

Caring matters – an update for Carers Leads

April 2013

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Carers Trust project receives £1.2m funding grant

Edward Timpson MP, Minister for Children and Families announced £1.2 million funding to boost support for young carers and their families. The new funding from the

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Department of Education (DfE) will allow the next phase, led by Carers Trust and supported by The Children's Society, the 'Next Step's Programme' to support young carer services and their families across England. This will continue the work of the 'Prevention Through Partnership' (PTP) programme led by The Children's Society. For more information please click on the link below:

<http://www.carers.org/press-release/young-carers-celebrate-children%E2%80%99s-minister-announces-million-pound-funding-boost>

Dementia Roundtable event and new survey

Carers Trust in partnership with Alzheimer's Society held a round table event in presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on 7 March 2013. Entitled "Who Cares When Caring Gets Tough?" the event included speakers such as George McNamara (Head of Policy & Public Affairs, Alzheimer's Society), Professor Caroline Glendinning (University of York) as well as Chief Executive Thea Stein and Director of Policy & Research Dr Moira Fraser from Carers Trust.

To coincide with the Roundtable Carers Trust is inviting any person who cares for someone with dementia to complete our survey — part of a new research project being carried out by the University of York on behalf of Carers Trust to help us understand this group's needs and improve future services for them.

<http://www.carers.org/news/new-survey-gather-views-carers-people-dementia>

Carers Trust is also working with are working with Royal College of Nursing to adapt the Triangle of Care to meet the needs of carers of a person with dementia when they have been admitted to general hospital.

NICE quality standards consultation

Carers Trust will be responding to the NICE quality standards consultation which closes on the 26th April 2013.

From April this year, NICE will produce guidance and standards on social care in adults and children. To reflect the move into social care, NICE will become known as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Ahead of this Ministers are seeking ideas from care users, their families and carers, service commissioners, care providers and front line staff to help decide on future topics with the aim to establish a full set of NICE quality standards and guidance in order to improve the quality of social care.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/developing-new-standards-for-social-care>
<http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/news/HaveYourSayOnNICEsSocialCareWork.jsp>

Take Action

Ask your MP to protect carers from the Bedroom Tax

Carers Trust has joined Carers UK and other charities in the call to prevent carers being unfairly penalised under proposed changes to Housing Benefits rules that have collectively become known as the "bedroom tax". Together, we are encouraging carers to write to their MP asking for protection from further financial hardship.

<http://www.carers.org/news/join-campaign-exempt-carers-bedroom-tax>

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Carers Week 2013 Survey

As one of the partners of Carers Week 2013, we are inviting carers to complete a new survey to explore how emotionally and practically prepared they were for their caring role.

Findings from the "Prepared to Care?" survey will be incorporated into a report to be published at the start of Carers Week 2013— taking place this year from Monday 10th to Sunday 16th June. Deadline for responses to this survey Friday 3 May 2013

<http://www.carers.org/news/were-you-prepared-care-carers-week-2013-survey-launched>

Register to take part in Carers Week 2013 now and receive a free welcome pack sponsored by Sainsbury's <http://www.carersweek.org/take-part>

Changing the law for young carers – Time to take action

The Children and Families Bill is a significant opportunity to improve the lives of young carers. However, whereas adult carers' rights are set to be improved by plans contained within the draft Care and Support Bill, the Children and Families Bill is currently missing any equivalent improvements for young carers.

You can write to, email or tweet your local MP now to tell them not to leave young carers behind <http://www.carers.org/news/changing-law-young-carers-time-take-action>

Carers Blog <http://carersblog.wordpress.com/>

The Carers Blog covers news and opinion on carers' issues. Recent posts include:

CCGs: a voyage into the commissioning unknown

Changes to the legal aid system: what carers need to know

Young carers firmly on Children and Families Bill agenda

Would you like to contribute a post to the blog on a current policy issue? Get in touch with Moira Fraser mfraser@carers.org.

Parliament and National Policy Developments

Changes to the benefit system come in from April 2013

The Department of Work and Pensions has published information and guidance on the changes to the benefit system.

On 8 April 2013 the Government introduced a new benefit called Personal Independence Payment (PIP) to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for eligible working age people aged 16 to 64. This page explains how the changes are being introduced, what the changes mean and includes a PIP Toolkit for support organisations and advisers

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/disability/personal-independence-payment/>

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From April 2013 a cap will be introduced on the total amount of benefit that working age people can receive. The benefit cap will be implemented from April 2013, starting in four local authorities in London – Bromley, Croydon, Enfield and Haringey. There will be a phased roll-out with the remaining local authorities implementing the cap from the 15 July 2013, with all appropriate households capped by the end September 2013.

