

You may know GMCDP lost its funding from the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) this year.

Because of this the Information Worker only works 2 days a week.

GMCDP feels it is important that members have information.

We have changed the Information Bulletin so it is easier and quicker to send out.

We are looking for more money to have a full information service again.

General



GP's Vote For The Work Capability Assessments (ATOS) To Stop

At their Conference in May GPs voted for the end of the Work Capability Assessment.

The doctors think there needs to be a better kind of assessment.

Doctors think the assessment needs to look at what people who are disabled or ill for a long time need.

The words the conference agreed are:

That conference, in respect of Work Capability Assessments (WCA) as performed by ATOS Healthcare, believes that the:

- inadequate computer based assessments that are used have little regard to the nature or complexity of the needs of long term sick and disabled persons
- WCA should end with immediate effect and be replaced with a rigorous and safe system that does not cause avoidable harm to some of the weakest and most vulnerable in society.

Age discrimination against NHS patients is to be made illegal.

From October it will be illegal for doctors or hospitals to refuse to give treatment or medicine to people because of their age.

Some reports say that doctors discriminate against elderly patients when deciding to give treatments or not to give treatments.

To discriminate means to give differently or less than another person. For example, give someone less because they are older.

Care Minister Paul Burstow said: "We know that older people are not always treated with the dignity and respect they deserve because of ageist attitudes - this will not be tolerated... The challenge for the NHS is to look beyond a person's date of birth and meet the needs of older people as individuals."

Stopping A Persons Right To Communication.

GMCDP has been supporting a group of young people to set up as a campaigning group.

The group is working on the right to communication.

The group do not use speech to communicate (To communicate means to say what you want to say. It may be a different way than talking to people.).

People in the group use facilitated communication.

Facilitated Communication means using a piece of equipment to communicate.

The group is called Quiet Riot.

A member of the group has told GMCDP about one of their worries.

The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) has its annual conference in Pittsburgh at the end of July 2012.

People at the conference plan to say they do not agree with facilitated communication.

ISAAC has set up a group to look at (review) using facilitated communication.

The Chairperson of the committee does not like (is openly hostile to) facilitated communication.

There are many members of ISAAC who are worried about the review.

One reason is because they are only looking at research written in English. But there is international research supporting facilitated communication.

Disabled people and their supporters are worried about what will happen after this review.

What right does any individual or organisation have to ban what a person uses to communicate with?

To find out more about Facilitated Communication see Website: **<http://www.annemcdonaldcentre.org.au/>**

Please email the Executive Director of ISACC and ask why they are attacking facilitated communication.

Email: franklin@isaac-online.org

Tameside CAB Has A New Service

Tameside Citizen Advice Bureau has the money to run this new service for 12 months.

The service is advocacy for people over 60 who receive complicated health and social care support to live in their own home.

Advocacy is having someone to help you get what you need and to say what you want to say.

The CAB will:

- Give information about local services.
- Visit people in their own homes.
- Write letters.
- Talk to different services to make sure they are giving the person the services they want.
- Make sure the person is getting the right services and benefits.

To find out more contact Julian:

Email: **julian@tamesidecab.org.uk**

Inquiry Into The 'Schizophrenia' Label

(An inquiry is when people look into and ask about something.)

This Inquiry is looking at how useful it is to use the word 'Schizophrenia' as a medical condition.

It is looking at how using the word makes a difference to people's lives.

Lots of people and groups from this country and around the world are supporting this inquiry.

The following people will talk to the inquiry:

- People who have been given the label 'schizophrenia' or other labels like 'psychosis'.
- Their families/friends/carers.
- People who use these labels to describe mental health problems in other people,
- People who have concerns about these words (labels) being used.

The people doing the inquiry will write a report. The report will be sent to the Royal College of Psychiatrists and other organisations.

To find out more go to the website:

<http://www.schizophreniainquiry.org/>

MAIN: Manchester Access and Inclusion Network

Manchester Disabled Peoples Access Group has been funding for a three year project.

The project is called Manchester Access and Inclusion Network (MAI).

Disabled people can be volunteers for the project. You will learn about and do access audits, surveys and other activities.

Being part of the project will be made accessible to volunteers. For example, having information in the way that suits you best.

