

Caring Matters – an update for Carers Leads

June 2013

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This month's bulletin includes:

Policy team update

Success in the campaign to reform the law for young carers
Primary Care and Community Links National Learning Day
Carers Week Prepared to Care? Report

Take action

Young adult carers survey about experiences in education and work – please share

Parliament and National Policy Developments

Census figures in England and Wales show a rise in the number of Young Carers and Older Carers

Local Government

Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb has launched plans to join up Health and Social care
Benefit cap by Local Authority and by Parliamentary Constituency

Good Practice: Commissioning and service development

RCGP Commissioning for Carers Guide
NICE guidance on commissioning health and social care for people with dementia

Sources of information and advice

NHS Live Website for care and support choices.
Personal Independence Payment (PIP) toolkit for support organisations

Other News

Judges rule controversial disability benefits procedure is unfair

Carers Trust

Policy Team update:

Success on the campaign to reform the law for young carers

Carers Trust has been working hard leading the National Young Carers Coalition (NYCC) to press for changes to both adult's and children's law and has asked the Government to take the necessary steps to reform and consolidate the law for young carers, as it has done for adult carers. The NYCC believes that there is a historic opportunity to reform the law for young carers and that The Children and Families Bill and the Care Bill are the ideal pieces of legislation by which to achieve this.

On the 11th June the Children's Minister, Edward Timpson, told Parliament during Report Stage of the Children and Families Bill that the Government intends to change the law to improve rights for young carers.

This is a huge achievement for the National Young Carers Coalition (NYCC) and the hard work and collaborative effort of young carers' services and young people.

Of course, more work is needed to work out what the changes will look like so there is plenty more to be done and we need to ensure that this actually happens in the best possible way.

So a huge Thank You to all of you who have supported in this work. For more information please see our website <http://www.carers.org/news/government-announces-plans-vital-changes-law-young-carers>

Carers Trust has also produce a briefing on the Care Bill which is attached to this email.

Primary Care and Community Links National Learning Day

Carers Trust held a national learning day in Manchester on 16 April for Network Partners, carers and GPs. Professor Nigel Sparrow, Medical Director for Professional Development and Revalidation at the Royal College of General Practitioners and National Professional Adviser at Care Quality Commission, summarised the work of the College in supporting carers in general practice so far and outlined how it will continue to work in partnership with Carers Trust and Carers UK in the future. There was also a presentation by a GP Champion for Carers, Dr Sachin Gupta, who explored the 'business case' for supporting carers in general practice. Both presentations can be viewed [here](#), along with the rest of the days programme.

Carers Week Prepared to Care? Report (10/06/2013)

Research by Carers Week revealed that carers are being woefully let down by a lack of support when they first take on a caring role. The findings from the report, [Prepared to Care?](#) show that support is not being made available to new carers with often devastating consequences.

The research of over 2,100 carers showed that 75% of carers were not prepared for all aspects of caring, 81% were not aware of the support available to them from the outset and 35% believe they were given the wrong advice about the support on offer.

The charities within the Carers Week partnership (including Carers Trust) are calling for the government, GPs and health and social care professionals to ensure that more support is given to carers from day one of their caring role.

<http://www.carersweek.org/about-carers/prepared-to-care-report>

Carers Trust

Personalisation - Making it Real for Carers

Working with ADASS and Think Local Act person, Carer trust has worked with groups of carers from three Network partner organisations to look at what carers feel would make services and support personalised for them. Under six headings, carers have outlined what they feel is important, combined with examples of positive practice from a range of network partners and other organisations and providers.

There's checklist to look at how organisaions are doing, and to support prioritisation and action planning with carers.

If you'd like to sign up as a "making it real" organisations, which involves self assessing and implementing an action plan, you can then obtain use of the "Making it Real " logo.

More information at

<http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/BCC/Latest/resourceOverview/?cid=9483>

Carers Assessments

In partnership with Skills for Care, Carers Trust and defining the skills and knowledge needed by staff undertaking carers assessments.

This has started with research with carers which focused on what skills are required to undertake good carers assessments. These included:

- the assessment process having a clear outcome and which draws on a mix of social care, health, voluntary sector and community services, which should be creatively used too to meet the needs of camera.
- the person conducting the assessment should have the courage to tease out and address difficult issues, and should start with the skills and coping mechanisms a carer already employs and building on these
- clear communication throughout the whole process including purpose of assessment and the choices available
- carers to be treated as the expert partner in care.

The report is available here

http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/developing_skills/carers/Carers_assessments.aspx

Take Action:

Young adult carers survey about experiences in education and work – Please share

We've launched a [new survey](#) to allow young adult carers to share their views and experiences of school, college, university and work with us.

Young adult carers often find it difficult to juggle caring with school college or work so Carers Trust is working with The University of Nottingham to find out what helps.

