

Learning Disability News

April 2009

Spring 2009



This newsletter is in Partnership with all Northamptonshire Learning Disability Services to make information more helpful and useful



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Better Support for Carers

The Carers free activities and training booklet is now available. If you haven't received this yet please let us know. So far 328 carers have booked places on a wide variety of courses. One or two courses are already booked up but we will put on extra courses for those people who are on awaiting lists.



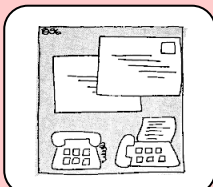
We have now finished testing of Personal Budgets and have received 385 applications. About a third of these are for carer's of someone with a learning disability. Those people who have applied for a budget will be hearing from us soon. If you haven't applied but would like to apply for a budget, please let us know as we are starting a waiting list.

We are now looking for an organisation to run extra counselling services and we are also looking for a worker to look at leisure and employment opportunities for carers. (closing date for tender applications is 15th May 2009)

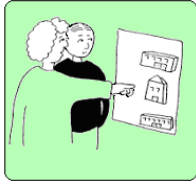


We are getting ready to look for an organisation that will provide opportunities for respite care, such as an emergency support service or a sitting service. We want to provide this service as these are areas that you have told us you need for future services and where some of the gaps in services are.

For more information



Contact the Quality Team on 01604 237680 or email Quality@northamptonshire.gov.uk



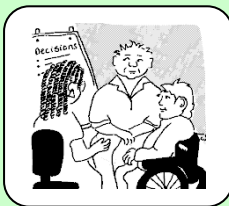
Personal Budgets

A new way of finding out about how a personal budget could work for you is our new DVD.



It shows local people in Northamptonshire and the experiences they have had with personal budgets. If you would like a copy please ask your care manager or you can call 01933 220720 or email sds@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Over the last few months a number of independent support brokers have been trained and had a criminal record check.

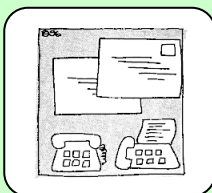


These “support brokers” are now available to help people with writing their support plan and organising their support. This will be paid for by the County Council and does not come out of the personal budget.



If you want more information about independent support brokers please ask your care manager or self directed support worker.

For more information

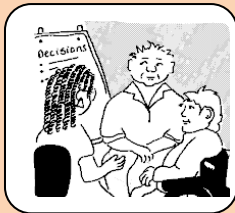


Contact Sarahlee Richards on
01933 220720 or email
SDS@northamptonshire.gov.uk



NHS Campus re-provision - towards 2010

There is a new project director for the NHS Campus Reprovision Project, his name is Nick Willmore. Nick started work on Monday 6th April and here he will tell you about the progress of the project



“I started here a week ago so am writing this nervously. What I have found is there has been a lot of progress in developing an understanding of what each person needs so they can move on with their lives, both in terms of housing and support.

The circles of support have been working hard to find future opportunities, and the challenge now is to help make these things happen.



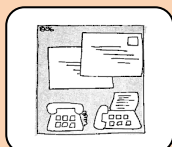
Our housing partners, Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association, are sorting out the work they need to do to make the properties available and we should know soon when each home will be ready.



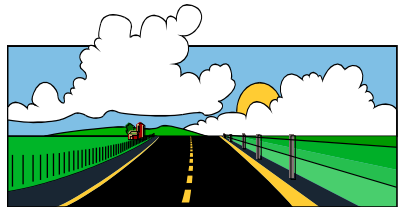
The next challenge is to sort out care and support providers for those people who have not got their own already organised. This is going to be a big challenge, but also rather exciting as it will start feeling very real for everyone.

As we start planning for moves you will hear more talk of the detailed plans such as health action plans, communication passports and so on. There's plenty to do and we have a good team to do it. I will be presenting to the Learning Disability Partnership Board on 21st May when I will say a bit more about what the project is doing”

For more information



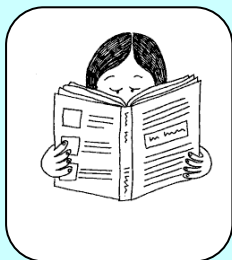
**Contact Nick Willmore on 01604 237223 or
email NWillmore@northamptonshire.gov.uk**



Things to do in the day, evenings and weekends

You have told us lots of things about what you want for the future and we are using this information to write a draft commissioning plan.

