

Disability Rights UK

e-news

Issue 7 – October 2012



[Donate now to help us continue supporting over half a million people a year](#)

Our vision is a society where all disabled people can participate equally as full citizens

A pdf and plain text version of the e-news are attached

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Registered charity
no: 1138585



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About Us

'Holes in the Safety Net' Universal Credit report

Many thanks to Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson for leading the inquiry into the Universal Credit which we supported with Citizens Advice and The Children's Society. And thanks to all our members who also contributed experiences and concerns.

We believe the Universal Credit may have some benefits (eg for disabled people entering work) but that disabled children, disabled people currently receiving Severe Disability Premiums (or who would have been eligible for SDP), and disabled people receiving working tax credits could all lose out.

The report received extensive coverage and is online at:

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

Disability Action Alliance

Disability Rights UK has been asked to convene a new cross-sector alliance, to bring different organisations together to make things happen nationally and locally. We will be raising at the first meeting as our top priority the need for support at local level for Disabled People's Organisations, to work with other organisations (local government, health etc). Find out more about the Disability Action Alliance by visiting our website

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

[In September the Government announced a new cross-sector disability action alliance. This page attempts to answer some of your questions concerning the alliance](#)

Help us improve the e-news

Could you please spare a few minutes to fill in our survey to improve the e-news and if you are a member our updates magazine?

All survey respondents will be entered in to a prize draw to win a £50 John Lewis voucher. Thank you very much for any feedback you can give to us. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RQKY5Z6>

Let's stop disability hate crime

The EHRC 2012 Manifesto for Change notes the number of disability hate crimes recorded by police forces for the year ended December 2011 was 1,877, an increase of 24.1 per cent on 2010. However the Crime Survey for England and Wales suggests the number of people experiencing a disability hate crime in the year to the Spring of 2011 was 65,000.

This means most disabled people are not reporting hate crimes committed against them. Our new hate crime project will look in depth at ways of increasing confidence in third party reporting. Let's stop disability hate crime guides are available to download for free from our website.

<http://disabilityrightsuk.org/stopdisabilityhatecrime.htm>

Let's stop disability hate crime together.

Save over 20% on Disability Rights Handbook 37

The 37th Edition of the Disability Rights Handbook is written by benefits specialists. It provides information and guidance on benefits and services to advisors, disability organisations and disabled people.

"This Handbook is easy-to-use, accurate, packed with vital information and is an invaluable aid to any front-line worker who needs to keep up-to-date with the ever-changing welfare system".

The Handbook:

- Provides user-friendly guidance on how the benefit system works and how to make a claim
- Provides up-to-date information about how 2012 changes will affect your client
- Is written in plain English by benefits specialists and legally referenced, the Handbook has the answers you need to help ensure the quality of your advice or claim what's due to you

[Buy your copy starting from £9.99 online](#) now

The case for preserving User-led peer support in Mental Health

Read our blog on the potential future of User-led peer support in Mental Health. <http://disabilityrightsuk.blogspot.co.uk/2012/10/the-case-for-preserving-user-led-peer.html>

Win vouchers and help us to improve our products and services

We want to make sure we offer you what you want and to a really high standard. Product reviews are really useful to other shoppers and they're a great way for us to learn where we can improve.

Because we value your opinion so highly we're giving away a £30,

£20 and £10 John Lewis voucher to three reviewers drawn at random. [You can complete the survey here.](#)

Getting involved

Welfare Benefits Training Programme 2012

We still have places available on our Challenging Benefits Decisions training course on Wednesday 14 November 2012. The course aims to give participants the knowledge and skills they need to identify the best way to challenge benefit decisions, to lodge appeals and to take the first steps in preparing for and representing at appeal hearings.

The course is from 10am to 4pm at our fully accessible office in central London. The cost per place for Disability Rights UK member organisations is £66 (inc VAT) or, for non-member organisations, £96 (inc VAT).

Further information and a booking form is available at www.disabilityrightsuk.org/datraining.htm

Deaf Young People of Yorkshire

Thinking about university? Worried about....

- Cost?
- Interpreter fees?
- Access to right course?
- Reading and study?

Disability Rights UK, in partnership with Deaf Unity's Deaf Learners Initiative, wants to help you achieve by offering a FREE one day seminar with experienced Deaf professionals and coaches to answer all your questions and put you on right pathway.

To register fill out this online application if you, or someone you know, is interested (<http://tinyurl.com/c7kyfbj>) or email the Project Coordinator Abdi.Gas@disabilityrightsuk.org

Pat's Petition on welfare

Don't forget the closing date for Pat's petition is 1st November. The petition calls on the Government to stop the cuts to disability benefits until the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has done a full impact assessment on the likely consequences.

You can support by visiting epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/20968

Influencing Policy

Skills for Care extends 'I Care' series

Skills for Care has extended its "I Care..." series with a range of further resources co-produced with Disability Rights UK to support disabled people into social care employment. Please see http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/entry_to_social_care/recruitment/Resources_to_support_the_recruitment_and_retention_of_disabled_people.aspx where you find the full report "If only my employer and I had known". This information will be improved very soon with a range of case studies provided by disabled people with examples of good practice.

