled children, those with long-term conditions and their families, and campaigns to keep adult care funding and reform on the political agenda.

NFCN are members of the Care and Support Alliance and therefore our views have been represented in this submission, which is available to read on our website [here](#).

2. Another council loses High Court battle over fees for care home providers

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council has become the latest local authority to be successfully challenged in the courts by care home providers over its proposed level of fees.

The claimants in [Redcar and Cleveland Independent Providers Association & Ors, R \(on the application of\) v Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council](#) [2013] EWHC 4 represented more than 80% of homes for the elderly in the area.

The full summary of this case can be read on the [Local Government Lawyer](#) website.

You can also read more on the [Community Care](#) website which includes links to articles on a number of recent cases where councils have been successfully challenged on the way they set care fees.

3. Centre for Welfare Reform report

[The Centre for Welfare Reform](#), on behalf of the [Campaign for a Fair Society](#), has researched and published a detailed analysis of how the cuts target disabled people and people in poverty. The report goes on to explore the political factors that have led to such a significant attack on the rights of disabled people.

You can download a free copy of the report via the website [here](#), or you can watch a short film explaining how the cuts have been targeted.

4. **WELD Blog: Speech and language therapy screening tool in forensic service shows link between communication difficulties and offending behaviour**

One outcome measure of forensic services is the rate of re-offending. The author of this review was interested in this outcome, but in particular the contribution to this of speech and language therapy services.

The [Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists](#) recommend the involvement of speech and language therapy intervention in support to people to reduce re-offending, and the author set out to analyse referrals to the speech and language therapy department within a forensic support service for adults with learning disabilities.

To read the full article, please visit the WELD blog [here](#).

5. **Training course - Personal independence payment**

Available dates and locations: Wednesday 24th April, Birmingham; Thursday, 14th March, Bristol; Tuesday, 23rd April, Leeds; Thursday, 25th April, London.

This one day training course from [Benefits and Work](#) provides a clear understanding of the new personal independence payment (PIP), due to be introduced in April 2013.

No previous benefits knowledge is required. The training is suitable both for advice workers and for support workers who do not give benefits advice, but who do need a good awareness of the possible effects of the transfer from disability living allowance (DLA) to personal independence payment (PIP) on their clients.

Cost per delegate, including lunch:

Non-members: £125 + VAT includes 3 months free professional membership of the Benefits and Work website, available from date of training. Offer available only once per agency.

Benefits and Work professional members: £105 + VAT

Please visit the [website](#) for available dates and downloadable booking forms.

6. **Department for Work and Pensions Official Statistics Consultation**

This [consultation](#) describes the proposed changes to some DWP Official Statistics over the period 2013 to 2017. It invites views on the proposed changes and the future of DWP benefit (including Personal Independence Payment and Universal Credit) statistics.

Please send your consultation responses by 24th April 2013, by email preferably, to stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Or by post to:

Mr Stuart Grant
Room BP5201
Benton Park View
Benton Park Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE98 1YX

7. Barriers to choice: public services review

Barriers to choice is an independent review by David Boyle about public demand for choice in public services, and about any barriers people might face when making choices. To read the review, please click [here](#). For further useful links, please visit the Cabinet Office [website](#) here.

8. Briefing on the replacement for CRB checks

As part of [recent government reforms](#) to the disclosure and barring system, the functions of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) have been transferred to a single organisation, the [Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\)](#).

A number of useful links can be found on the [Volunteering England](#) website including a free information sheet: [Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\) checks \(formerly CRB checks\)](#).

9. Impetus/NPC joint report: Collaborating for Impact

This new report from [Impetus](#) and NPC presents advice and expertise on how to make strategic collaboration a reality for organisations, as well as recommendations for commissioners and policymakers on facilitating collaboration in public service delivery. To read the report, click [here](#).

