

DIAL Network News

September 2012

Serving the disability advice network

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Welcome to the September edition of Network News.

Apologies, we're aware it's now October, but were keen to wait until after the launch of Scope's new campaign, which is all about improving local support for disabled children and their families

www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/disabled-children-and-families/keep-us-close

More on page 20.

You should have received the Disability Rights UK September e-Newsletter as part of your free membership, so to save duplication we'll not be including updates from them in Network News going forward.

Just to give you a heads up that the next Network News will be available mid November, so we can talk about Scope's strategic direction going forward and give you an update on progress with DIAL Network development. We'll make sure that the December edition comes out in the middle of the month, so it doesn't get

lost in the middle of the festive period.

We hope you find what follows a useful read. As always please do feedback any changes you would like to see. Contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

All the best,

Suzi Mackenzie

Information Services Development Manager, Scope

News from external sources

Welfare / Benefits

Majority believe state should control how benefits are spent

Source: Daily Telegraph

Six in ten people believe benefits should not be spent on luxuries such as alcohol, cigarettes, junk food and holidays, a new poll shows. The survey by Demos, a think-tank, found widespread support for the idea of state controls on how people spend their benefits. David Cameron has already floated the idea of giving people more "benefits in kind", rather than doling out cash. There are no current plans for the Coalition to introduce vouchers for welfare recipients, but the Prime Minister said there needs to be a public debate on the issue earlier this year. "Is it right that we continue to pay the vast majority of welfare benefits in cash, rather than in benefits in kind, like free school meals?" he said.

Read the full article at:

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9578961/Majority-believe-state-should-control-how-benefits-are-spent.html

'I was forced to judge disabled fit for work'; Atos assessor

Source: The Independent

A former nurse who was employed as an assessor by the firm Atos has claimed she was forced to manipulate tests so that disabled people were deemed fit to work. Joyce Drummond alleged she was warned by her the French-owned firm that she was being "too nice" to claimants. She said candidates were marked down if they arrived for their interview with brushed hair, had a toddler with them, were wearing make-up or could sign their name. Ms Drummond, a former nurse at

Glasgow's Southern General Hospital, said bosses ignored her 20 years of medical experience.

Read the full article at:

www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/atos-assessor-forced-to-judge-disabled-fit-for-work-8168260.html

Nick Clegg backs Tory plan to cut welfare bill

Source: Daily Mirror

The Deputy PM claimed the Benefits Bill could not be ignored as the Coalition deals with the consequences of economic failure. The poor and needy face a hammering after Nick Clegg signed the Liberal Democrats up to swingeing new welfare cuts at the party's Brighton conference yesterday. The Deputy PM claimed the Benefits Bill could not be ignored as the Coalition deals with the consequences of economic failure. He said the cuts will be matched by a squeeze on the richest 10%, but repeatedly failed to explain what his promised new "wealth tax" would be. He also failed to come clean about which welfare cuts he will sanction.

Read the full article at:

www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/nick-clegg-backs-tory-plan-1340799

Reaction to proposal to freeze benefits increases

Source: BBC, Guardian, Financial Times, Daily Telegraph

News from the BBC that the Government is considering linking benefits to average earnings rather than inflation and freezing any increases for two years has sparked debate about Iain Duncan Smith's welfare reforms.

The FT says that "the battle over what the welfare state should provide in an age of austerity was revived on Tuesday, as business groups and campaigners reacted to the disclosure of a prime ministerial rethink on pension reform".

The Telegraph is reporting that "sources close to Mr Iain Duncan Smith said no meetings had taken place to discuss such a radical change of policy. They also warned that it would be extremely complex to try to freeze some of the scores of different unemployed, sickness and housing benefits and increase others."

The Guardian is reporting that cyber fraud and identity theft pose the most serious threat to the implementation of the government's welfare reforms, a government minister said as he outlined potential problems facing the project during the final months of development.

Read the full articles at:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-19635218

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9550260/Benefits-system-too-complex-to-break-link-with-inflation.html

www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/sep/18/cyber-fraud-welfare-reform-minister?newsfeed=true

Universal credit scheme will rot soul of low-paid

Source: The Guardian, The Telegraph

Iain Duncan Smith's flagship welfare reform programme, under which most benefits will be rolled into one universal credit, is heading for a disaster, according to the government's poverty tsar, Frank Field.

