

DIAL Network News

Date: April 2012

Serving the disability advice network

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Welcome

Welcome to the April edition of Network News.

As part of improving our support to DIAL groups since last year, we're reviewing how we can support you and what we can offer the DIAL network. As part of this, we want to improve Network News so that it's useful to you and your DIAL group, so please do tell us what you like or don't about the content or format.

DIAL Advisory Group 30 April meeting

The Advisory Group plan to meet again next week. Outcomes from the meeting will be included in next month's newsletter. For information, the agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome and updates from around the table
 2. Campaigns news
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3. Feedback on draft documentation (to be sent ahead of call) about the
 - a. Role of the Advisory group
 - b. Current DIAL Network membership offer
4. Discussion about
 - a. Network News
 - b. DIAL UK website
 - c. New DIAL members
5. Any other business
6. Content for the next face-to-face DIAL Advisory Group meeting in June.

If you'd like to join the Advisory Group, please contact Suzi Mackenzie by email at suzi.mackenzie@scope.org.uk or on 020 7619 7305.

Free Disability Rights 2012/13 Handbook

We have reserved a limited stock of the new Disability Rights Handbook, which is released in May. During the interim DIAL membership period where we are not charging for membership, we will be giving them away free to DIAL groups. Contact Suzi using the details above to request a copy.

News

Need for charity on the rise as government cuts bite

Source: Daily Telegraph

A majority of Britons expect the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people in their communities to increase this year, because of the higher cost of living and government spending cuts.

Some 57pc of people said need in their local community is likely to increase in the coming year, according to a YouGov survey, with 51pc of respondents saying they had already seen a rise in the past year.

The charitable and voluntary sector expected to have to do more to help people struggling with poverty or illness as state funding is reduced, and 26pc of people surveyed said they could give more to good causes than they do already.

In the last six months, some 62pc of adults in the UK gave time or money to causes they care about.

The generosity of the British public has been demonstrated following the death of

Claire Squires, 31, in Sunday's London Marathon. She had run the race in aid of the Samaritans, and the fund she initially set up has now attracted more than £600,000 of donations.

Of the causes which can expect to attract donations, children and young people are in a strong position, with 16pc of those surveyed saying they cared most about helping that group.

Health-related charities and groups were also put first by 16pc of respondents, with animal charities most important to 11pc of respondents.

The Government has encouraged charities and the voluntary sector to take on more responsibility for caring for the most vulnerable people in society, as it seeks to reduce to role of the state and to cut spending.

However, wealthy philanthropists have recently protested that plans announced in the Budget to cap tax relief on charitable giving sends the opposite message, and have warned donations could fall.

The survey was carried out by YouGov on behalf of Give More, a not-for-profit organisation set up to run for a year and encourage people to give more time or money to charities and other good causes.

YouGov surveyed 2,072 adults online, between March 30 and April 2.

View the original article at

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financialcrisis/9224560/Need-for-charity-on-the-rise-as-government-cuts-bite.html>

Benefit cuts: Atos in the frame to deliver new disability tests

Source: The Guardian, blog

Ten of the UK's biggest private outsourcing companies have been shortlisted to deliver controversial Personal Independence Payment health assessments - with one notable exception.

Who will deliver a 20% cut to the disability living allowance benefits bill? We now know the contracts will be shared among 10 private companies, including the controversial French firm Atos Origin, which has come under fire over its handling of incapacity benefit tests, known as the Work Capability Assessment (WCA).

The shortlisted companies are effectively in the frame to compete for at least four regional contracts to assess people's eligibility for Personal Independence

Payments (PIP) - a new benefit which will replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in April 2013.

Read more at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/patrick-butler-cuts-blog/2012/apr/23/benefit-cuts-atos-in-frame-to-deliver-disability-tests>

Social Care in Crisis report

Source: Learning Disability Coalition

The Learning Disability Coalition has published the results of its third annual survey of local authorities which reveal huge cutbacks to local authority care. The local authority data is supported by information from people with learning disabilities and service providers revealing a stark picture of the reality of day-to-day living with a learning disability in England in 2012. The results of all three surveys show a social care system under extreme strain with local authorities desperate for reform of both the practice and funding of social care in order to relieve the current crisis.

Read the Social Care in Crisis report at:

<http://www.learningdisabilitycoalition.org.uk/latestnews.asp>

Fulfilling Potential discussion themes published

Source: Office for Disability Issues

A number of major themes on how to improve the lives of disabled people have emerged from the Fulfilling Potential discussion.

