

## **Week of Action: 29 August – 4 September 2013**

Disabled People Against Cuts are having a week of action.

That is a week when people campaign.

They are asking disabled people and disabled people's groups around the UK to campaign in this week.

This is a list of actions:

Thursday 29 August: sending tweets and emails to people and organizations.

Plus a Transport For All action to make Crossrail in London accessible.

Friday 30 August: local protests. Go to local MPs, Atos offices, schools and colleges that are making barriers to inclusion. That means stopping disabled people joining in.

Saturday 31 August: disability art and protest exhibition in London.

Sunday 1 September: 'Reclaiming the Social Model: The Social Model In The 21st Century'. A meeting where people can talk about their ideas.

Anne Rae, Chair of GMCDP and Colin Barnes, from the Centre for Disability Studies (Leeds University) will be giving a speech. The meeting is in London.

Monday 2 September: day of direct actions. Direct action is when people go to a place to protest.

Tuesday 3 September: 'I Dare' day. This is a day of using the internet and email to protest.

Wednesday 4 September: Freedom Drive. This is going to march and protest around Parliament. The 'Reclaiming our Futures' manifesto will be launched. A manifesto is a paper saying what people want.



For much more information, and things to support you to take part, go to the Disabled People Against Cuts website: [www.dpac.uk.net](http://www.dpac.uk.net)

(Picture from a DPAC demonstration in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne on 28 August 2012. Thanks to the DPAC website and photographer.)

# **About Atos and the Work Capability Assessment**

Atos is the company that does medical assessments for the Department of Work and Pensions.

A Judge has said the decisions Atos make are not good enough.

A person asking for benefits because of their mental health took Atos to a Tribunal. A Tribunal is like a court.

The Tribunal said a physiotherapist does not know enough about mental health to say anything about a person's mental health.

To find out more, go to the Disability Rights web page:  
<http://disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2013/july/new-decision-undermines-atos-medicals>

The Department of Work and Pensions are finding more companies to do medical assessments for them. Atos will not be the only company doing assessments.

Atos has been told to give its staff training. Atos has been told to look at how well its staff are working.

To find out more, go to the Welfare News Service web page:  
<http://www.welfarenewsservice.com/dwp-statement-on-atos-work-capability-assessment>

In July Parliament talked about recording Work Capability Assessments on audio tape.

This was because the Department for Work and Pensions said not many people are asking if their assessment can be recorded.

You can read what was said on the web page:  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130612/debtext/130612-0004.htm#13061288000001>

## **News from the Office for Disability Issues**

In July, the Government wrote a report. It is the Fulfilling Potential strategy and action plan. It is about making change linked to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People. It is about making change that makes disabled people's lives better.

There has been a report about Equality 2025. This is a group that tells the government what disabled people think about things.

The Government has decided to change how it finds out what disabled people think. The Government are closing down the Equality 2025 group.

The people in Equality 2025 are all disabled people. The government is saying it will set up a new group. The new group will be non-disabled people and disabled people.

The Office for Disability Issues has said what they think about the government's new ideas.

This is called 'Fulfilling Potential: Making it Happen - Better Working with Disabled People.'

There is a chance to say what you think. This is called a consultation.

The chance to say what you think ends on 16 October 2013.

You can say how you think the government should find out what disabled people think.

To find out more, go to:  
<http://odi.dwp.gov.uk>

For some writing about the changes, go to the Disability News Service website:

<http://disabilitynewsservice.com/2013/07/end-of-the-road-for-equality-2025>

There are two ways the Government are giving help to people after the Remploy factories close.

Connect helps people who are losing their jobs when Remploy factories close.

To find out more, go to:

<http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/odi-projects/community-support-fund.php>

The Community Support Fund is giving money to disabled people's groups and voluntary groups in places where Remploy factories are closing.

To find out more, go to:

<http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/odi-projects/community-support-fund.php>

# Resources and Places to Get Help

Resources are things which might help you to do something you need to do.

## Advice and Legal Help

Disabled People Against Cuts have a list of advice and legal services. It is on their website, at:  
<http://dpac.uk.net/2013/07/advice-and-legal-resources>

## 'Mental Health Advocacy and Human Rights – Your Guide'

The British Institute of Human Rights has written this guide.