Meanwhile the Telegraph reports that benefit claimants who cannot manage a budget for a whole month will be allowed to receive payments every two weeks instead, under government plans.

Read the full articles at:

www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/sep/10/universal-credit-frank-field?newsfeed=true

www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/editorial-welfare-reform-cannot-be-an-excuse-for-cuts-8122235.html

Local cuts

Come on you local councillors. Resist these cuts!

Source: The Independent

Councils across Britain will soon be unable to deliver statutory services. Managing the misery isn't good enough. Local councillors must take action. It's unlikely that any councillors stuck a rosette on their lapel with these ambitions, but it is not an

unfair description of their job these days. With the Communities and Local Government's council budget being slashed by 28 per cent by 2014, the state is not just being rolled back by this radical Tory government at the national level; it's being stripped away locally, too. In York, the cost of attending day care for disabled people has been hiked by a stunning 263 per cent. In Northamptonshire and Bolton, street lamps are being dimmed or switched off, leaving women particularly at risk. In austerity Britain, the lights are literally going out.

Read the full article at:

www.independent.co.uk/voices/come-on-you-local-councillors-resist-these-cuts-8166546.html

Paralympic legacy

Hideously Diverse Britain After the Paralympics, real life returns

Source: The Guardian

Tell me about yourself, I say to Jaspal Dhani. "I'd rather not," he replies, smiling warmly. "It reinforces the stereotypes and misunderstandings. It reinforces the charitable model that says there is something wrong with people and we should give them money." He's challenging the journalistic model here. He's a wheelchair user; an activist. We are talking about disability in the UK; these occasions demand a backstory. But he's not budging. Personalising is a distraction, he says. "When everyone was watching the athletes at the Paralympics, they didn't focus on their conditions. The issue about David Weir was not what happened to him. It was his amazing performance." We don't want benevolence, he says. The fight is for basic human rights.

Read the full article at:

www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/sep/30/hideously-diverse-britain-disability-human-rights?newsfeed=true

Can the Paralympics inspire a technological legacy?

Source: The Independent

Dan Sutch, the Independent's technology correspondent, writes... "There have been many fascinating aspects of the London Paralympic Games. One aspect that has caught media attention and certainly mine is the equipment, tools and technologies used by many Paralympians."

Scope is a registered charity, number 208231. © Scope September 2012

Read the full article at:

blogs.independent.co.uk/2012/09/19/can-the-paralympics-inspire-a-technological-legacy/

Leap in disabled hate crimes shows need for Paralympics effect

Source: The Independent

Hate crimes against disabled people rose by more than a third last year, exposing the hostility they face in modern Britain despite the goodwill created by the recent Paralympics. A new poll following the games found that eight out of 10 British adults thought that Paralympics 2012 had had a positive impact on the way disabled people were viewed by the public. Richard Hawkes, chief executive of the disability charity Scope, said: "Our polling has shown that attitudes towards disabled people have deteriorated over recent years and that many disabled people experience harassment, hostility and abuse on a regular basis. We know if unchallenged these low-level incidents can often escalate into more serious crimes."

Read the full article at:

www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/leap-in-disabled-hate-crimes-shows-need-for-paralympics-effect-8135729.html

Thanks To Our Ellie, 'Normal' Has Been Redefined

Source: Daily Mail

With her fears about singeing her hair when she extinguished the Paralympic flame still fresh, Ellie Simmonds walked into a secondary school in Chiswick, west London, on Friday morning to address an assembly of 14 and 15-year-olds. They whooped, cheered and clapped as the quadruple Paralympic gold medallist, who won two golds, a silver and bronze in London, took a seat on the stage and answered questions about being a swimmer; being an athlete. One word dominated her responses: 'normal'. 'I'm a teenager like you,' said the 17-year-old. 'I go to school. I do normal stuff, too: go to the cinema and go shopping with my friends. But whereas you can stay up until 11pm I can probably only last until nine because I'm up so early the next day for training. I'm just normal, too. The two gold medals hanging around Simmonds' neck singled her out as someone quite extraordinary. 'Normal' in Ellie-speak doesn't mean average, that's for sure.