The findings were revealed to more than 40 delegates from organisations that support disabled people at an initial feedback event in March.

The main themes from the responses include:

- More control over choices and involvement in how service are delivered
- Better support at critical points in life such as the transition to adulthood
- More flexible working and greater use of Access to Work
- Tackling negative attitudes about disabled people among the public, employers and the media.

Speaking at the event Maria Miller, the Minister for Disabled People, said:

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“I want to make clear that from the very top of government we are absolutely committed to achieving a step change in supporting disabled people to fulfil their potential in every area of life.”

There were 542 responses, 297 from individuals, 184 from organisations and 61 combined responses following meetings and events.

The responses will be used to inform a new cross-government Disability Strategy which will be published in late summer. A summary of all responses will be published at the end of April.

More information is available at:

<http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/odi-projects/fulfilling-potential.php>

Small grants programme opens again in Gloucestershire and Swindon

Source: People's Trust

Thanks to players of the local Health Lottery run by HealthTotal in South Scotland charities can apply for Health Communities grants from People's Health Trust, the independent charity that decides how the money raised for good causes by players of the HealthTotal local lottery is spent.

This new funding raised by HealthTotal – the Community Interest Company for Gloucestershire and Swindon - will make awards of between £5,000 and £10,000 of Health Lottery funding to local community and voluntary groups to support activities aiming to help people live longer and lead healthier lives.

We encourage organisations or grassroots groups that target people at higher risk of experiencing poor health, to apply for funding. It could help you fund activity that supports improvements in health and wellbeing in your community and involves the community itself.

Healthy Communities grants are suitable for projects that:

- request between £5,000 and £10,000
- last up to 12 months
- are based and operate within one of the local society lotteries
- are run by local charities and community groups with an annual income of less than £75,000 a year

To find out more about applying for a Healthy Communities small grant and other small grants programmes currently open, visit the People's Health Trust website
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at www.peopleshealthtrust.org.uk

The deadline for applications within Gloucestershire and Swindon is 5 June 2012.

Nearly half of charities will dip into reserves in next year, survey finds

Source: Third Sector

Forty-seven per cent of charities say they will have to dip into their reserves to support activities over the next year. That's one of the stark findings of the fifth annual *Managing in a Downturn* report, released yesterday by the Charity Finance Group, the Institute of Fundraising and PricewaterhouseCoopers. The survey - which found that many were considering restructures, pay freezes, redundancies and an overall reduction in staff hours - is a glaring reminder of the ever-increasing importance of finding and growing additional sources of new funding.

Third Sector reported that the findings showed that an incredible 63% of charities had been hit by government spending policies and 93% of fundraisers said that the fundraising environment had got tougher in the last 12 months. In the article, Ian Oakley-Smith, a director at PricewaterhouseCoopers is quoted as saying: "The energy and capabilities of charities are being pushed to the limit as they look to survive."

Most doctors believe that patients with a learning disability receive poorer healthcare than the rest of the population

Source: Mencap

A poll commissioned by the General Medical Council (GMC) shows that more than half of doctors think that patients with a learning disability receive a poorer standard of healthcare.

More than one in three doctors also reported that they had personally seen a patient with a learning disability being given poorer care or facing some form of discrimination.

The survey of more than 400 doctors shows that staff feel that they lack the resources or appropriate training to deliver equal healthcare to people with a learning disability. Three quarters said that they would welcome online advice on treating patients with a learning disability.

The results follow Mencap's *74 deaths and counting* report, which was published in January as a follow-up to the 2007 *Death by indifference* report. It found that the NHS is still putting lives at risk by failing to adhere to the Equality Act.

Mencap's chief executive Mark Goldring said: "The GMC's survey confirms that many doctors still do not understand how to treat people with a learning disability. It is not right that they continue to receive a poorer standard of healthcare than the rest of the population despite having greater health needs."

The full article can be viewed at

<http://www.mencap.org.uk/news/article/doctors-admit-healthcare-discrimination>

The GMC have produced a new online resource as a result of this poll. For more information see page 18.

No Go Britain: disabled passengers' own stories

Source: Channel 4 News

Disabled passengers have shared their travel experiences in response to the launch of Channel 4 News' investigation into transport for the disabled, *No Go Britain*.