Despite personal experience and potentially great contributions as peer supporters, disabled people are still the most under-used assets in social care. The insights from the report and case studies seek to address this gap and demonstrate the different ways disabled people are experts in improving life chances and further outcomes for themselves and peers as well as making distinct contributions to productive workplaces in social care.

Employers may find it valuable and inspiring for their daily practice to follow up on the distinct employment paths of four disabled people who shared their insights. Each individual drew out some personal information on how they first experienced and then came to terms with an impairment/health condition and, where applicable, a) mastered the transition into adulthood, b) gave and received peer support, c) made use of aids & adaptations, d) benefited from and contributed to the voluntary community sector and e) initiated a proactive 'perfect partnership' with (potential) employers. In

particular, the resources referenced in the case studies may help address a number of stumbling blocks when it comes to enhancing pathways for disabled people to get into work, stay on and get on. The list of resources will be regularly updated and complemented, drawing on good practice recommendations from up and down the country. If you have a contribution to make please contact Bernd.Sass@disabilityrightsuk.org

Towards a new law for social care

In July the Government published a draft Bill to reform social care law. Disability Rights UK has responded, using the results of our online survey to which nearly 200 people responded. You can read our submission here:

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

Into Higher Education 2013

Disability Rights UK is delighted to announce the publication of Into Higher Education 2013, our annual guide for disabled students thinking about studying in higher education. The publication deals with common questions such as whether the college or university will be accessible, how to choose a course and what support will be available. Crucially this edition covers the new student finance system and has up-to-date information on tuition fees, repayment methods and the support that will be in place for 2013 entry. Disabled students also write about their own experiences and challenges, providing a valuable insight into disabled students in higher education.

The guide is available free on request; please email: skill4disabledstudents@disabilityrightsuk.org or call: 0800 328 5050 (Tues 11.30-1.30 and Thurs 1.30-3.30). [Or simply download from our It is also available to download as a PDF or Word version from our Student Publications page](#)

Right to control trailblazers extended

Right to Control allows disabled people to combine the support they receive from different sources and decide how to best spend the

funding to meet their needs. It is being tested by trailblazers. The Government has extended the pilots for another year.

Disability Rights UK has called on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to use this extension as an opportunity to ensure that the evaluation process will be co-produced with disabled people.
<http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/odi-projects/right-to-control-trailblazers.php>

[View our response to this consultation.](#)

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

Making the case for advocacy

A new report by the Voluntary Organisations Disability Group and VoiceAbility demonstrates the benefits of advocacy for disabled people – our Chief Executive Liz Sayce provided the foreword.
http://www.voiceability.org/news/vodg_and_voiceability_report_on_a_dvocracy

Review of local authority's implementation of assessment and use of eligibility criteria in social care

The Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) have been asked by the Department of Health to review local authority's implementation of assessment and use of eligibility criteria in social care. SCIE are keen to ensure their review contains people's real experiences and have asked if anyone who has had a community care assessment would like to take part. You can take part by requesting a questionnaire from Don.Brand@scie.org.uk

Other news

Report shows that after Winterbourne, advocacy is a voice for our future

Better safeguarding, greater personalisation and improved support planning are among the benefits of advocacy, as evidenced in a new report from the national umbrella group of voluntary sector providers

of social care.

'Advocacy: a voice for our future', published by the Voluntary Organisations Disability Group (VODG) with advocacy organisation VoiceAbility, was launched during October at the VODG conference, Lessons from the Winterbourne reviews. To find out more visit <http://www.vodg.org.uk/news/206/111/After-Winterbourne-end-out-of-sight-care.html>

Have you experienced name calling, damage to property, threats or violence because you are disabled?

These are Disablist Hate Crimes and must be reported.

Disablist Incidents and Crime Education (DICE) can...

- help report what has happened to you
- offer support & advice
- provide training on how to stay safe

For more information contact DICE on 0117 377 2732 or email: dice@wecil.co.uk

Find me Good Care

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (Scie) has launched a new website, 'Find Me Good Care' to help people find the right care and support. www.findmegoodcare.co.uk

Opportunity for mothers with mental health issues to influence medical practice

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is looking for lay members to help them develop a clinical guideline for the care of women who experience mental health problems during pregnancy and/or after giving birth. Please see [this webpage](#) for further information and application forms. The deadline is 5pm on Wednesday 7 November.

Funding opportunity for local groups

The Santander Foundation has launched a new £1.23 million fund. Grants of up to £5,000 are available to local charities or local projects of a large charity to help with specific costs for projects that directly benefit disadvantaged people within the UK.

<http://www.santanderfoundation.org.uk/aboutus.aspx>

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Please note that inclusion of information in this newsletter does not imply endorsement of products, campaigns or services by Disability Rights UK.

Disability Rights UK is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

We welcome your views on our e-newsletter and will be surveying views shortly. In the meantime, any feedback is welcome to members@disabilityrightsuk.org

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