

As many of you will be aware GMCDP lost its AGMA funding this year and as a result has only a part time Information Worker. It is important to the Coalition that we continue to produce the Information Bulletin and keep our members informed; however we have altered the format so that it is easier and quicker to produce. We are sure you will understand the reason for this change. We are trying our best to secure further funding in order to get our Information Service back to full capacity.

General



GP's Vote For Immediate End To Work Capability Assessment (ATOS)

GPs at their Annual Conference in May voted in favour of a motion calling for the end of the Work Capability Assessment. The doctors, who represent GPs from across the UK, agreed that the system should be replaced with a more rigorous and safe process which takes into account the needs of long term sick and disabled patients.

The motion that was passed is as follows:

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.

Ministers have confirmed that denying drugs or treatments on the grounds of age will be outlawed from October. The ban will apply to Britain but not Northern Ireland.

There have been a number of reports that suggest that doctors discriminate against elderly patients in the allocation of treatments.

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. Our population is ageing as more of us live longer. The challenge for the NHS is to look beyond a person's date of birth and meet the needs of older people as individuals."

Denying A Persons Right To Communication.

GMCDP have been supporting a group of young people to establish themselves as a campaigning group. This group of nine people joined together two years ago and is focused on the right to communication. The group do not use speech as their primary means of communication but use a method called facilitated communication. The group is called Quiet Riot. A member of this group has raised the following concern.

The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) has its annual conference in Pittsburgh at the end of July 2012 and at the conference there is a plan to agree a position against facilitated communication.

ISAAC has formed an Ad Hoc Committee to review the use of facilitated communication. The committees chair is openly hostile to facilitated communication.

There are many members of ISAAC who are concerned about the narrow focus of the review, for example they are only accepting research that is written in English, despite the international research supporting facilitated communication.

Disabled people and their allies will be concerned about the wider and more serious implications for this review by ISACC: What right does any individual or organisation have to effectively ban the use of a persons means of communication.

For more information about Facilitated Communication see Website:
<http://www.annemcdonaldcentre.org.au/>

Please email the Executive Director of ISACC and ask for an explanation for this attack on facilitated communication. **Email: franklin@isaac-online.org**

Tameside CAB's New Service

Tameside Citizen Advice Bureau has received a grant for a 12 month service providing independent advocacy to people aged 60 and over who live in the community and are receiving complex health and or social care provision to enable them to continue living in their own home.

The CAB will provide information about local services; visit people in their own homes, write letters, act as an independent link between agencies to ensure that the persons wishes are acted upon and ensure they are in receipt of the appropriate levels of benefits and services.

For more information on this new service please contact Julian.
Email: **julian@tamesidecab.org.uk**

Inquiry Into The 'Schizophrenia' Label

The Inquiry into the 'Schizophrenia' Label (ISL) is an independent inquiry into the usefulness of 'schizophrenia' as a diagnosis and medical condition. It is also investigating the impact this diagnosis has on people's lives. ISL is supported by national and international organisations, groups and individuals.

An independent panel will examine evidence from people who have been affected by the label of 'schizophrenia' (or similar labels such as 'psychosis'), including those who use or have used mental health services, their families/friends/carers, those who use these labels to describe mental health problems in other people, and those who have concerns about the use of such labels. The panel will produce a report based on this evidence which will be forwarded to a range of organisations including the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Further information can be found on: **<http://www.schizophreniainquiry.org/>**

MAIN: Manchester Access and Inclusion Network

Manchester Disabled Peoples Access Group has been successful in getting funding for a three year project, MAIN (Manchester Access and Inclusion Network).

They are inviting disabled people to join the project as a volunteer to learn about and participate in access audits and surveys and other activities.

Volunteers' expenses and access requirements will be met, including information in preferred formats.

For more information contact MDPAG, Tel: **0161 273 5033**,
Email: **admin@mdpag.org.uk**, website: **www.mdpag.org.uk**

Direct Action Works!!

After 9 months of waiting for new crutches, GMCDP member Stephen Bridge had had enough and decided to take direct action. On May 31st he handcuffed himself to the staff entrance door of Textile Hall in Bury. Following this action he has been promised that his new crutches will be ready by the 15th June.

He is already planning his next action!

Consultations And Surveys

Liberating The NHS: No Decision About Me, Without Me Consultation

This consultation document sets out the Department of Health's (DoH) final policy proposals which aim to give patients greater choice and control. A number of focused consultation questions seek views on whether DoH have identified the right areas for making sure the NHS empowers patients and service users and delivers real choice across most NHS services.

This consultation document sets out detailed proposals to achieve this. It follows on from the earlier Liberating the NHS.

For further information and to take part in the consultation visit:
<http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/choice/choice-future-proposals>.

Deadline: Friday 20 July 2012

Are Disabled Students Welcome At New Academies?

Independent Parental Special Education Advice (IPSEA) is a national charity providing free legally based advice to families who have children with special educational needs. More and more parents have been asking IPSEA about Academies and their duty to make provision for children with Special Educational Needs and a number of common issues are emerging. They are conducting a survey to find out what is happening as schools become Academies. They will then use the feedback to produce resources that will help with common issues.

The survey can be completed online at <http://www.ipsea.org.uk/news/hot-topics/academies-survey.aspx.aspx>

Home Care Survey

Over the coming months, the Care Quality Commission will be conducting over 250 unannounced inspections of home care services. To help them assess this sector, they want to hear about peoples experiences of home care services.

For their themed inspection of home care services they are asking people to complete a survey so they can gather specific information to directly inform these inspections.