It tells you about the human rights of mental health system users and people experiencing mental distress.

The guide says how the Human Rights Act can be used to help people get better mental health services.

To get a copy of the guide from the internet, go to:  
<http://www.bihr.org.uk/media/new-mental-health-advocacy-and-human-rights-your-guide>

For print copies contact Helen Wildbore by:  
Email [hwildbore@bihr.org.uk](mailto:hwildbore@bihr.org.uk) or  
phone 0207 882 5851

## **PA Café**

The PA Café is for people who use Personal Assistants and for Personal Assistants.

It is on the internet.

It is for people to talk about independent living.

If you want to 'chat' about things with other Personal Assistant Users, ask the PA Café.

You join by sending an email to

PACafe@ILAnet.co.uk

with your name, the name you want to use for the Café (user name) and your email address.

You can choose your own user name so that people don't know who you are.

## **Access to Work Scheme Does More Now**

Access to Work gives support to disabled people in work.

It is run by the government.

For example, Access to Work may give equipment or a support worker. The support is to help with bits of the job which are not accessible.

Disabled people on traineeships, supported internships, work trials and work academies can now ask Access to Work for support.

Disabled people who wish to set up their own business through the Enterprise Allowance Scheme can now ask Access to Work for help.

To find out more, go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/drive-to-get-more-disabled-people-into-mainstream-jobs>

To find out about Access to Work, go to:  
<https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview>

or contact your local Jobcentre Plus. GMCDP can help you find this.

## **New Work around Peer Support and Employment**

ASPIRE is the name of some work Breakthrough UK is doing.

It is for disabled people and groups in Greater Manchester.

It is open from June 2013 to March 2014.

ASPIRE is looking at how support from other disabled people can help disabled people get work and keep their job.

Breakthrough UK wants to work with disabled people, employers and disabled people's groups.

To find out more, go to:  
<http://www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk/aspire>

Or contact Jacqui De La Mazière by:  
Phone 0161 273 5412, Mobile: 07800 557053  
Email: [j.delamaziere@breakthrough-uk.co.uk](mailto:j.delamaziere@breakthrough-uk.co.uk)



# **National and International News**

## **Disabled Women Go to Geneva**

In July, some women from a group called Sisters of Frida went to Geneva.

They spoke to the Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The Committee has used what the disabled women said in a report it has written.

The Committee has told the UK government what they must do to make things better for women in the UK.

To find out more about Sisters of Frida and the CEDAW report, see the website:

<http://sisofrida.org>

## **Law Commission is Asking About Hate Crime**

The Law Commission is asking people what they think (consultation).

This is about changes to the law on hate crime.

There is easier to read information.

To find out more, go to the website:

[http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/consultations/hate\\_crime.htm](http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime.htm)

Email: [hate.crime@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hate.crime@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk)

Write to: Criminal Law Team, Law Commission, Steel House, Tothill Street, London. SW1H 9LJ

## **WOW Petition**

Francisca Martinez is a disabled activist and comedian. She has set up an epetition addressed to the Department for Work and Pensions.

An epetition is a petition which is on the internet. A petition is something you can sign to say you agree with what is being said. The idea is to get as many people as possible saying they agree with it.

You can sign the epetition until 12 December.

The petition is asking for the government to see if changes in benefits and cuts in services are making disabled people's lives worse.

The petition is asking for the government to stop using the Work Capability Assessment. This is the way the Government is deciding if people can have Employment and Support Allowance.

To find out more, go to:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/43154>

## **Reports Show People with Learning Difficulties Do Not Get Good Health Care**

There are 2 reports from the Department of Health:

- response to the 'Confidential Inquiry into the premature deaths of people with learning disabilities' and
- 'Six Lives Progress Report on Health for People with Learning Disabilities'

These reports show people with learning difficulties are not getting the same health treatment as other people.

The Department of Health has asked the National Clinical Director for Learning Disability to do something about this.

They have asked him to think about telling people what is the best way to give people with learning difficulties good health care. This is called best practice guidelines.

The Department of Health will make some changes the reports tell them to make.

To see what the Department of Health said, go to:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-with-learning-disabilities-still-face-unacceptable-inequalities-in-healthcare>

To find the Inquiry Report and Six Lives report, go to the government's publications website:  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications)

## **Goodbye to Liverpool Care Pathway**

In July, TV, radio and newspapers talked a lot about the decision to stop using the Liverpool Care Pathway.