Read the full article at:

www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/article-2204168/Ellie-Simmonds-redefines-normal--Laura-Williamson.html

While David Cameron and Boris Johnson bask in the glow of the Paralympics there is a hidden counterpoint to the celebration of wheelchair and blade-running athletes

Source: The Guardian - letters

Occupational therapists and others working in the field of children's disability find themselves having to explain to parents of disabled children that professionally recommended wheelchairs and other equipment necessary for independent living are not available because of cuts imposed on paediatric disability services. Parents are daily facing the reality that their children must make do with second-rate equipment because money has been drastically cut from the service. How are we to inspire future Paralympians when today we are saying to disabled children that their needs are secondary to the richest sector of our society?

Read the letter at:

www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/sep/12/private-firms-disability-assessment-regime

What is the Paralympics legacy?

Sources: BBC, C4, Guardian, Daily Telegraph

As the GB victory parade rolled through London, media continued to debate the legacy of the Paralympic Games.

Newsnight asked if the Paralympics had changed attitudes to disabled people. Stephen Hawking interviewed for the programme said he thought they had. Writing in the Telegraph Peter Stanford, whose mother was disabled, says that the Paralympics have "changed perceptions of disability forever."

Meanwhile BBC's website ponders if the games will change perceptions of disability in India. The Guardian turned the question on its head by asking "how have the Paralympics changed disabled people's perception of able-bodied people?" Channel 4 looked at barriers to using gyms. Letters in the Guardian talk about inaccessible transport.

Read some of the articles at:

www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/9532547/The-can-do-Games-have-lit-a-flame.html

www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-19541955

www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/sep/10/paralympics-2012-change-perceptions-able-bodied?newsfeed=true

Paralympians express fears over disability living allowance plans

Sources: The Guardian

Athletes say that coalition proposals to replace benefit could threaten their independence and undermine key Games legacy. A group of British Paralympians have expressed their fears over government plans to cut disability living allowance (DLA), warning that the benefit is vital to enable them to live independently. Under coalition welfare reforms, hundreds of thousands of disabled people will lose the allowance when the government replaces DLA with more restrictive personal independence payments (PIP) in 2013.

Read the full article at:

www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/sep/03/paralympians-fears-disability-living-allowance

Legal

Payouts for disabled children spared cut

Source: Daily Telegraph

Attempts to claw back almost £10million a year from compensation awarded to disabled children and their families have been abandoned. The Ministry of Justice had proposed reducing by a quarter the "general damages" paid out for pain and suffering in publicly-funded clinical negligence cases. Because of new restrictions on the civil cases where legal aid can be claimed, those most affected would have been brain-damaged children and their carers.

It was hoped that the plan would help recoup some of the £2billion spent on legal aid in England and Wales each year, most of which is spent on lawyers for defendants facing criminal charges. But after criticism from campaigners and legal experts, the department has abandoned the plan

Down's syndrome patient challenges resuscitation order

Source: BBC

A man with Down's syndrome is suing an NHS trust over a hospital's decision to issue a do-not-resuscitate order giving his disability as one of the reasons.

The instruction not to attempt resuscitation in the event of a cardiac or respiratory arrest was issued without his family's knowledge.

Their lawyers describe the order as "blatant discrimination".

Read the full article at:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-19570364

Care and support

George Osborne blocked cap on elderly care costs

Source: Daily Telegraph

George Osborne blocked a plan to cap social care costs that had been due to be announced this summer after a row with Andrew Lansley, The Daily Telegraph can disclose. Mr Lansley had spent months drawing up a proposal to means-test people who receive care in their own homes, in the same way as those moving into a nursing home. Money saved would have paid for the costs of capping social care bills, as proposed by the independent Dilnot review commissioned by the Government. Although the plan would have stopped people having to sell their homes, it would also have proved controversial because a new group of middle-class pensioners would have faced bills for care that had previously been free.

Read the full article at:

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/georgeosborne/9580253/George-Osborne-blocked-cap-on-elderly-care-costs.html

5bn lost a year by carers forced to give up work

Source: The Independent

Britain's fragile economy is losing more than £5bn a year as a result of a growing crisis in social care funding aggravated by the Government's austerity measures.

People are giving up an estimated £4bn in pay - cash that would have been channelled back into the economy - because they are being forced to leave work to care for elderly or disabled relatives. The Treasury is also missing out on £1bn of taxes they would otherwise have paid, while carers are claiming some £300m in benefits to help cover their living costs.

