

Cabbie Could Lose His Licence

A taxi driver may lose his taxi licence.

He refused to take Brian Gaskell because he was a wheelchair user.

Brian complained to Manchester council.



The driver was found guilty of a 'refusal to hire' charge at Manchester magistrates court.

The driver will also have to go to a meeting to see if he can carry on being a taxi driver.

Councillor Nigel Murphy said:

Every licensed black cab in Manchester is accessible for wheelchair users.

Drivers are expected to help passengers when needed.

There is no reason to refuse a disabled passenger.

People who feel they have been treated badly (discriminated against) should take the license number of the taxi. Then ring the council on 0161 234 5004 to tell us.

Also...

A visually impaired woman has started campaigning. Her guide dog has been banned from some taxis and cafes.

The Equalities Act (2010) says that visually impaired people with a guide dog cannot be told they cannot go somewhere or have a service. They cannot be given a poorer service.

Last summer 3 taxi drivers would not take Ms Quin and her guide dog. And it happened again in March this year.

Councillor Nigel Murphy, Manchester council's executive member for the environment, said: Every private hire and hackney carriage driver must allow guide dogs or hearing dogs into their cars. Drivers must also make sure they do not treat disabled people poorly.

Taxi Fares Go Up In Greater Manchester

In Manchester, Stockport and Wigan it now costs more to use black cabs.

It may start costing more in Oldham, Tameside and Trafford as well.

Stockport Taxi Guide

The Stockport Disability Aware Transport Guide has been written by Stockport Council and Disability Stockport.



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Some of the things it tells you are:

- Phone numbers of licensed drivers who have done disability awareness training.
- How to complain about a taxi or private hire driver

The Guide is on the website:

www.stockport.gov.uk/taxilicensing

You can ask for Braille, tape or CD.

Tel: **0161 474 3264 / 3286**

Email: **taxi.licensing@stockport.gov.uk**

Save Time... Get A Haircut...

A disabled woman from London says she was told to "cut her hair" to save her carer time. Mary Garland had her home care hours cut.

Mary asked her social care manager how her home care carer would have time to do everything.

Mary said the Manager told her it would be better if she had her hair cut.

Mary asked what would happen if her condition got worse.

The Manager said she may have to go in a residential home.

Mary was shocked by this.



Your Information Your Right

Some places keep records about people. For example: Social Services, housing organisations, doctors, hospitals, colleges, schools.

The Data Protection Act says you can find out what information is kept about you.

What to do if you want to see what is written about you:

- Write to the organisation you think has information about you.
- If you do not know who to write to, send your letter to the Company Secretary of the organisation.
- It is a good idea to send the letter recorded delivery.
- Keep a copy of the letter and any more letters you send.
- Keep a copy of letters you are sent from the organisation.

The organisation may ask for money (a fee). It is usually no more than £10.

Once the organisation has all the information it needs about you and any money they ask for, the organisation should send you the information by 40 days after you have sent them any money they ask or any information they ask for. They may ask for identification with a photo on it.

You can find out more on the websites:

Information Commissioners Office:

www.ico.gov.uk/for_the_public/personal_information.aspx

Campaign for freedom of information:

www.cfoi.org.uk

Care Quality Commission Report

The Care Quality Commission have written about health care for disabled children.



The report says:

Disabled children sometimes wait for up to a year for aids. For example, wheelchairs.

There are big differences in what services children can have around England.

Most children have to wait 3 months for a power wheelchair.

Most children wait 15 weeks to see a community occupational therapist. But some children waited 2 years.

The report is on The Care Quality Commission website: www.cqc.org.uk/

Tameside Hate Crime Survey

Tameside Hate Incident Panel (THIP) is made up of:

Police,
Housing Associations,
Tameside Council and
Victim Support.

They meet every 6 weeks to look at Hate Crimes in Tameside.

They are starting a new campaign.

The campaign is to look at all Hate Crime

This includes hate crime because of:
race,
religion,
sexual orientation,
transgender identity and
disability.

The campaign will support victims. It will not be looking at who does the crime (perpetrators).

They are asking people to help them work out what the campaign should be.

To take part you can fill the survey in online:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/JDQ3YTS

To find out more:

Email: **shain.miah@tameside.gov.uk** or

Phone: **0161 342 2412.**

They want to hear from people by end of May 2012.

Into Higher Education Guide 2012

'Into Higher Education 2012', is a guide for disabled students thinking about studying in higher education.

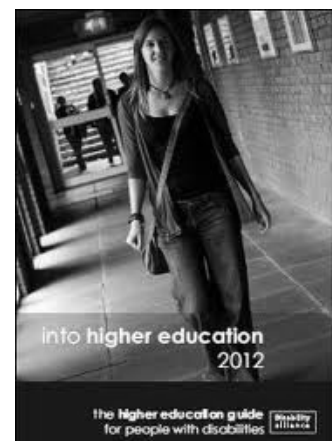
It tells you:

If the college or university is accessible.

How to choose a course.

What support there is.

The new student finance system.



Up-to-date information on how much courses cost (tuition fees) and paying back student loans.
Lists of other websites, information and organisations who can help.

Into Higher Education was an annual publication from Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities.
Skill closed in April 2011.
Disability Rights UK is now running some of the services Skill used to do.

The guide is on the website:
www.disabilityalliance.org/skillintoe.htm

Grants For Home Security In Stockport

The Home Security Package helps people in Stockport make their home safer (more secure).

