

Direct Action Against Cuts

On Saturday 28th January, disabled people blocked Oxford Street in London for 2 hours. The protest was part of a campaign to highlight concerns about welfare reform cuts to services across the country.



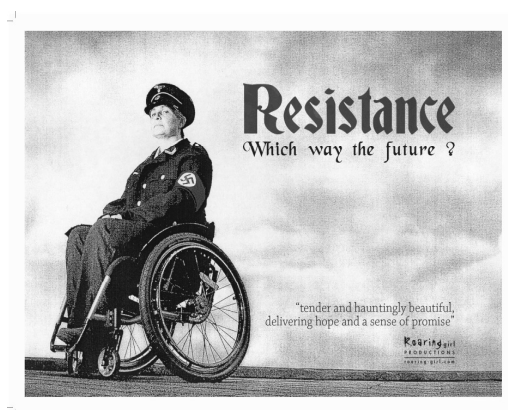
Disabled People Against Cuts and Uncut UK collaborated to organise the demonstration, which drew disabled people from far and wide, including members of the Disabled People's Direct Action Network.

The demonstration received some media coverage - TV coverage on the day and newspaper discussion before and after.

For more information about this action, and Disabled People Against Cuts, go to:
<http://www.dpac.uk.net/2012/01/from-todays-direct-action-in-london/>

For more information about UK Uncut, go to:
www.ukuncut.org.uk

Resistance In Manchester



‘Resistance: which way the future?’ – is an award-winning international touring exhibition by disabled artist-activist Liz Crowe.

Resistance looks at the sensitive history of the treatment of disabled people by the Nazi Party during the holocaust and, more importantly, how disabled people resisted this persecution. Looking at a shockingly unexplored part of human history, this challenging piece of art uses real accounts from the Holocaust as well as looking at how it affects disabled people today.

Resistance is at the Zion Arts Centre, Hulme, until 3rd March. The art installation runs for 30 minutes, with British Sign Language interpretation, caption and audio description.

Recommended age 10+.

For more information, go to:
www.roaringgirl.com/productions/resistance-on-to

Possible Changes To Braille Bring Discord

Many Braille users in the UK are unhappy with recent reports that Standard English Braille may be replaced with Unified English Braille. Unified English Braille is a simpler version of Standard English Braille. Organisations which produce Braille, such as the United Kingdom Association for Accessible Formats argue Unified English Braille is better, because it can be standardised across all English speaking countries, makes it easier for computer programmes to convert print to Braille and is easier to learn.



Those against Unified English Braille feel that Braille users in the UK have not been properly consulted, and also argue that books in Braille will be even more bulky than they are now because it takes away many symbols which are short forms for words.

For more information go to:
www.ukaf.org/

To hear the discussion on the BBC 'In Touch' radio programme go to:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0184rgz/In_Touch_Planned_changes_to_Braille_meet_opposition_and_more_tips_on_useful_gadgets._13_12_2011/
On a lighter note ...

To launch new Braille menus, Wimpy's chain in South Africa created 15 burger buns with a Braille message on the bun made with sesame seeds as the Braille dots. Each message was a description of the burger.

“Responsible Reform” Report

This report shows, according to its authors, the true view of the Government's proposed changes to Disability Living Allowance, which is due to become the Personal Independence Payment from 2014.

The Responsible Reform report has been produced by disabled people, and argues that the Government withheld from Parliament the true extent of opposition to the changes.

Some of the Report's comments are:

- 98 per cent of respondents objected to the qualifying period for benefits being raised from 3 months to 6 months

- 99 per cent of respondents objected to Disability Living Allowance no longer being used as a qualification for other benefits
- 92% opposed removing the lowest rate of support for disabled people

For the press release go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/86h82gb>

For the full report, go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/86h82gb>

John McCarthy – Founder Of Mad Pride Ireland



John McCarthy, the founder of the mental health lobby group "Mad Pride Ireland", died on 7th January.

John liked to be known as a human rights activist, author, poet and columnist. John's legacy will be his dogged attempts to show up what he deemed Ireland's biggest hidden abuse scandal, the treatment of people experiencing emotional distress.

He spoke out against the power structures within psychiatry, and campaigned relentlessly to stop forced treatment such as electroshock therapy.

John founded Mad Pride Ireland in 2008. Thousands turned out for the first Mad Pride Day in Cork and 20,000 attended last year's event.