This page contains a factsheet and information on Households that aren't affected.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/benefit-cap/>

There is also information on Universal Credit and Housing Support at

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/>

Carers Trust Briefing - The retirement of QOF Management Standard 9

The government has now published the Quality and Outcome Framework for 2013/2014 and confirmed that the indicator relating to carers, Management Standard 9 (MS9) is to be removed, along with the rest of the organisational domain. A briefing on this is included with this email entitled '*The retirement of QOF Management Standard 9.*'

NHS Commissioning Board becomes NHS England (26/03/13)

The NHS's new national body, which has until now been known as the NHS Commissioning Board, will have overall responsibility for the £95 billion NHS commissioning budget from 1 April 2013. From this date it will be called NHS England. The main aim of NHS England is to improve the health outcomes for people in England. It will set the overall direction and priorities for the NHS as a whole.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2013/03/26/nhs-england/>

Joint Committee on the draft Care and Support Bill report – Carers Trust's response (19/03/13)

The Joint Committee on the draft Care and Support Bill has reported back to Government after taking evidence from the public and interested stakeholders.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201213/jtselect/jtcare/143/14302.htm>

Dr Moira Fraser, Director of Policy and Research welcomed the strong recommendation to ensure new legal rights for young carers.

<http://www.carers.org/press-release/carers-trust-welcomes-recommendations-need-new-legal-rights-young-carers>

Government initial response to the Mid Staffordshire NHS Public Inquiry Report (26/03/13)

In response to the Francis report, the government is launched plans to ensure that patients are always put first and people are treated with respect.

The government's initial response, 'Patients First and Foremost', sets out a collective commitment and plan of action for the whole health and care system and everyone who works in it.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-initial-response-to-the-mid-staffs-report>

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The Health and Care System Explained – new guidance from the DH (26/03/13)

The Department of Health has published new guidance about the new Health and Social Care System that became fully operational on 1 April 2013. This guidance provides information on The role of the Department of Health in the new system, What the changes to the health and care system mean for patients and local communities, how health and care organisations will work together locally, how health and care organisations will work together nationally and how the interests of people using health and care services are protected.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-health-and-care-system-explained>

Putting Patients First: The NHS England Business Plan for 2013/14 – 2015/16 (05/04/13)

NHS England's business plan for 2013/14 – 2015/16 is called *Putting Patients First*. NHS England state this explains how its commitment to transparency and increasing patients' voice are fundamental to improving patient care.

The plan describes an 11 point scorecard which NHS England will introduce for measuring performance of key priorities, focused on receiving direct feedback from patients, their families and NHS staff.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/pp-1314-1516/>

New NHS Constitution

The government has published a revised NHS Constitution following a recent public consultation. It is likely there will be a further consultation later in the year on further changes to the constitution, with the aim of incorporating further recommendations made by The Francis Report.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england>

The new independent consumer champion Healthwatch launches across England (02/04/13)

Healthwatch is the new independent consumer champion for health and social care and launches across England from 1st April.

<http://www.healthwatch.co.uk/news/new-independent-consumer-champion-healthwatch-launches-across-england>

Local Government

On going support for health and wellbeing boards post-April 2013 (27/03/13)

From 1 April 2013, responsibility for the on going development and support programme for health and wellbeing boards will be transferred from the Department of Health to the Local Government Association (LGA).

<http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/ongoing-support-for-hwbs/>

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Statutory guidance published on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies (22/03/13)

The DH has produced guidance explaining the powers and duties of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JHWS).

<http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/jsnas-jhwss-guidance-published/>

More GP-led groups will begin healthcare commissioning with a clean bill of health (27/03/13)

NHS England reports that half of all the new GP-led groups will begin commissioning healthcare on behalf of their local communities on April 1 with a clean bill of health and no requirement of on-going national support.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2013/03/27/gp-commissioning/>

Adult social care toolkits

Think Personal Act Local has produced a toolkit to aid council managers and their partners to make the most of their resources and promote personalisation within a difficult environment. It acknowledges the current growing demographic and budget challenges and calls for innovation and increased communication as a result. An executive summary and the report can be found on the link below:

<http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/Browse/UseOfResources/>

Good Practice: Commissioning and Service Development

Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Patients Association joint project (19/02/13)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Patients Association have joined forces to make sure concerns raised by people about care being provided to the elderly, can be shared quickly with the regulator and acted on where necessary.

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/media/patient-views-highlighted-care-quality-commission-joins-forces-patients%E2%80%99-charity-help-root-out>

'Making a Difference in Dementia' nursing vision and strategy launched by Department of Health (15/03/13)

The DH states that the vision recognises contribution of all nurses and their teams who are involved in the care of someone with dementia at different stages along their care pathway. It states there is a need to ensure people with dementia have the best, compassionate care and support from all nurses and their teams and that his support starts right from keeping well, awareness raising and reducing social stigma, through to early identification, diagnosis, maintaining health and wellbeing and finally end of life care and bereavement support for carers and their families.

The Vision document is available on the DH website at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/making-a-difference-to-dementia-nursing-vision-and-strategy-launched/>

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NICE quality standard supporting people to live well with dementia (03/04/13)

This quality standard covers the care and support of people with dementia. It applies to all social care settings and services working with and caring for people with dementia.

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/QS30>

Revised safeguarding statutory guidance – ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ (22/03/13)

Following formal consultation the Department of Education have published the revised statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013)* which will come into effect from 15 April 2013.