It is a free service.

You need to apply for a grant from the Council.
To get the grant you need to:

Be over 60 years old. Or be under 60 and receive an income related benefit.

Own your own home or be a tenant of a private landlord.

Be in Council Tax Band A-D.

The Council's Home Security Officer will visit your home to see what is best for you. Some of the things can be done are:

- A small glass to see out of the door (door viewer) or door viewer/intercom.

- Window locks.
- Door chain.
- Five lever mortise locks to outside doors.
- Security lighting for homes which have a lot of space outside.

Undateable Debatable

The Including Young Disabled Peoples Project have been asking young disabled people what they think about the Channel 4 programme "Undateables".



We had a session called Debatable. Both sides of the argument were talked about (debated) by two teams of young disabled people.

We would be very interested to hear what you thought of the programme.

If you have any thoughts, please contact the IYDP Project on:

Email: **dbroadbent@gmcdp.com** or

Phone: **0161 273 5137**.

Inclusion Matters - Conference

This is a conference for disabled people, parents and supporters (allies).

The Campaign to Reverse the Bias Towards Segregation is running the day.

The conference is on Saturday 23 June 2012.

The conference is in London.

After the conference there is an Inclusion Cabaret.

To find out more see:

Website: www.reversethebiascampaign.com/

Right To Independent Living

The Joint Committee on Human Rights have written a report.

The report says the government's policies may go against the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



The UN Convention says what rights disabled people should have.

It says changes to benefits and cuts in services mean disabled people may not be able to live independently.

The report says this because of what lots of disabled people and disabled people's groups have said.

The report says there should be a law giving disabled people a right to independent living and advocacy.

The report shows that things are getting worse for disabled people.

The report shows that some disabled people may have to live in residential homes now.

The report is on: **Website:**
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/news/independent-living-report/>

Work Capability Assessment

Paul Farmer, the Chief Executive of Mind has stopped being on the group who look at how the Work Capability Assessment is working.



For better
mental health

He said the Government is not listening when the group said they do not like some things about the Work Capability Assessment.

Asking What You Think About Personal Independent Payment

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is changing to Personal Independence Payment.

The change will start for disabled people aged 16-64.

People who apply from April 2013 will apply for Personal Independence Payment not Disability Living Allowance.

In October 2013 the Government will start asking people who are on Disability Living Allowance to have a new assessment for Personal Independent Payment.

You can say what you think about the changes.
You need to say what you think before 30 June.

You can find out more on:

Website:

www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/disability/personal-independence-payment/

Schools Out

Schools Out is a new GMCDP project for disabled children and young people aged 10 to 14 who live in Manchester.

It hopes to give young disabled people the same choices as non disabled young people.

This can be going to local youth clubs, sports clubs, school clubs.

The project will:

- Give one to one support and advocacy.
- Have an information and signposting service for disabled people and their families.
- Give travel training.
- Have group sessions during school holidays.

To find out more contact:

Phil Samphire, Project Worker

Phone: **0161 273 5154**

Mobile: **07921 237 167**

Email: **psamphire@gmcdp.com**

Salford Disability Forum Event

Positive About Disability is an Awareness Raising Day.

It is on 24 June.

It is at Buille Hill Park, Salford.

There will be different things to do. Groups and services will have information to show.

To find out more contact Salford Disability Forum:

Phone: **0161 737 1092**

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

Lord Jack Ashley

Lord Ashley of Stoke has died aged 89. Jack Ashley was the first Deaf MP. For 26 years he was a Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent. Then he was made a peer in 1992.



Lord Ashley campaigned on many disability and social issues. His Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill in 1983 was the first time someone had asked for a law to stop people discriminating against disabled people. (Discriminating is treating someone badly).

In the House of Lords Jack Ashley started discussions about things important to disabled people. Jack Ashley spoke against laws he thought were not good for disabled people.

The Co-chairs of the All-Party Parliamentary Disability Group in a statement said "Jack Ashley was an outstanding parliamentarian and champion of disability and human rights".

Disability Stockport

Disability Stockport is trying to make its services better.

It is thinking of:

- Changing to the Independent Living Centre make their building a place for Community groups to come to (Hub).



Tell Disability Stockport how you think they can be better.

Tell Disability Stockport what extra services you want them to give.

Phone: **0161 480 7248,**

Email: **email@disabilitystockport.org.uk**

Factsheets On The Internet

The 3 groups:

- Disability Alliance
- the National Centre for Independent Living (NCIL) and
- Radar

are now one group called 'Disability Rights UK.

Disability Rights UK



They have a lot of factsheets on their website.

The factsheets are about: benefits, tax credits, social care and other topics interesting for disabled people.

They are on: Website:

www.disabilityrightsuk.org/factsheets.htm

DPAC Actions in Manchester

Disabled people Against Cuts are organising events around the country.

This is to show disabled people's concerns about changes to disability benefits, ATOS and cuts to services.

The events are:

Thursday 31 May at 12pm.

In Albert Square, Manchester

Wednesday 6 June at 7pm.

In The Friends Meeting House, Manchester

A day of Action and Campaign Stall Will be on Saturday 9 June Meeting at 11am. It has not yet been decided where.

To find out more see the website:

<http://www.dpac.uk.net>

Next Information Bulletin

Please send any news or events you would like us to put in our Information Bulletin by 7 June 2012.

If you need help finding any of the websites or information given in this bulletin, please contact the GMCDP office.

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