10. New BILD book on health and safety

Health and Safety for Learning Disability Workers by Alice Bradley explains how workers can contribute to the health and safety of the person they support. It covers responding to accidents and sudden illness, reducing the risk of infection, handling hazardous materials, fire safety and personal security, as well as involving the people you support in maintaining their own health and safety.

This book puts the person with a learning disability at the centre of the support you give. It uses real life stories, activities and thinking points to cover all of the learning outcomes and is full of practical examples of how to apply the ideas to the support that you provide.

More information can be found on the BILD website [here](#).

11. 'Show and Go' Books: Going to the Dentist

'Show and Go' offers parents the chance to create a short book with pictures to show children/young people exactly what to expect from their dentist visit- from meeting the receptionist to the 'special chair'. To find out more, click here

<http://showandgobooks.moonfruit.com/>

12. Guardian article: Easy News - a newspaper for people with learning disabilities

Easy News is the first newspaper to be created specifically for people with learning disabilities in the UK. It includes news stories which have been translated into an "easy read" format by United Response consultants, a specialist team of people with learning disabilities employed by the charity [United Response](#).

You can read the full article on the Guardian [website](#) along with a further related Guardian article [here](#).

You can download the first Easy News issue [here](#) and you can sign up to receive an online copy or print copy of Easy News by emailing easynews@unitedresponse.org.uk or by completing the online form on their website [here](#).

13. IHAL & SeeAbility - Making Reasonable Adjustments to Eye Care Services for People with Learning Disabilities

Improving Health and Lives and [SeeAbility](#) have published "Making Reasonable Adjustments to Eye Care Services for People with Learning Disabilities" which brings together a number of examples of reasonable adjustments that can be used to make eye care services more accessible.

To download the document, please visit the Improving Health and Lives [website](#)

London

14. Camden Carers Centre - free training events and health days

Camden Carers Centre organise training events and health days to suit all types of carers. They are available, free of charge, to any carer who lives or works in Camden, or cares for someone who does.

Please click [here](#) to visit the website for full details of the training schedule.

Booking is essential and you can contact Camden Carers Centre on 020 7428 8950 or by email info@camdencarers.org.uk

East Midlands

15. SeeAbility - Free event for people with learning disabilities and carers or supporters

Thursday 7th March 2013 10am to 3pm

Venue: Northamptonshire Association for the Blind (NAB), Wardington Court, Welford Road, Northampton, NN2 8AG.

People with learning disabilities are 10 times more likely to have serious sight problems than other people. See Ability is holding this event to make sure people with learning disabilities and their supporters know about good eye care.

For more information and to book a place, please see the [event poster](#) or visit the NAB website [here](#).

West Midlands

16. 'Kidz in the Middle' - free event

Thursday 21st March 2013

Venue: Jaguar Exhibition Hall, Ricoh Arena, Coventry CV6 6GE

[Disabled Living](#) have organised a free event for children and young adults with disabilities and special needs, their families, carers and the professionals who support them. The event includes a number of exhibitors offering advice and information on a range of issues, free seminars for parents and professionals, and an inclusive sports zone.

For visitors free entry tickets and for more information, please contact Disabled Living by phone 0161 607 8200, email: info@disabledliving.co.uk, or by visiting the website [here](#).

East England

17. Essex Mencap Open Meeting

Thursday 28th February 10.30am

Venue: Upper Hall, Central Baptist Church, Victoria Road, Chelmsford

This meeting is open for anyone interested in children or adults with a learning disability. For further details, please visit the Essex Mencap [website](#) or email brown.bocking@zen.co.uk or emn08@sky.com.

North West

18. DWP - Reports of disability hate crime treble in Blackpool

Reports of disability hate crime have trebled in one area of the country after the Government worked with a local charity to encourage disabled people to come forward.

The use of 'third party reporting centres' has seen the number of incidents reported in Blackpool treble to 36 since the project began.

[Disability First](#) launched the service after feedback showed disabled people often feel more comfortable reporting hate crime incidents to people they know.

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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.