The Liverpool Care Pathway was a plan for doctors to follow when someone was close to dying. It told doctors when they could stop giving medicine, food and drink to someone who they thought was dying.

To find out more, go to the NHS web page:  
<http://www.endoflifecare.nhs.uk/care-pathway/step-5-care-in-the-last-days-of-life/liverpool-care-pathway.aspx>

## **Not Enough Money for Disabled Students**

The Snowdon trust gives money to disabled students with physical or sensory impairments. They give money to help pay for equipment or other things that help these students study.

The Snowdon Trust has written a report. It says that many disabled students do not get enough support through the Disabled Students' Allowance. This Allowance is to help pay for equipment and support to help disabled students study.

To find out more, go to the Snowdon Trust web page:  
<http://www.snowdontrust.org/news>

Or contact the Trust:

Snowdon Trust, Unit 18 Oakhurst Business Park,  
Southwater, West Sussex. RH13 9RT

Phone 01403 732 899

Email [info@snowdontrust.org](mailto:info@snowdontrust.org)

## **Iain Duncan Smith Says it was OK for Him to Use the Wrong Numbers**

Iain Duncan Smith, Work and Pensions Secretary said it was OK for him to use the wrong numbers.

He was talking about people who have had their benefits cut because of the Benefits Cap.

He said some people have been forced to get a job.

The UK Statistics Authority said it was wrong for him to use the numbers (called statistics) he did. The numbers were wrong.

To see more, go to the Guardian web page:

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/jul/15/iain-duncan-smith-statistics-benefits-cap>

## **Dogs have been Trained to Work with People Who have Dementia**

Alzheimer Scotland, Guide Dogs Scotland and Dogs for the Disabled have been teaching two dogs.

These two dogs are the first to work with people who have dementia.

The dogs tell their owners to read reminders and take medicine.

Students at the Glasgow School of Art had the idea.

To find out more, go to the BBC News web page:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-23277537>

## **Remember to Keep a Watch on Your 'Fit Note'**

The Department for Work and Pensions does not always tell people they need a new 'Statement of Fitness for Work' (or 'Fit Note').

If you need these to get your benefits, put a note in your diary. Do not think the Department of Work and Pensions will tell you when you need a new one.

People have talked about this on the Rightsnet website:

<http://www.rightsnet.org.uk/forums/viewthread/5101>

## **10<sup>th</sup> Strasbourg Freedom Drive**

Every year the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) has an event they call the Freedom Drive.

It is a mix of march to the European Parliament; their Annual General Meeting and a four-day assembly. An assembly is a big meeting when people talk about lots of things.

This year, the talk is about Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Article 4 says that all countries must work to recognise the human rights of disabled people.

To find out more, go to the ENIL web page:  
<http://www.enil.eu/campaigns/freedom-drive>

## **International Day of Disabled People: 3 December 2013**

This is a chance to celebrate our lives as disabled people.

The official name of the day is now 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities'.

The theme this year is: 'Break barriers, open doors: for an inclusive society for all'.

This means getting rid of the things that stop disabled people joining in with all the things non-disabled people do.

It means getting rid of the things that stop disabled people going to places non-disabled people go.

To find out more, go to:  
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1607>

## **Disability History Month: 20 November – 20 December**

This is a time to find out about the history of disabled people campaigning for equality and human rights. It is a time to tell others about the history of disabled people.

This year it is about 'Celebrating our struggle for Independent Living: no return to institutions or isolation'.

To find out more, go to the website:

[www.ukdisabilityhistorymonth.com](http://www.ukdisabilityhistorymonth.com)

or Facebook page:

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/UK-Disability-History-Month-OFFICIAL/262351827138558>

# **Greater Manchester Focus**

## **Deafblind UK Events**

Deafblind UK are having events in Bury, Manchester, Oldham and Stockport.

To book a place and

To find out more, contact Nikki Spiers by:  
mobile 07932156373 (text or call) or  
email [Nikki.Spiers@deafblind.org.uk](mailto:Nikki.Spiers@deafblind.org.uk).

## **Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust Annual General Meeting and 'Hi! Tea' Event**

The 'Hi! Tea' event is a tea party at Manchester Town Hall.