The "missing" £5.3bn is equivalent to more than 0.3 per cent of Britain's gross domestic product, charities warned. More than 300,000 people quit work in 2010-11 to look after relatives - and the number is increasing because of continuing cuts to care budgets, they said.

Read the full article at:

Report reveals postcode lottery of care for children with epilepsy

Source: The Independent

Children who suffer from epilepsy face a "profoundly concerning" variability in the quality of care they receive, depending on where they live, according to a new report published today. Epilepsy, which can have a devastating impact on educational attainment and badly disrupt the lives of sufferers, is the most common serious neurological condition diagnosed in the UK affecting one in 200 children or around 60,000 youngsters.

Read the full article at:

www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/report-reveals-postcode-lottery-of-care-for-children-with-epilepsy-8166716.html

Paul Burstow: George Osborne's Treasury wants to 'smother' Dilnot plan

Source: Daily Telegraph

Paul Burstow, who lost his job in the reshuffle, says George Osborne's department has "no sense of urgency" about the plight of pensioners who are forced to sell their homes to pay for care in old age. The longer the Coalition "kicks the can down the road", the more elderly and disabled adults and their families will lose their homes and savings, the former care services minister warns.

Read the full article at:

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9556572/Paul-Burstow-George-Osbornes-

Technology

Now we're talking: New technology is allowing people such as Alan Martin, who has cerebral palsy, the chance to communicate properly for the first time.

Source: The Guardian

This is eye-gaze technology, at the leading edge of a fast-evolving and - for those who need it - vital field known as augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), plus the closely related assistive technology (AT). Without it, we would have been denied access to the remarkable mind of Professor Stephen Hawking (not to mention his starring role at the Paralympics opening ceremony). Nor would the locked-in syndrome sufferer Tony Nicklinson have been able to express so memorably - using eye-gaze - his despair at being refused the right to an assisted suicide. Hawking, with characteristic elegance, summarises its value: "Even more important than the freedom of speech is the freedom to speak."

Read the full article at:

www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2012/sep/16/technology-helps-people-speech-impairments

Employment

M&S Offers jobs for the disabled

Source: Daily Mirror

Marks & Spencer is set to give the economy a lift by creating 1,000 jobs at a new depot in the East Midlands. M&S is teaming up with employment service Remploy to launch a disability employment scheme called Marks & Start at the hub. Marks & Start is already used in M&S stores and offices.

The retailer will need warehouse staff, engineers, mechanics, office staff, transport controllers and managers. M&S personnel boss Tanith Dodge said: "We want to support as many people with disabilities by taking Marks & Start to a new part of the business." Remploy said: "We applaud M&S for this."

Disabled benefits claimants face £71 a week fines for breaching work plan

Source: The Guardian

The government has drawn up plans to withdraw £71 a week from sick and disabled benefit claimants if they fail to take steps to get back into the workplace. A leaked draft of a Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) template letter warns sick and disabled claimants they will lose 70% of their weekly employment support allowance (ESA) if they refuse to take part in work-related activities, more than doubling the current fine.

The DWP has also told the Guardian that it is finalising plans on whether to make unpaid and unlimited work experience placements part of work-related activity.

Read the full article at:

www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/sep/03/disabled-benefits-claimants-fines-work?intcmp=239

Education

Residential college places for young disabled at risk - Is a 'suitable' education for a 19-year-old disabled adult to be in a day-care centre with 80-year-olds

Source: The Guardian

New funding rules will make specialist college places for disabled young adults even harder to get, and could threaten the colleges' very existence. There are 61 specialist further education colleges in the UK – most offering residential care – and a place at a college like National Star can cost more than £60,000 a year, and up to £120,000 for students with very complex needs. As a result, many parents already face a long, hard battle to secure financial support for their child to attend a specialist college, particularly as many are asking for funding for their child to study in a different local authority. But changes to funding for the education of young people with special needs, due to come into force next year, mean things could soon get worse.

Read the full article at:

www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/sep/17/funding-for-disabled-specialist-colleges?newsfeed=true

Disabled prisoners

Disabled prisoners' lives put at risk by poor care and treatment in jail

Source: The Guardian

Lawyers acting for a severely disabled prisoner who was rushed from jail to a life-support machine in hospital, are asking the high court to rule he should not be sent back to a prison that cannot meet his medical needs.