The Project can pay volunteers expenses. That is what it costs you to be part of the Project. For example, travel costs.

To find out more contact MDPAG,
Phone: **0161 273 5033**,
Email: **admin@mdpag.org.uk**,
Website: **www.mdpag.org.uk**

Direct Action Works!!

, GMCDP member, Stephen Bridge, had been waiting 9 months for new crutches.

He decided this was too long to wait.

He decided to take direct action.

On May 31st he handcuffed himself to the staff entrance door of Textile Hall in Bury.

After this action he has been promised that his new crutches will be ready by 15 June.

Asking You What You Think About Things (Consultations And Surveys)

No Decision About Me, Without Me Consultation

A consultation is when people are asked what they think about something.

The Department of Health plans to give patients more choice and control.

This consultation is asking what people think about how the Department of Health plans to give patients more choice and control.

You need to say what you think before 20 July 2012.

To find out more and to answer the questions go to the website:

<http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/choice/choice-future-proposals>.

Are Disabled Students Welcome At New Academies?

Independent Parental Special Education Advice (IPSEA) is a national charity. It gives free legally based advice to families who have children with special educational needs.

Parents have been asking IPSEA what Academies have to do for children with Special Educational Needs.

They are doing a survey to find out what is happening as schools become Academies.

You can do the survey online at
<http://www.ipsea.org.uk/news/hot-topics/academies-survey.aspx.aspx>

Home Care Survey

The Care Quality Commission is going to inspect over 250 home care services.

To inspect means to go and look at what is happening.

They are not going to tell people they are going to inspect before they go.

They want to hear about what home care services have been like for people.

They are asking people to answer some questions (do a survey).

This is to get some information before they do the inspections.

You need to do the survey before the end of August 2012

Find out more on the website:

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

Meetings And Events

'Ignite Your Life'

There is a Mental Health & Well-Being Workshop & Exhibition on Thursday 12th July.

It is from 12.30pm - 4.30pm.

It is at Walton Gardens, Walton Lea Road, Warrington, WA4 6SN.

There will be

- Art and Craft displays;
- Poets Corner;
- Entertainment;
- Workshops;
- music;
- exhibition stands from local support services.

There will be food and drinks.

Travel expenses will be paid on the day to service users, carers and volunteers.

The day is being run by 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS (Halton, Knowsley, St Helens, Warrington and Wigan)

To find out more ring Katherine Earlam or Adrian Barrowdale on **01925 664450**

Or email: **katherine.earlam@5bp.nhs**

Warrington Disability Awareness Day

There is a Disability Awareness Day on Sunday 15th July. It is at Walton Gardens, Walton Lea Road, Warrington, WA4 6SN.

It is run by Warrington Disability Partnership.

To find out more:

Phone **01925 240064**

Or go to the website:

www.disabilityawareness.org.uk

Equality Capacity Building Workshops for Greater Manchester Voluntary Groups

Capacity building is making groups better and stronger.

There are some workshops for making voluntary groups stronger around the Equality Act 2010.

Workshops are a chance to learn new things.

They are being run by NHS Heywood Middleton/Rochdale and Voices 4 Wellbeing.

The workshops will give support from voluntary groups who are good at looking into how the NHS works in this area.

The workshops are:

- 25 July 2012, Transgender Workshop done by Trans Resource and Empowerment Centre.
- 20 September 2012, Disability workshop. It has not yet been decided who will run this.
- 18 October 2012, Sexual Orientation Workshop, **done** by The Lesbian and Gay Foundation.
- 22 November 2012, Equality Impact Assessment Workshop, **done** by NHS Heywood Middleton/Rochdale.
- 12 December 2012, NHS Equality Delivery System Workshop, **done** by NHS Heywood Middleton/Rochdale.

You can find out more from Annemari.