The guidance clarifies the core legal requirements on individuals and organisations to keep children safe. The framework has been revised and the previous specific section on young carers has now been removed.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00030-2013>

Guidance from Carers Trust: Commissioning Services for Young Carers and Their Families – now available online

Commissioning Services for Young Carers and Their Families, a new guide from Carers Trust aimed at helping commissioners and those responsible for developing local services for young carers and their families, is now available online at

<http://professionals.carers.org/young-carers/policy-and-planning,3062,PP.html>

You can request a hard copy of this guide, by emailing info@carers.org with your address.

Supporting Young Carers and their Families: Examples of Practice

Carers Trust has developed a collection of case studies showcasing the diverse range of innovative practice that is taking place across the UK to support young carers and their families.

Aimed at commissioners and all those responsible for developing services for young carers and their families, these examples of practice have been chosen to inform and inspire the sector to continue to develop and deliver creative and effective services that bring about positive outcomes.

To receive a CD of the latest examples of practice and for please email practiceexamples@carers.org The examples of practice are also available online:

<http://professionals.carers.org/young-carers/articles/supporting-young-carers-and-their-families-examples-of-practice,7139,PR.html>

Commissioning guidance for CCGs on working with local communities published by RCGP (02/03/13)

Guidance for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) on how to work within communities has been published by the Royal College of General Practitioners.

‘Working with Communities, Developing Communities’ has been produced by the RCGP Centre for Commissioning, set up in 2010 to support GPs with the commissioning and delivery of healthcare and service. The guide puts forward both a financial case and health case as to why investing resources in Community Development is beneficial for local populations, primary care practitioners and CCGs.

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<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/news/essential-commissioning-guidance-launched-on-working-with-local-communities.aspx>

NHS England Bulletin for CCGs: Issue 31 (28/03/13)

The final issue of the bulletin for clinical commissioning groups ahead of the move to the new clinically-led commissioning system. This includes information on all 211 CCGs being authorised, NHS CB: Interim management arrangements and Emergency preparedness, resilience and response.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2013/03/28/ccg-bulletin-issue-31/>

Other News and events

Record number of people with dementia in care homes (26/02/13)

Alzheimer's Society has published new report suggesting eighty per cent of people living in care homes have either dementia or severe memory problems. The report 'Low Expectations' finds out of 1,000 relatives and carers surveyed, only 41 per cent believed their family member is enjoying a good quality of life, with 27 per cent saying it is poor.

http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/news_article.php?newsID=1498

Research finds that 2.3 million adults quit work to care (06/03/13)

A Carers UK/YouGov Poll found that 2.3 million adults have given up work to care for an elderly parent, disabled or seriously ill loved ones.

<http://www.carersuk.org/newsroom/item/3033-research-reveals-over-2-million-quit-work-to-care>

Disabled people to lose £28.3bn of support by 2018 according to new research published by Demos (27/03/13)

Hundreds of thousands of disabled people will be hit simultaneously by up to six different welfare cuts, according to new research published by Demos. The figures are a result of analysis commissioned by disability charity Scope show the cumulative impact of the Government's welfare reform plans with £28.3bn being taken out of disabled people's pockets by 2018.

http://www.demos.co.uk/press_releases/destinationunknownapril2013

CQC finds Mental Capacity Act not well understood (28/03/13)

CQC has published a report on its monitoring of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. The report reveals that there is still a widespread lack of understanding of the wider Mental Capacity Act. CQC's evidence shows that in some care homes and hospitals, people's freedom to make decisions for themselves is restricted without proper consideration of their ability to consent or refuse.

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/media/cqc-finds-mental-capacity-act-not-well-understood-across-all-sectors-and-calls-more-work-provi>

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Joseph Rowntree Foundation publication on the impact of localising council tax benefit (28/03/13)

A study by Joseph Rowntree Foundation has found changes to council tax benefits will affect poorer households and create inconsistencies in neighbouring areas and that multiple schemes will add complexity and reduce transparency.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/impact-localising-council-tax-benefit>

Opportunity to be a Patient or Carer Member of a Clinical Reference Group (CRG)

The NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) has opened the application process for patient and carer members of its 74 Clinical Reference Group (CRGs) for 2013/14. CRGs are responsible for providing the NHS CB with clinical advice regarding specialised services, and for the delivery of key 'products', such as service specifications and commissioning policies, which enable the NHS CB to commission services from specialist service providers through the contracting arrangements overseen by its Area Teams.

This Guide to CRGs and Information Pack for Patients and Carers will provide detailed information about CRGs work; where they sit within the NHS CB structure, and what it means to be a patient and carer member of a CRG.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/crg-info-pack.pdf>

If you are interested in applying to be a patient or carer member there is an online membership form and further information online at

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/d-com/spec-serv/crg/>

The closing date for applications for membership is 26 April 2013.

Secondment opportunity

National charity Sense is seeking a local partner organisation with knowledge of carers and BME communities for a project to disseminate information for families about supporting older relatives with hearing and sight loss. We have an information booklet aimed at families but have some funding to pilot this with BME communities and adapt accordingly. We are looking to second someone for one or two days per week over two years to work on this. Anyone interested can contact Sue Brown

sue.brown@sense.org.uk or 020 7014 9371 for more details.