Read the full article at:

www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/sep/18/disabled-prisoners-lives-risk-treatment-jails

Abortion

Call for ban on disability abortions after Paralympics

Source: Daily Telegraph

The success of the Paralympics should trigger a rethink of Britain's abortion laws to make it illegal to terminate a pregnancy because a child will be born disabled, a coalition of campaigners and charities argues today. An alliance of pro-life campaigners and religious groups is launching a new push to restrict the 1967 Abortion Act, to prevent doctors terminating pregnancies on the grounds of physical abnormality. In a letter to The Daily Telegraph, they describe the practice of aborting fetuses on physical grounds as a form of "eugenics".

Read the full article at:

www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9551305/Call-for-ban-on-disability-abortion-after-Paralympics.html

A disabled woman with an unwanted pregnancy wants a choice too

Source: The Independent

Pro-life campaigners are seeking a repeal of what they call "the discriminatory section" of the 1967 Abortion Act. That's the bit that allows termination on the grounds of physical disability. Post-Paralympics, their argument goes, we now have to rethink what we mean by "disabled" and "able". I am disabled. I believe in equal rights for disabled people. And I am pro-choice on abortion, including abortion on the grounds of disability. These beliefs are not contradictory. I am pro-

choice because I accept there are times when a woman may not want or be able to continue with her pregnancy. It is a choice, which, luckily, I have not had to consider myself. But I'm glad it's available to me.

Read the full article at:

www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/a-disabled-woman-with-an-unwanted-pregnancy-wants-a-choice-too-8160527.html

Health

Sleeping pills linked to dementia

Source: Daily Telegraph

Sleeping and anxiety pills taken by millions may increase the risk of developing dementia, a study has suggested. A survey involving more than 1,000 elderly people has found that those who begin taking benzodiazepine are at a 50 per cent greater risk of developing dementia within 15 years.

In Britain, the drugs are used for short-term anxiety and insomnia. They are also prescribed for sedation and anxiety before surgery or other procedures such as dental work.

Read the full article at:

www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9571288/Sleeping-pills-taken-by-millions-linked-to-dementia-research.html

Why few dare tackle the psychology of ME

Source: Daily Telegraph

The findings of a study into the role of viruses in ME will not be acceptable to some sufferers. Sometimes the most important scientific findings are not those that prove something, but those that disprove something. This was the case with a study published last week (and reported in the Telegraph) on the role of viruses in ME, the condition characterised by extreme fatigue and muscle pain. This will no doubt come as a blow to those ME sufferers determined to prove that their ill health is a result of a biological agent. But despite this being such an important study, it wasn't widely reported by British media. I suspect I know why.

Read the full article at:

Met's mental illness custody cases reviewed

Source: BBC News Online

The Metropolitan Police has commissioned an independent review into how it responds to people with mental health conditions. A panel will examine every case during the last five years where someone with a mental health condition has either died or been seriously injured after police contact. It follows criticism over the Met's actions prior to the deaths in custody of Olaseni Lewis and Sean Rigg. Both men had suffered mental illness. Olaseni died in 2010 after collapsing during prolonged restraint by police.

Read the full article at:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-19694148

Attitudes

Hate crime against disabled people rises

Source: BBC, Guardian, Metro

There has been a rise in hate crimes against disabled people, police figures for England, Wales and Northern Ireland show. More than 2,000 such offences were recorded in 2011, up a third on 2010. Police said this was partly due to an increased willingness to report crimes. Richard Hawkes was quoted in the [Independent](#) and [Metro](#). He "Our polling has shown that attitudes towards disabled people have deteriorated over recent years and that many disabled people experience harassment, hostility and abuse on a regular basis". Meanwhile the Guardian has an [interactive hate crime map](#).

No one will write off my disabled son

Source: Daily Mail

Energy Secretary Ed Davey spoke movingly about his disabled son yesterday, insisting he will not let anyone write him off'. The Lib Dem minister takes his son John, who cannot walk or talk, to Hungary for treatment at the Peto Institute which specialises in teaching children how to move. Mr Davey said when he tried to get

NHS treatment when John was a baby, he was offered occupational therapy, speech therapy and physiotherapy, all of which had 12 months waiting lists. We said thanks, but no thanks,' Mr Davey said.