The survey will close at the end of August 2012

Further information can be found on their website: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/>

Meetings And Events

'Ignite Your Life'

5 Boroughs Partnership NHS (Halton, Knowsley, St Helens, Warrington and Wigan) are holding a Mental Health & Well-Being Workshop & Exhibition, Thursday 12th July, with Art and Craft displays, Poets Corner, Entertainment, workshops, music, plus exhibition stands from local support services, from 12.30pm - 4.30pm at Walton Gardens, Walton Lea Road, Warrington, WA4 6SN. Refreshments will be provided and travel expenses will be paid on the day to service users, carers and volunteers.

For more details contact Katherine Earlam or Adrian Barrowdale on **01925 664450** or email: katherine.earlam@5bp.nhs

Warrington Disability Awareness Day

Warrington Disability Partnership are holding their Annual Disability Awareness Day on Sunday 15th July at Walton Gardens, Walton Lea Road, Warrington, WA4 6SN.

For further information call **01925 240064** or visit **www.disabilityawareness.org.uk**

Equality Capacity Building Workshops for GM Voluntary Sector.

NHS Heywood Middleton and Rochdale is working with Voices 4 Wellbeing to provide 'Capacity Building Sessions' for the local voluntary sector. The workshops will be based around the Equality Act 2010.

The workshops will provide peer support from appropriate voluntary organisations who are effective in scrutinising the performance of the NHS at a regional level.

- 25th July 2012, Transgender Workshop delivered by Trans Resource and Empowerment Centre.
- 20th September 2012, Disability workshop (guest speaker yet to be confirmed).
- 18th October 2012, Sexual Orientation Workshop delivered by The Lesbian and Gay Foundation.
- 22nd November 2012, Equality Impact Assessment Workshop delivered by NHS Heywood Middleton and Rochdale.
- 12th December 2012, NHS Equality Delivery System Workshop delivered by NHS Heywood Middleton and Rochdale.

More information can be obtained from Annemari Tel: **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 at Dukinfield Town Hall, King Street, Dukinfield, SK16 4LA

For more information: **Tel: 0161 339 4985**, Email: **info@t3sc.org**

An invitation From Disability Stockport

Disability Stockport are holding a Disability/Diversity Day 2012 on Tuesday 7th August at Mersey Square (opposite the bus station) 10.30 am - 3.30 pm.

Also on that day they will be holding an Open Day at their premises,
23 High Street Stockport SK1 1EG

For further information Tel: **0161 480 7248**
or email: **email@disabilitystockport.org.uk**

Reports

Over- looked Communities, Over - due Change

This report which has been produced by the Equalities National Council and Scope presents new, wide-ranging evidence about disabled people from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds and recommends how policy-makers, local authority commissioners, and service providers can improve BME disabled people's access to services.

It highlights the fact that there are at least one million disabled people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds in the UK and that many of them are unable to access the services they need.

A copy of the report can be found on the Scope website:
www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/publications/bme

A Perfect Partnership

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published a report that reviews the experiences of disabled workers, disabled job seekers and employers.

The report 'A Perfect Partnership' found that:

- Employers are sometimes confused by what exactly the concept of disability covers, who is disabled and what reasonable adjustments are.
- Disabled people do not want to be singled out and are looking for company-wide solutions to support people to do their jobs effectively.
- A collaborative approach that works for both the employer and disabled worker is the key to success.

The report findings and recommendations are on the Commission's website at: **www.equalityhumanrights.com/perfectpartnership**

Groups And Organisations

Manchester Mental Health Watchdog

Manchester Mental Health Watchdog is a group that meets quarterly to look at how the mental health services in Manchester are delivered. The group is made up of anyone who has an interest in mental health, including service users, carers and representatives from community groups and organisations.

Access To Services Manchester

The Access to Services group meets regularly to ensure all Manchester residents receive appropriate, respectful health and social care services when they need them. They focus on specific issues that LINK members have raised.

If you would like to be involved with either of these groups, contact Manchester LINK, email: manchesterlink@theBHA.org.uk,
Tel: **0161 874 2191**

Culture

Layered

An exciting exhibition curated by Venture Arts, 26 May 2012 — 5 August 2012 at the Peoples History Museum

Venture Arts is an organisation based in Hulme which offers arts and crafts workshops and professional development opportunities in the arts for adults and young people who have learning difficulties from across the Manchester area.

Those involved have been inspired by their lives, hopes, dreams, landscapes and people around them and have used a many different arts and crafts techniques to build up layers around their ideas.

For further details contact: People's History Museum Tel: **0161 838 9190** email: info@phm.org.uk, Website: <http://www.phm.org.uk/>

DadaFest

DaDaFest (The Festival of Disability and Deaf Arts) will be held in Liverpool from 13th July to 2nd September.

DaDaFest which brings artists from across the world to Liverpool also includes Young DaDaFest which is a performance showcase and awards ceremony by young disabled and deaf people aged 13 to 25.

The young people host the event and present new works to a large audience either in groups or individually.

The event this year is due to take place at the Black-E on Monday 16 July

For further information see DaDas website: <http://www.dadafest.co.uk/the-festival/visiting-the-festival/>

Vacancies

Office Administrator

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

Hours: Full time (28 hours a week flexible)

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

For further information, please contact MDPAG at:
MDPAG, BEVC, Aked Close, Ardwick, Manchester M12 4AN
Tel: **0161 273 5033 (voice/text)**, Email: admin@mdpag.org.uk
Website: www.mdpag.org.uk

This vacancy is only open to disabled people,

Closing Date: Monday 2nd July 2012

Fundraising Professional

In order to expand their fundraising services, the Alliance for Inclusive Education (ALLFIE) is looking for a 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

Further information can be found on ALLFIE's website:<http://www.allfie.org.uk/>

The closing date for applications is 5pm, 28th June 2012

Next Information Bulletin

Please send any news or events you would like publicising by the 19th July 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.

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