Packed off in ambulances, ousted by prams and ignored by taxis - it is little wonder that disabled travellers dread tackling public transport on their own.

Hundreds of disabled people have contacted Channel 4 News following their first special report on *No Go Britain*, in which Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, a Paralympian who won 16 medals during her career, told of the "fear" disabled travellers face.

"I think as a disabled person travelling, you always have an element of fear or just feeling uncomfortable, wondering whether you're going to get off," she said.

Disabled people across the country overwhelmingly identified with the Baroness.

Lydia Penton, 20, from Essex, told us: "I now know that I am not alone in feeling anxious when on public transport."

In Ms Penton's case, the stress of travelling alone to a recent university interview was too much. "I decided not to take the risk," she said, asking her mother to drive her so that she would not have to rely on a member of station staff to have a ramp ready for her arrival.

She added: "I would love to feel confident enough to travel alone and to gain

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some sort of independence." The fear of travelling alone was widespread among those who contacted Channel 4 News - and it's not hard to see why.

For the full article and the associated website visit:

<http://www.channel4.com/news/no-go-britain>

Request for customer feedback on airport services

Nigel Brown, a Disability Traveller Advocate from Omniserv Ltd has been tasked with improving the quality of service for their disabled customers. Omniserv provide the service that enables people with a disability or restricted mobility to get on and off airplanes.

To give your feedback or find out more take a look at his full post on the Scope forum:

<http://www.scope.org.uk/forums/campaigns/help-improve-way-airports-deal-disabled-people>

Price comparison websites offer no choice for disabled

Source: Ability Net

Leading price comparison websites are letting down disabled and older people by ignoring basic web accessibility guidelines, according to e-accessibility expert, AbilityNet.

Four of the five sites surveyed, www.comparethemarket.com, www.gocompare.com, www.mysupermarket.co.uk and www.confused.com, scored the minimum one star, whilst www.kelkoo.co.uk managed a two star rating. Not one of the five sites achieved the three star rating required to indicate a base level of usability for those with disabilities.

AbilityNet's State of the eNation surveys look at websites from the point of view of disabled and elderly users when using a range of services online. As well as a series of manual checks, the sites are tested using common adaptive technologies, such as screen readers and voice recognition software. Only sites which meet the needs of visitors with a vision impairment, dyslexia or physical problems, such as not being able to use a mouse, attain three stars or above.

The report's author is Robin Christopherson, AbilityNet's Head of Digital Inclusion, who is himself blind:

"Like everyone else in these hard times the country's 12 million disabled people

want to get the best deal when they're shopping, whether that's for insurance, groceries or anything else. But these cash strapped shoppers are losing out due to badly designed web pages that prevent them from shopping around and accessing the online bargains they need to make ends meet."

And it's not just the consumers who are losing out. Apart from the obvious moral argument for accessibility, the retailers linked to these sites won't be happy about missing out on a market which represents a spending power of some £120 billion every year.

Christopherson concludes: "The Law is clear on this issue. It is just as illegal to bar disabled visitors from accessing your goods and services online as it would be to keep them out of your shop in the 'real world'". Whilst no company would do this knowingly, as this report shows there are plenty of high profile sites that are contravening the Equality Act (2010) by not considering their disabled customers."

Download the eNation report at:

<http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/enation181>

News from around the Network

ENC and Scope report on BME disabled people

Equalities National Council (ENC) and Scope have worked together on a piece of research exploring the needs and preferences of disabled people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

The research found that there are at least one million black and minority ethnic (BME) disabled people in the UK. Many live in acute poverty, and face considerable difficulties in their daily lives. At least half live in household poverty, even without accounting for the additional costs all disabled people face – the true levels of poverty are likely to be even higher.

Demographic changes in the UK mean that there will be many more BME disabled people in the future. The BME population overall is growing, but it is also ageing – two trends which are likely to increase the numbers of disabled people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

The report also makes recommendations to government, service providers and local authority commissioners about how they can improve the accessibility of services for BME disabled people.

The recommendations build on the idea that greater community involvement in the

design, commissioning and delivery of services is essential for them to become fully accessible. Increasing outreach and advocacy, improving translation, and enhancing person-centred provision would also be positive steps.

The full report and summary are available on Scope's website

<http://www.scope.org.uk/bme>

For further information please contact Julie Charles, ENC:
juliej.charles@equalitiesnational.org.uk, or Robert Trotter, Scope:
robert.trotter@scope.org.uk.