Please share this survey with anyone aged 14-25 years-old who is caring unpaid for a friend or family member. The overall aim is to use our findings to develop better services and support for Young Adult Carers.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WJQWWXP>

Carers Trust

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

The Carers Blog covers news and opinion on carers' issues and is a good way for keeping up to date with developments. Recent posts include:

Can we Make it Real for carers in self-directed support?
The Care Bill: What's new and how does it affect carers?
Triangle of Care: inspiring carer involvement in mental health standards
Local NHS Commissioning — the upheaval begins
Better Carers Assessments: A gateway to support

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:

Census Figures in England and Wales show a rise in the number of Young Carers and Older Carers (16/05/2013)

Additional 2011 census information was published on May 16th detailing the number of carers in England and Wales by age, health, gender and number of hours providing care. A summary of unpaid care by 5 to 17-year-olds in England and Wales has been made on the website for [Office of National Statistics](#).

Headline statistics are also available in the two attached Carers Trust briefings and show a rise in the number of young carers and older carers. Additional information can be [found here](#). Local Authority data is expected to be published between August and October 2013. <http://www.carers.org/news/further-calls-change-law-young-carers-following-latest-census-figures>

Moira Fraser, Director of Policy and Research at Carers Trust, wrote this article in the Guardian about the number of young carers: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/may/16/children-caring-roles>

New measures unveiled to protect people if care providers fail (04/06/2013)

Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb announced legislation that would give the [Care Quality Commission](#) (CQC) powers to oversee the financial stability of the largest and most difficult to replace care providers.

The Department of Health hopes that CQC's oversight of finances and the clarity of the local authority role, will give people who depend on care providers, along with their families and carers, an added level of assurance that their care needs will continue to be met. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-unveiled-to-protect-people-if-care-providers-fail>

Carers Trust

Comprehensive free comparison website for care services launched (25/04/13)

The Government has launched new online information profiles that will help people to choose, compare and comment on care homes and other care services. The new profiles, part of the NHS Choices website, will create the most definitive online source of information on care services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-fully-comprehensive-free-comparison-website-for-care-services-goes-live>

The Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia: delivering major improvements in dementia care and research by 2015 - annual report of progress (14/05/2013)

This progress report describes achievements in the 3 main areas of the challenge: driving improvements in health and care, creating dementia friendly communities and better research.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/200030/9535-TSO-2900951-PM_Challenge_Dementia_ACCESSIBLE.PDF

Local Government:

Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb launched plan to join up health and social care and invited local areas to become pioneers. (14/05/13)

Twelve of the national leaders of health and care have signed up to a series of commitments on how they will help local areas integrate services. '[Integrated care and support: our shared commitment](#)' sets out how local areas can use existing structures like Health and Wellbeing Boards to bring together local authorities, the NHS, social care providers, education, housing services, public health and others to make further steps towards integration.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-partners-make-commitment-to-join-up-health-and-social-care>

The Department of Health has also invited local areas to express an interest by the end of June in becoming 'pioneers', demonstrating the use of ambitious and innovative approaches to delivering integrated care.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-care-integration-pioneers>

In this The Kings Fund webinar Norman Lamb MP, Minister for Care and Support, leads a discussion on national partners' commitment to integrated care and support.

<http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/government-plans-integrated-care-pioneers-scheme>

Benefit cap by Local Authority and by Parliamentary Constituency

This spreadsheet by SITRA shows the number of those affected by the benefit cap by local authority and by parliamentary constituency

<http://www.sitra.org/news/benefit-cap-by-local-authority-and-by-parliamentary/>

Good Practice: Commissioning and Service Development:

RCGP Commissioning Guidance on Supporting Carers in General Practice

The Royal College of General Practitioners has published an interactive commissioning guidance for GPs which includes appointing a carers' champion in all GP surgeries, having a register of carers and routine appointments to monitor their health. This guide is available online at:

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/~media/Files/CIRC/Carers/RCGP-Commissioning-for-Carers-2013.ashx>

Skills for Care - Common core principles for dignity resource.

This resource has been developed to provide clear guidance and practical examples for the adult social care workforce to ensure dignity is at the heart of quality care and support.

<http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/dignity/>

NICE guidance on commissioning health and social care for people with dementia (24/04/13)

NICE has produced a guide for commissioners on dementia, which aims to help improve the commissioning of health and social care support for people with the condition and for their carers.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/news/CommissioningHealthSocialCarePeopleWithDementia.jsp>

Department of Health - Adult social care: choice framework

This framework produced by the Department of Health sets out the different choices people are able to make in relation to their care and support, including: the right for people, including carers, to control the services they use; the right to choose residential care accommodation that suits them; and the right to access and receive information to inform choice. It also sets out where people can access further information, and how to complain if they are not offered choice.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/199865/Adult_social_care_choice_framework_draft_APRIL_2013_DH_template_FINAL.pdf

NHS England publishes interim CCG assurance framework

NHS England has published its Interim CCG Assurance Framework. The framework is designed to help NHS England, patients and the public identify how well Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are performing in their role as the commissioners of local health services. The publication of the Interim Assurance Framework is the start of an engagement process with CCG staff, patient groups and other key stakeholders which will inform a final Framework to be published in the autumn.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/ccg-af.pdf>

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Primary Care Trust (PCT) to Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Mapping

From April 2013, NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) replaced Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England. This page provides an interactive mapping from the old PCT geographical boundaries to the new CCG boundaries and you can also search for CCGs by town or postcode.

http://www.alliescomputing.com/pct-ccg-mapping/?goback=.gde_3266667_member_239765691

Sources of information and advice:

NHS Live Website for care and support choices.