It is on 11 September, 10.00am – 4.00pm.

GMCDP will be having an information stall at this event, so come along and meet us!

Activities at the event include:

a 'Hi! Tea' lunch time tea party/picnic;

information stalls;

health bus offering health checks;

baby massage session;

tea and cake;

video room;

smoothie bike;

music;

memory Pods;

the Annual General Meeting at 2pm.



To find out more, go to the web page:  
<http://www.mhsc.nhs.uk/about-the-trust/news-and-events/hi-tea!-and-annual-general-meeting.aspx>

or contact Ben Curley: by phone on 0161 882 1138 or email [ben.curley@mhsc.nhs.uk](mailto:ben.curley@mhsc.nhs.uk)

## **Disabled Artist Shows His Work in Sale**

Andy Wild is having a show of his work. It is called 'The Patient Experience'.

It is at the Waterside Centre, 1 Waterside, in Sale.

The show (exhibition) is on until 14 September 2013. and Andy will be at the exhibition on Saturday 7 September between 2.00 – 4.00pm to talk about his art with visitors.

To find out more, go to:

[http://www.disabilityartsonline.org/?location\\_id=10&item=4134](http://www.disabilityartsonline.org/?location_id=10&item=4134)

## **Looking For Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community Leaders**

The Lesbian & Gay Foundation has some money to support at least 40 LGB Community Leaders across Greater Manchester. LGB is lesbian, gay, bisexual.

These Community Leaders will make sure that health and social care services are set up around the real needs of LGB people.

To find out more, go to the Lesbian and Gay Foundation website:

<http://www.lgf.org.uk/news-articles/lgb-community-leaders-the-voice-of-our-communities>  
Or email: [Andrew.gilliver@lgf.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.gilliver@lgf.org.uk)  
The LGF phone number is: 0845 3303030

## **'Get Me Toasty'**

This scheme is running throughout Greater Manchester until January 2014.

It will help some people who own their own houses.  
It will help some people who rent from private landlords.  
It helps these people to make their houses warmer.

It may help with insulating the walls and loft. It may help with getting a new boiler.

It is only for people in some postcode areas, so you need to check if your area is covered.  
It is only for people on some benefits.

It is very complicated to work out who can get this help. We cannot list it here.

To find out more:

Ring the Greater Manchester Energy Advice Service free on 0800 009 3363

Or go to the website:

[www.getmetoasty.com](http://www.getmetoasty.com)

## **Peer Reviewing Project for Mental Health Services in Stockport**

Peer reviewing means people who use the service looking at the service to see if it is good enough.

Some people are wanted to do this work in Stockport.

It is to ask people who use mental health services what they think of the service.

There will be training in October for the people doing this work.

The people doing this work are called peer reviewers.

To find out more, contact Judith or Louise:

phone 0161 429 9744

Email: [Judith@sparc4me.org.uk](mailto:Judith@sparc4me.org.uk)

# **New Projects at Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP)**

## **Manchester Disabled People's Project**

This is a project for disabled people of all ages who live in Manchester.

- The project will give information and support on independent living and other disability related topics.
- We will work with one person at a time (one-to-one support).
- We will have small group workshops.
- We will give training and information.
- We will offer some volunteering.
- We will run sessions for service providers around disability equality and transition issues. Transition is the time when someone has a change in their life. For example, moving from school to college.
- We will have an event every year celebrating young disabled people in Manchester.

## **Young Disabled People's Forum (Manchester)**

**Self Developed Project.** This project is for you if you are a young disabled person 13-25 years old living in Manchester.

The project will be open two days a week.

It is for you if you want to work out what you would like to do in your life. We will then support you to gain the skills and confidence to live your life how you wish to.

- You can come to find information.

- You can come for support by yourself, that is called one-to-one support.
- You can come to a small group to get information and support.

**Well Aware.** This project is for you if you are a young disabled person living in Manchester. It will support you to look at what being healthy is, to be well and feel OK with your life (health and well-being).

This may be looking at healthy eating, relationships, managing stress, accessing leisure opportunities, dealing with bullying, and much more.

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## **Next Information Bulletin**

Please send any news or events you would like us to put in the next Information Bulletin by 18 September 2013.

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.

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