Successful partnership work in Cambridgeshire

On 18 April Disability Cambridgeshire successfully completed the final in a series of benefit information events across the county.

The events were aimed at parents and professionals and delivered in partnership with Pinpoint, the parent consultation organisation in Cambridgeshire, Contact a Family and Scope.

Events included a presentation on benefits, particularly DLA, as well as information about Scope Services in the area. One-to-One consultation was available for parents / professionals after the presentations.

The session was well attended and provided a great networking opportunity.

Do you have something to tell the network?

This is your newsletter and we are always on the lookout for information to add to this section. If you have something to share, please send a quick note to suzi.mackenzie@scope.org.uk or call her directly on 020 8619 7305.

Equally if you have something that it is important for the network to know before Network News comes out, please let us know and we will do our best to facilitate a network wide communication there and then.

Legal update

Ombudsman warns councils they must adequately publicise the introduction of car parking charges for Blue Badge holders

Source: Community Care Law Mar 2012

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The Local Government Ombudsman for England has recently considered a complaint about Cherwell District Council's introduction of car parking charges for disabled 'Blue Badge' holders. While the Ombudsman found that the council was entitled to introduce charges, it did not do enough to publicise the new charges for out-of-town visitors.

The council's failing was that, while it did publicise the introduction of charges in its own area, it only publicised the charges in its car parks by way of a notice placed on its car park ticket machines. Blue Badge holders from outside the council's area therefore remained unaware of the charges. They were not touched by the council's area-based publicity of the introduction of charges and, having no prior reason to visit the ticket machines, did not encounter the notices placed on the machines. Accordingly, out-of-area Blue Badge holders remained unaware of the introduction of charges and a number were given penalty charges for failing to have a ticket. Their complaints to the Ombudsman were upheld. The council were guilty of maladministration as follows:

"The Council failed to take into account the fact that blue badge holders and evening users would have had no reason to use the ticket machine and, therefore any notice displayed there would have been futile in terms of notifying them of any change."

So, what the council should have done was erect signs in its car park warning Blue Badge holders that they were now required to pay to park in council car parks.

One of the Local Government Ombudsman for England (Dr Jane Martin) decided complaint 11 002 630 (against Cherwell DC) on 22 February 2012.

Scope Policy and Campaigns

Legal Aid update

A number of DIAL groups have played a very active role as part of Scope's campaign to Save Legal Aid for disabled people.

Disappointingly, late on Monday evening the House of Lords voted against the amendment that Scope was supporting which would have kept legal aid advice for disabled people appealing incorrect welfare benefits decisions. The impact that this will have on disabled people, as well as on the DIAL groups providing much valued advice, will be significant.

However, the Government did make an important concession which will make legal aid advice available in very complex welfare benefits cases. The Government's recognition that legal advice should be made available in some very complex cases is welcome and although it doesn't go as far as we wanted it to, Scope will continue to work to press the Government to make sure that this proposal will reach as many disabled people as possible and is workable in practice.

Thanks to all DIAL groups who played an important part in this campaign. If you would like to continue to play an active role in Scope's campaigns, please contact campaigns@scope.org.uk

A particular thank you to Disability Equality North West who discussed the impact of legal aid cuts to their organisation using our blog:

<http://www.scope.org.uk/news/blogs/campaigns-network/impact-legal-aid-cuts-on-disability-equality-north-west>

Wanted: Carer dads to share their views

Scope has joined forces with Netbuddy to launch a new Dad and Me project designed to lift the lid on male caring.

With the focus too often on the role of their female counterparts, the project is designed to scratch beneath the surface and find out what dads think and how they're coping.

An estimated one in 20 children in the UK are disabled (that equates to about 770,000 children) and means as much as 5% of the population could be carer dads.

Little is known about the father's role in caring for disabled children or adults, so the survey will reveal their thoughts and challenges.

"When it comes to caring, the male role can often be overlooked," says Deborah Gundle, Netbuddy Founder.

"We are calling on dads to speak out about how they care for their loved ones in order to ensure they are getting the support they need and help us build a stronger community where dads can work together, sharing advice and tips."

"Although there is some recognition for dads, we're hoping to create a greater awareness of gender roles in caring and the impact of male carers. They should be receiving much more attention and get the same level of help and advice.

The results will form part of a wider Dad and Me campaign for Netbuddy and Scope to help change common misperceptions and actively promote the important role of male carers.