If you would like to know more about John and his work, please go to:
www.madprideireland.ie

Call To Share Experiences Of Multiple Discrimination

The European Network on Independent Living is starting to research disabled people's experiences of "multiple discrimination".

"Multiple discrimination" is a situation where someone may be discriminated against for more than one reason.

For example, a Black disabled person may be discriminated against on the grounds of race/ethnicity or because of being a disabled person.

They are asking for people to tell them their experiences of multiple discrimination, and also to keep a watch for a set of survey questions they will be releasing over the next few months.

You can get further information from their website: www.enil.eu/

Reminder – Your Travel Pass

Transport for Greater Manchester is in the process of renewing all Travel Passes.

So if you have moved house within the last 5 years, you need to let Transport for Greater Manchester know.

Phone: **0161 244 1050** (line open Monday to Thursday 9am to 4.30pm, and Friday 9am to 4pm), Email: passes&permits@tfgm.com

Disability Arts Showcase – Call For Contributors

The So Many Words Theatre Company are presenting the first showing of a new multi-media production, 'A Question of Identity', and are looking for other groups or individuals who are ready to bring something diverse, creative and inspiring to their evening.

They are interested in pieces of work, in any art form, that have been created by and are performed by disabled people.

The event 'On a Starry Night We Met' is at the Lowry Studio Theatre on the evening of Monday 19th March 2012.

If you would like more information or would like to discuss your ideas, contact Jamie Patterson at So Many Words Theatre:

Phone: **0161 289 8921** or

Email: **jamie_patterson@btinternet.com**.

Doing Things Differently

Disability Stockport and Stockport Council are holding a joint event at the Together Trust, Cheadle on Tuesday 6th March between 1pm - 7pm.

The event is an open, drop-in day where people who use services, their families or carers and staff can find out more about Personalisation and the Right to Control in Adult Social Care.

There will also be a chance to look at the new online marketplace on the My Care, My Choice website and an opportunity to talk to providers, find out about the range of different services offered and help identify any gaps in the market.

For more information contact Disability Stockport:

Phone **0161 480 7248** or Email:

asc.comms@stockport.gov.uk

Support For People With Mental Health Issues In Manchester



The Making Space Peer Mentoring Project is offering support to people living in Manchester who have mental health issues and who are on Incapacity Benefit.

The Project will support people being re-assessed for the benefit, providing information about the assessment process; attending interviews and/or GP appointments with clients and/or attending appeals. They also offer general support for those individuals who have been assessed as being fit to return to work.

For more information, contact:

For Manchester

Mike Jones - **07772 286 534**

Email: **Mike.Jones@makingspace.co.uk**

For Salford

Andrew Atkinson - **0784 326 7957**

Email:

Andrew.Atkinson@makingspace.co.uk

Have Your Say On Health Services In Trafford

A new health **DEAL** for Trafford

High Quality Safe Accessible Sustainable

Local health services in Trafford are being reviewed. Events are being held in February and March, where people can hear about current developments and have their say.

All the events will be held in the evening and will last for around two hours, free refreshments will be provided.

To book a place or for further information, visit:
www.healthdeal.trafford.nhs.uk
Email: **newhealthdeal@trafford.nhs.uk**, or
Phone: **0161 873 6008**.

If you are unable to attend an event, you can complete a survey at:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/newhealthdeal,
email your comments to
newhealthdeal@trafford.nhs.uk or phone:
0161 873 6008.

The Future Of Adult Social Care In Trafford

Trafford Council is consulting on The Future of Adult Social Care. Trafford Council, like many other Councils, has to respond to a major

reduction in its funding over the next three years.

The Council has to reduce costs by around £42 million by 2015. This will include adult social care - in 2012 -13 Adult Social Care will need to reduce costs by £5.9 million.

The consultation will close on 27th February 2012.

You can find out more about the various proposals on the main Trafford Council website: <http://www.trafford.gov.uk/>

38 Degrees



38 Degrees is an organisation that brings people together to campaign for real change in the UK. One of their current campaigns is about the cuts that the government is planning to inflict on disabled people.

38 Degrees say that a lot of MPs are uneasy about the cuts and that a final, people-powered push from thousands of 38 Degrees members could convince them to do the right thing and back changes to the Bill.

They are asking people to email their MP,
through the 38 Degrees website

Website:

<http://www.38degrees.org.uk/page/speakout/cuts-to-support-email-mp>

Rochdale Boroughwide User Forum



Rochdale Boroughwide User Forum exists to provide a voice for mental health service users in Heywood, Littleborough, Middleton and Rochdale. The main activity of the organisation is the Open Forum held on the third Thursday each month, at St Andrew's Church Hall in the centre of Rochdale.