Read the full article at:

tinyurl.com/9sjv85y

'A lapse of judgement': Jeremy Clarkson slammed for Top Gear jibe about people with facial disfigurements

Source: Daily Mirror

The BBC Trust ruled the comments, which likened the design of a Prius camper van to people with facial disfigurements, did breach guidelines. The BBC Trust have rapped TV host Jeremy Clarkson for comparing a Japanese car to The Elephant Man on Top Gear. The trust ruled the comments, which likened the design of a Prius camper van to people with facial disfigurements, did breach guidelines. An earlier investigation cleared the show of breaching guidelines but an appeal has now found that 52-year-old Clarkson, who called facial growths “really ugly things”, had played on a “stereotypically negative reaction”.

Read the full article at:

www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/jeremy-clarkson-slammed-for-top-gear-1354791

Look at my hot pink hair and sexy tattoo... not my wheelchair

Source: The Sun

She reckons she is as opinionated as Katie Price, with a hint of Frankie Boyle's near-the-knuckle humour. And that winning combination has landed Jessica Long the title of The Sun's Column Idol 2012. The 22-year-old is the third person to win our annual contest, run in partnership with the charity Media Trust, and the first female to take the crown. It was her forthright views and eloquent writing style that impressed our panel of judges, including Sun columnist Lorraine Kelly and singer Labrinth. Jess had an accident two years ago which left her in a wheelchair. Although she chose to discuss disability in her column, she is also keen to show that she is not defined by her disability. “I've got hot pink hair for one thing,” says Jess, whose column will be published in The Sun tomorrow. “I've also got three tattoos. There's a dolphin on my ankle and I've got two on my back which feature three flowers on each, representing me and my half-sisters, Ellie and Holly. So

there are other ways to describe me than just someone who is in a wheelchair.

Read the full article at:

www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/features/4547198/Meet-the-feisty-winner-of-The-Suns-Column-Idol-2012.html

Fundraising

Untold Stories 2012

Source: Media Trust

A fantastic chance to tell your story with the help of a leading filmmaker

Media Trust has joined forces with [Sainsbury's](#) and [Google](#) for this year's Untold Stories initiative, which is designed to provide small charities throughout the UK with the chance to tell their story both online and on [Community Channel](#).

Applicants for Untold Stories must:

- have an annual turnover under £2 million
- be primarily based in the UK
- be a registered charity
- be able to put £1000 towards the production of the film
- be available between November 2012 and March 2013 for the filming process with a member of staff who can be identified as the lead contact

The application process is **OPEN** until **midday on 22 October 2012**. For more details, call 020 7871 5636 or email untoldstories@mediatrust.org. To download an application form, [click here](#).

Untold Stories will partner charities with leading filmmakers who volunteer their time and expertise to help research, plan and produce an inspirational short work about their work.

Read the full article at:

www.mediatrust.org/get-support/untold-stories-2012/

Twitter tool #wewillgather aims to facilitate good local deeds

Source: UK Fundraising

#Wewillgather is a new social media platform designed "to gather good people to help with any action" in a local area. It was inspired by #riotcleanup, the popular response to the riots in England in August 2011, which resulted in people coming together to clear up the mess.

The free service lets anyone start an action in their community, and find people to help complete it. It could be cleaning, decorating, gardening, fixing, making, fundraising, or simply a meeting.

We Will Gather creates a page where the person with the idea adds more details, and then they start using Twitter to gain help from people in their area.

The site handles reminders and last-minute requests for more numbers, if necessary.

The platform already has the support of NESTA, the RSA, the Cabinet Office and vInspired.

www.wewillgather.co.uk

Localgiving's Grow Your Tenner campaign to match donations to small charities in England

Source: UK Fundraising

Localgiving.com, the online giving site which supports local charities and community groups, is offering to match up to £10 of donations made, up to £500,000.

Small, local charities in England therefore have an opportunity to raise a combined total of £1 million. The campaign started on 25 September.

The matched giving is made possible by a grant from the Office for Civil Society.

Donors who are tax payers can also make donations using Gift Aid: a £10 donation becomes £20, and with Gift Aid that becomes £22.50.

Donors can of course give more, up to £1,000 via the site, but only the first £10 will be matched.

Regular giving rewarded

Localgiving.com's Grow Your Tenner campaign is also designed to encourage monthly giving. If you commit to give a regular amount each month to a local charity, Localgiving will match up to £10 for the first three months.