The NHS has launched a live website for care and support choices with links to support, advice and shared experiences from carers.

http://www.nhs.uk/CarersDirect/Pages/CarersDirectHome.aspx?dm_i=F3O,1IKLP,AAM51S,55Q85,1

Department of Work and Pensions - Universal Credit toolkit

This toolkit is for organisations, particularly those in the pathfinder locations, to inform them about Universal Credit and to help them explain to claimants the changes that Universal Credit brings.

<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit-toolkit-for-partner-organisations>

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) toolkit for support organisations

This toolkit aims to provide clear information to individuals and organisations that support Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants and equips them to offer up-to-date advice on PIP or direct claimants to other sources of help.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/pip-toolkit/>

Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities report 'Thinking Ahead: a planning guide for families'

This guide offers ideas for how different people can help the parents of people with learning disabilities and contribute to thinking and planning for the future.

<http://learningdisabilities.org.uk/publications/thinking-ahead-a-planning-guide-for-families/>

Other News:

Judges rule controversial disability benefits procedure is unfair (22/05/2013)

Three judges have ruled that the procedure currently used by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to decide whether hundreds of thousands of people are eligible for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) disadvantages people with mental health problems, learning disabilities and autism.

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The charities Rethink Mental Illness, Mind and the National Autistic Society intervened in the case to provide evidence based on the experiences of their members and supporters.

http://www.mind.org.uk/news/8895_victory_for_welfare_campaigners_as_judges_rule_contraversial_disability_benefits_procedure_is_unfair

‘Hidden from View’ report from The Children’s Society on Young Carers (15/05/2013)

A report on young carers by The Children’s Society ‘Hidden from View’ analyses government data on 15,000 children across England and reveals the significant long-term impact that caring has on a child’s life

<http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-views/press-release/report-reveals-impact-young-carers>

Carers UK inquiry into the financial impact of caring

Carers UK have launched an inquiry into the financial impact of caring. The inquiry will examine the impact of the Government’s welfare reforms on carers and their families and help develop future policy reform on financial support. Carers can give evidence of their experience below

<http://www.carersuk.org/get-involved/finances-inquiry/about-the-inquiry>

Hospices receive £60 million funding boost

Hospices across England providing end of life care for children and adults have been awarded a share of £60million government funding to improve care environments and settings. A total of 176 hospices will benefit from the fund, which will be used to invest in creating new spaces for patients, their families and carers, whilst also supporting the care hospices provide to people in their own homes

<http://www.gov.uk/government/news/hospices-receive-60-million-funding-boost>

New research shows massive economic benefits from providing social care to disabled people

Research by five leading charities has revealed that investing in social care prevents disabled people falling into crisis, and as a result, leads to substantial economic benefits.

The in-depth study conducted independently by Deloitte establishes that every £1 spent on services like support in the community, housing and communication support generates benefits to people, carers, local and central Government worth an average of £1.30.

<http://www.scope.org.uk/news/massive-economic-benefits-providing-social-care-disabled-people>

Unpaid Carers subject to Seven of Top Ten Workplace Stresses

Research from Saga has found that unpaid carers are subject almost continuously to seven of the top ten workplace stresses: workload, feeling undervalued, the type of work they have to do, taking on other people's work, lack of control over their day, working long hours and frustration with the working environment. As a result many are nearing physical and emotional exhaustion.

<http://www.saga.co.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2013/may/unpaid-carers-subject-to-seven-of-top-ten-workplace-stresses.aspx>

Carers Trust

The State of Caring 2013 – Carers UK

This report by Carers UK details the results of a survey of over 3,000 carers across the UK and shows that many are struggling alone without advice or support and are seeing caring taking a toll on their health, family finances and careers as a result.

http://carersuk.org/media/k2/attachments/State_of_caring_report_PDF_version.pdf

Engaging with BME communities: insights for impact

A report by the NHS Confederation highlights ways in which providers and commissioners have developed innovative solutions and approaches to better cater for and engage with BME communities.

<http://www.nhsconfed.org/Publications/reports/Pages/Engaging-BME-communities-insights-impact.aspx>

Social care funding: 'a bleak outlook is getting bleaker' Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (06/05/2013)

A substantial squeeze on services for older people, people with disabilities and on fees to providers, has been recorded by the latest annual survey of social care budgets carried out by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services.

http://www.adass.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=914&Itemid=489