Phone: **0161 627 0163**

Or email: **annemari@voices4wellbeing.co.uk**

Tameside LINK Annual General Meeting

This will be on Thursday 19 July 6.30 - 8.30pm.
It will be at Dukinfield Town Hall, King Street, Dukinfield,
SK16 4LA

To find out more

Phone: 0161 339 4985

Email: **info@t3sc.org**

An invitation From Disability Stockport

Disability Stockport are having a Disability/Diversity Day.
It is on Tuesday 7 August from 10.30 am - 3.30 pm.
It is at Mersey Square (opposite the bus station).
Disability Stockport are letting people look round their
offices on the same day.
Their office is at: 23 High Street, Stockport SK1 1EG

To find out more, phone: **0161 480 7248**
or email: **email@disabilitystockport.org.uk**

Reports

Reports are papers that give you information about things.

Over- looked Communities, Over - due Change

This report is by the Equalities National Council and Scope.
It is about disabled people from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds.

It gives ideas about how to make it easier for disabled people from black and ethnic minority communities to use services.

It says that there are at least one million disabled people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds in the UK. It says that many cannot access the services they need.

The report is on the Scope website:

www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/publications/bme

A Perfect Partnership

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has written a report.

It is about the experiences of disabled workers, disabled job seekers and employers.

The report, 'A Perfect Partnership', found that:

- Sometimes employers are confused by what disability means, who is disabled and what reasonable adjustments are.
- Disabled people do not want to be singled out. They are looking for general ways for people to be supported to do their job. They do not want ways of support that only look at one person.
- The employer and worker working together is the best way to make things right.

You can find out more on the website:

www.equalityhumanrights.com/perfectpartnership

Groups And Organisations

Manchester Mental Health Watchdog

Manchester Mental Health Watchdog is a group that meets every 3 months.

It looks at how mental health services in Manchester work.

People in the group are people interested in mental health. This is service users, carers and people from community groups and organisations.

Access To Services Manchester

The Access to Services group meets to make sure all Manchester residents receive the right health and social care services when they need them.

They look at issues that LINK members have told them about.

If you would like to be part of the Mental Health Watch Dog or the Access To Services Group then:

phone: **0161 874 2191**

email: **manchesterlink@theBHA.org.uk,**

Culture

Layered

This is an exciting exhibition set up by Venture Arts.

It is on from 26 May 2012 — 5 August 2012.

It is at the Peoples History Museum

Venture Arts is based in Hulme.

It offers arts and crafts workshops and chances for learning ways to be a better worker in the arts.

It is for adults and young people from across Manchester who have learning difficulties.

To find out more contact the People's History Museum:

Phone: **0161 838 9190**

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

Website: **<http://www.phm.org.uk/>**

DadaFest

DaDaFest is The Festival of Disability and Deaf Arts. It will be in Liverpool from 13 July to 2 September.

DaDaFest brings artists from across the world to Liverpool.

Young DaDaFest is a performance and awards ceremony by young disabled and deaf people aged 13 to 25.

The young people host the event and show new works to a large audience.

It is at the Black-E on Monday 16 July

To find out more see DaDas website:

<http://www.dadafest.co.uk/the-festival/visiting-the-festival/>

Jobs

Office Administrator

Manchester Disabled People's Access Group (MDPAG) **needs** an experienced Office Administrator.

Hours: Full time (28 hours a week flexible)

Salary scale: NJC 18 – 21 £17,161 - £ 19,126 pro rata.

To find out more contact MDPAG at:
MDPAG, BEVC, Aked Close, Ardwick,
Manchester M12 4AN
Phone: **0161 273 5033 (voice/text)**,
Email: **admin@mdpag.org.uk**
Website: **www.mdpag.org.uk**

This job is only open to disabled people,
Applications to be in by : Monday 2 July 2012

Fundraising Professional

The Alliance for Inclusive Education (ALLFIE) is looking for an experienced and a proactive fundraising professional.

The post, which is based in London, is for 18 months.

Hours: Part time (21 hours a week)

Salary: £27,945 to 29,575 (inc ILW) pro rata

To find out more see ALLFIE's
website:<http://www.allfie.org.uk/>

You need to apply by 5pm on 28 June 2012

Next Information Bulletin

Please send any news or events you would like us to put in the next Information Bulletin by 19 July 2012.

If you need help with any of the websites or information given in this bulletin, please contact the GMCDP office. We will be pleased to help.

**Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People
(GMCDP)**

BEVC, Aked Close, Manchester. M12 4AN.

Phone: **0161 273 5154**

Typetalk: **1802 0161 273 5154**

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