Anyone wishing to take part can do so at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Dadandme

The survey is anonymous, easy to complete and should take no more than two minutes. Every person who completes the survey will also get a £40 voucher to spend at Naked Wines and the chance to win £100 of Amazon vouchers.

Training

Child, Youth, Family and Disability Conference

Source: Disability Research Forum

Dates: 23rd-24th May 2012

Cost: Free

Venue: Geoffrey Manton Building, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK

Brief Description: The aim of the conference is to provide a space for disabled children, young people and parents/carers to share their ideas, knowledge and expertise and to celebrate their lives. We would like to invite disabled children, young people, their parents and carers (we would like to include people with physical, sensory and cognitive impairments as well as those people with mental health issues), as well as activists and academics in the field of disability studies and childhood studies to present at and to attend the two-day event.

The format of the days will include accessible presentations and discussion points as well as opportunities to take part in story, drama and arts based activities.

To book a place visit

<http://childyouthfamilydisability.eventbrite.com/>

New Half day Rightsnet workshops

Source: Lasa

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Universal credit 14 June

Universal credit will become the main means tested benefit from October 2013. This workshop examines the structure of universal credit and explores who will win and who will lose out.

Personal independence payment 14 June

Personal independence payment (PIP) is set to replace DLA from April 2013. This workshop examines the structure of PIP, the assessment process, and gives an opportunity to discuss the possible impact on your clients.

ESA - making effective claims 19 June

Now employment and support allowance (ESA) has been with us for over 3 years and the conversion process is in full swing, advisers are facing more and more enquiries around ESA. Many of these relate to the claims process, in particular completing the ESA50 questionnaire, which can be daunting to both clients and advisers. This half day workshop aims to give advisers the skills to make effective claims.

DLA - making effective claims 19 June

With personal independence payment (PIP) due to be introduced early next year, it is increasingly important to ensure that everyone who can claim disability living allowance (DLA) does so now before the introduction of the more restrictive new benefit. This half day workshop aims to give advisers the skills to make successful claims.

For more information or to book a place on any of the training events visit:

<http://www.rightsnet.org.uk/training>

DIAL Network training and development

As part of the new DIAL Network membership offer we would like to improve the training and professional development available to DIAL groups. If you have any thoughts about opportunities that would be particularly appealing to your group please do let us know.

As highlighted before, Suzi Mackenzie is keen to get your feedback, so please contact her on suzi.mackenzie@scope.org.uk or on 0207 619 7305 with any thoughts.

Publications and resources

Impact assessing the abolition of working age disability living allowance (DLA)

Source: Disability Rights UK

Disability Rights UK have carried out an analysis of what disabled people predict is likely to happen if government changes mean they are no longer eligible for support. They have used DWP estimates as far as possible to examine potential costs to government.

Their analysis indicates that the abolition of working age DLA will lead to higher NHS and social care costs as well as causing thousands of disabled people to become unemployed.

Download the report at:

<http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/dlaimpactassessment.htm>

Caring for our future: what service users say

Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

What do service users think about adult social care and what are their fears for the future?

This report shares the results of a consultation held in November 2011 on social care reform. The consultation was carried out by Shaping Our Lives in association with the Centre for Citizen Participation at Brunel University, and was supported by Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF).

The study:

- identifies issues that are important to service users, including funding, damaging effects of public spending cuts, hostility towards disabled people and user involvement;
- discusses proposed changes (including funding) to the social care system; and
- makes recommendations on the future of adult social care, based on the experiences of service users.

Download the full report at:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/caring-our-future-what-service-users-say>

Dementia 2012: A national challenge

Source: Alzheimer's Society

Alzheimer's Society has launched a landmark report at a conference in London exploring how well people are living with dementia in 2012 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Dementia 2012: A national challenge presents new evidence on the experiences of people with dementia, and pulls together existing evidence, statistics and policy from a range of sources. These figures will be updated on an annual basis by Alzheimer's Society.

We will show how well people are living with dementia based on the outcomes that are important to them and chart progress and opportunities for action, year on year.

Download the full report using the following link:

http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?downloadID=821

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in charities - trustee duties explained

Source: Charity Commission

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has today published its Strategy for dealing with safeguarding children and vulnerable adults' issues in charities.

The strategy sets out trustees' safeguarding responsibilities in their charity and this includes taking steps to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm, it explains what they should do to prevent problems from arising in the first place and how they should respond to allegations and incidents of abuse when they do arise in their charities.