Attended by mental health service users and carers, the Forum provides an opportunity for people to express their views about different aspects of mental health services. It is also a place where people can find out more information on services available and about changes to services.

The Forum sends service user representatives to a range of external meetings where they get involved in decisions relating to local mental health services.

RBUF also provides the Caton St Hub, a free resource with computers and rooms available for service user-led activities.

If you would like further information.

Phone: **01706 521 279**

Email: **info@rbuf.org.uk**

New Advice Service In Salford

Salford Disability Forum has launched a new Advice Line for disabled people and their families who live in Salford. They are also running a series of Advice Surgeries throughout the city.

Members of Salford Disability Forum have completed training and can advocate on your behalf, if that is what you wish.

For further details and times and locations of Advice Surgeries contact:

Phone: **0161 737 1092** or

Email: **office@salforddisabilityforum.co.uk**

The Sporting Chance In Rochdale

The Sporting Chance is an inclusive sports initiative for disabled people.

The sports session starts with warm-up exercises and then there are a wide variety of sports that participants can choose to play. Three new weekday sessions of Yoga, Tai Chi and self defence for disabled people are also being introduced soon.

All sessions are open to any disabled person living within the Borough of Rochdale. The sessions are held every Saturday 10am - 12pm at Springhill High School, Turf Hill Road, Rochdale.

For more information contact
Joy Gerber, Email: joy.gerber@raddag.org

Useful Services From BT



Do you know about these long-established services?

Free 195 Directory Enquiries

If your impairment means that you are unable to read or hold a telephone directory, you can apply for free 195 Directory Enquiries.

Phone: **0800 587 0195** for an application form. Your form will need to be countersigned by a professional who knows you.

BT Free priority fault repair

If you have a long-term illness or impairment, and your phone is vital, you may be eligible for this service. It is available on standard BT lines and gives you priority treatment if there's a fault with your line. Priority is given ahead of other jobs but does not guarantee immediate repair.

You can get an application form from:

Phone: **0800 800151**

Textphone: **18001 0800 800151**

Web: **www.bt.com/includingyou**

Home Heat Helpline



This is a free, not for profit phone line set up to help British energy customers who are struggling to pay their fuel bill and keep warm. The Helpline is run by the Energy Retail Association.

It provides information on grants, benefits and payment schemes that may help with fuel costs, and gives basic ideas for saving money on heating bills by making homes more energy efficient.

There are factsheets that give clear information on the type of help that is available, including a fact sheet for disabled people at:

www.homeheathelpline.org.uk/factsheet/

For more information, contact:
Phone: **0800 33 66 99**
Minicom: **0800 027 2122**
Web: **www.homeheathelpline.org**

Be Part Of A Service User Research Study

You are invited to participate in a study that is being conducted at the University of Bolton's Centre for Research for Health and Well-Being.

This study is looking at Service User Participation in health care service delivery and provision in Bolton. The main aim of the study is to explore service users' views and experiences of participation in their local health care provision; to help to inform and develop inclusive participatory processes in health care provision in Bolton.

For more details about the research study contact lead researcher Bimpe Kuti at:
01204 903145 or via Email:
K.Bimpe@bolton.ac.uk

Sign Up To Epetitions



Here are two e-petitions that have been brought to our attention by GMCDP members.

Save ILF

In a Written Statement dated 13th December 2010 the Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller) stated that the ILF is "financially unsustainable", was already closed to new applications and that existing recipients were only protected for the life of this Parliament (i.e. 2015). This money currently enables over 20,000 disabled people to live independently.

If you would like to challenge the Ministers statement, you can see the e-petition on Website:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/24368>

Pats Petition

One petition which we highlighted in our last Information Bulletin was "Pats Petition". This calls for the government to "Stop and review the cuts to benefits and services which are falling disproportionately on disabled people, their carers and families". Nearly 30,000 people have signed the petition, but it still needs a lot more.

The link is:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/20968>

Next Information Bulletin

Please send any news or events you would like publicising by 14th March 2012.

If you need assistance accessing any of the websites or information given in this bulletin, please contact the GMCDP office and we will be pleased to assist.

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP)

**BEVC, Aked Close,
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Typetalk: 1802 0161 273 5154

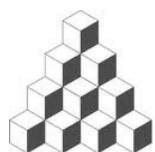
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