So, the donor's initial £30 becomes £60 or £67.50 with Gift Aid.

How to benefit from Grow Your Tenner

To take part in the campaign local charities in England should ensure that they are registered on Localgiving.com.

Find out more at:

<http://localgiving.com/howitworks/matchfund>

BBC TV's The One Show seeks community projects in need of help across the UK

GRANTfinder has been asked by the BBC TV's The One Show to draw your attention to a proposed initiative for community projects.

The show is looking for community projects across the UK that need a helping hand. It wants to use its influence to galvanise volunteer efforts in different schemes for a new weekly feature on the programme in the coming months.

For example - Perhaps you have a community hall that needs a lick of paint and a good tidy up but haven't been able to organise a volunteer day to sort it out - Let The One Show see what it can do. Has your local fireworks display/concert been forced to cancel? Maybe The One Show can help. Is your community bus service at risk unless more volunteers are found? Let the One Show spearhead the search to keep it going.

Or maybe you have a dedicated community stalwart who deserves a big thank you? Let the One Show organise a suitable celebration.

Planning is currently at an early stage but please get in touch as soon as possible if you think you have suitable project or idea. Email Richard.park@bbc.co.uk and mark your emails 'One Show Community Action'.

Scope policy and campaigns

Keep Us Close – An Update

Last month we told you about an exciting new campaign called Keep Us Close and invited you to get in touch if you wish to lobby your MP. Here is the very latest on the campaign and how you can get involved.

1 October saw the launch of Keep Us Close, Scope's new campaign, which aims to ensure that families with disabled children get the support they need, close to where they live. At the moment many families are struggling to find the support their disabled children need and face long journeys and complicated battles to access the right services.

The Government is currently putting a new Children and Families Bill through Parliament, which is our chance to get good local services for disabled children. We want the Government to ensure that local authorities provide quality services for families with disabled children close to where they live.

If you believe disabled children and their families should have better access to services close to home, please show your support for change by emailing your MP via www.scope.org.uk/keepusclose.

For more information about Keep Us Close or for support to share your story please contact Scope's Local Campaigns Officer Jamie Robertson. You can call Jamie on 02076197370 or email Jamie.robertson@scope.org.uk.

Training

Rightsnet welfare rights training

Source: Lasa

Half day training

- Employment and Support Allowance, making effective claims - 9 October
- Disability Living Allowance, making effective claims – 9 October
- Personal Independence Payment – 25 October
- Universal Credit – 25 October
- Housing benefit reform – 30 October
- Right to reside caselaw updater - 13 November
- Personal Independence Payment – 29 November
- Universal Credit – 29 October

Full day courses

- Immigration Control and Benefits – 4 October
- Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance – 10 October
- Rights to reside and the habitual residence test – 11 October
- Mental Health and Benefits – 17 October
- Housing Benefit, An Introduction – 24 October
- Moving between benefits and work - 8 Nov

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

www.rightsnet.org.uk/training/courselist/

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 at dialnetwork@scope.org.uk or on 0207 619 7305

Events in October

1 – 31 October [Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#)

1 – 31 October [Lupus Awareness Month](#)

1 – 31 October [Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Awareness Month](#)

5 October [Jeans for Genes Day!](#)

8 – 12 October [Backcare Awareness Week](#)

8 – 14 October [Dyslexia Awareness Week 2012](#)

8 – 14 October [Encephalitis Awareness Week](#)

10 October [World Mental Health Day](#)

11 October [World Sight Day](#)

12 October [World Arthritis Day](#)

20 October [World Osteoporosis Day](#)

22 – 28 October [Bruxism Awareness Week](#)

22 October [International Stammering Awareness Day](#)

26 October [Wear It Pink Day 2012](#)

29 October [World Psoriasis Day](#)

29 October [World Stroke Day](#)

Get in touch

Do you have something to tell the network?

This is your newsletter and we are always happy to hear from you. If you have something you'd like to share before next month's newsletter, please contact us. We'll do our best to add it in.

We also welcome your thoughts on this newsletter – does it meet your needs? Is there anything you'd like to see more or less of? Do you like this format or would you prefer an email with links?

Suzi Mackenzie

Email: dialnetwork@scope.org.uk

Call: 020 8619 7305

www.scope.org.uk

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Please note we have 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.