This follows from the publication of the Commission's new Risk Framework and Risk Application Guidance. This sets out its regulatory approach, how it assesses risk, and identifies three regulatory areas requiring a clear strategic response; one of which is safeguarding in charities.

The Safeguarding Strategy makes clear that trustees must develop and implement systems to safeguard children and vulnerable adults and monitor these procedures on a regular basis to ensure they are working in practice.

The strategy also explains the regulator's own role in this area. The Commission is not responsible for safeguarding matters or for dealing with incidents of actual abuse - this is a role for other agencies. The Commission's regulatory role is focused instead on the conduct of trustees and the steps they take to protect the charity and its beneficiaries now and in the future.

The strategy describes the Commission's role and approach in dealing with safeguarding issues in relation to charities. It explains how the Charity Commission:

- Works with the sector and other agencies to prevent safeguarding concerns arising in the first place
- Responds to allegations or reports of abuse of children and vulnerable adults within a charity
- Deals with concerns about someone who is currently acting as a charity trustee, employee, volunteer or contractor and their suitability to hold that position

It sets out its 4-strand approach: awareness and prevention; oversight and supervision; co-operation and intervention.

The Commission also recently published a strategy for dealing with fraud, financial crime and financial abuse in charities and will shortly republish its Counter-terrorism strategy - originally published in 2008 - which is being updated to reflect changes to CONTEST (the UK's Counter-terrorism strategy).

The new safeguarding strategy is aimed at trustees of charities, as well as at other agencies responsible for safeguarding issues.

View the strategy here:

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Our_regulatory_activity/Our_approach/vulnerable_beneficiaries.aspx

Working in neighbourhoods, active citizenship and localism

Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Neighbourhood working can help to deliver localism policies, good partnership working, more active citizenship and civic responsibility, and get local councillors to play strong community leadership roles.

JRF's Working in Neighbourhoods project offers useful lessons for local authorities, neighbourhood practitioners, and communities, drawing on direct

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experience from practitioners in Bradford, and many other places. It found:

- Neighbourhood workers are key to co-ordinating partners and services, brokering agreements and solving problems creatively.
- Active citizenship could be strengthened by tapping into the pool of 'willing localists'.
- Transferring more control to communities requires new mechanisms to share risk and reward between public sector bodies and communities.
- Councillors can play a community leadership role, and be honest with constituents, tackle difficult issues head-on, and mobilise the wider community.
- Central government could offer support, guidance and leadership for action at the local level on the shared challenges facing local public sector organisations and local government.

Download the report here:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/working-in-neighbourhoods>

Useful websites and dates

GMC learning disability website

Following its poll described earlier, the GMC has introduced a new online resource for doctors treating people with a learning disability. The GMC's learning disability website identifies key issues around treating people with a learning disability, discrimination and working with carers. It also outlines the GMC's guidance and shows how it can be put into practice.

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/learningdisabilities/>

Netbuddy

A reminder about Netbuddy, mentioned earlier in relation to the poll of carer dads. Netbuddy offers tips from people with everyday experience of learning disability.

<http://www.netbuddy.org.uk>

For a list of useful disability organisations visit www.scope.org.uk/help-and-information/resources-and-links/links/other-disability-organisations

May Disability Awareness dates

01/05/12 [World Asthma Day](#)

06/05/12 - 12/05/12 [M.E Awareness Week](#)

07/05/12 - 13/05/12 [Deaf Awareness Week](#)

08/05/12 [Stroke Awareness Week](#)

10/05/12 [World Lupus Day](#)

12/05/12 - 19/05/12 [Cleft Lip and Palate Awareness Week](#)

14/05/12 - 20/05/12 [Action for Brain Injury Week](#)

14/05/12 - 20/05/12 [Arthritis Care Awareness Week](#)

20/05/12 - 26/05/12 [National Epilepsy Week](#)

20/05/12 - 26/05/12 [Dementia Awareness Week](#)

Other matters

Please note

We've made every effort in this mailing to use language in keeping with the Social Model of Disability. However, some terms used might not reflect this.

Although these are not our preferred terms, some of the materials used are quoted directly from source and used in their original format.

We welcome views on this newsletter – Does it meet your needs? What would you like to see less of, or more of? Do you like the PDF or hard copy format, or would an email with links to articles on the web suit you better? Please send any comments to suzi.mackenzie@scope.org.uk