This draft commissioning plan will tell you about;



- What services and support are wanted and needed here in Northamptonshire
- What services or support is available now
- How services or support will change in the future
- And about the money that will pay for the plan.

Because there are local elections on 4th June 2009, the plan will not be ready just yet. But we will continue to work on the plan so that we make sure that the plan is what people want.

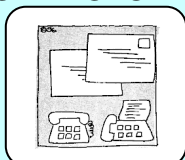
In the summer, we will post the draft plan out to you for you to look at. We will also hold 'listening surgeries' where you can drop in and tell us what you think about the plan.

Circles of Support



Two meetings took place on 30th & 31st March, as advertised in the last Newsletter. Sadly these meetings were not well attended, but those parents and carers who did come and take part in the discussions, found it useful and the speakers inspiring.

For more information

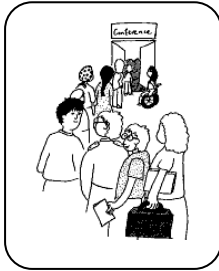


Contact Mel Tollervey on 01604 239400 or email MTollervey@northamptonshire.gov.uk



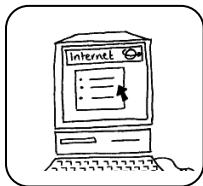
Recent News

Valuing People Now Locality Events



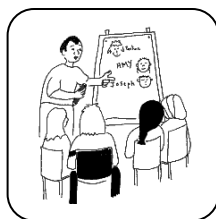
During March and April, we held 6 Valuing People Now events across Northamptonshire. We saw 158 people in total, there were lots of people with learning disabilities, carers, supporters and staff from lots of different services.

At the events we told people about Valuing People Now and we asked people what they thought about it and the Learning Disability Partnership Board. We also asked people about their experiences of health care in Northamptonshire and we will pass on everything people told us to the Healthcare Trusts



All of the notes and posters from the events will soon be on the Learning Disability Partnership Board Website www.northantsldpb.org.uk

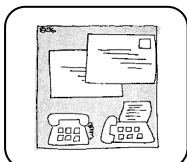
Signpost in Corby



Delos will be at Signpost to give information on the different types of services they provide and the costs. They will listen to the ideas that people with learning disabilities, parents and carers have about the ways that Delos can support them.

They will be at Signpost from 10 -12pm on the last Tuesday of every month (28th April, 26th May, 30th June, 28th July, 25th August, 29th September, 27th October and 24th November)

Also, 'Shared Lives' (this used to be called the Adult Placement Scheme) is at Signpost on 21st May 10am – 12pm.



If you would like information on services, activities, clubs or organisations in the Corby area then please call in at 'Signpost' 11 Corporation Street, Corby or telephone Amanda on 07734481516

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

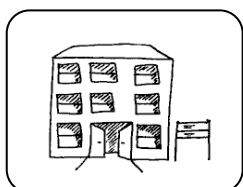
The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) are part of the 2005 Mental Capacity Act and they will be used from 1st April 2009.



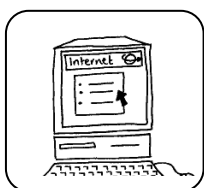
Deprivation of Liberty is when someone stops you doing the things you want all the time, this is called being deprived of your liberty. Sometimes people having treatment or care might be deprived of their liberty to keep them safe.

The safeguards only apply to people who lack capacity to give permission for the care or treatment they receive (this means that they cannot make a decision for themselves)

- And they are over 18
- And receive care in a hospital or registered care home
- And the care they receive deprives them of their liberty
- And they are not kept there under the Mental Health Act

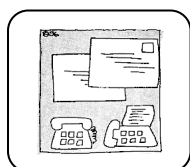


Care homes or hospitals are required by law to apply to the County Council or Primary Care Trust for permission to allow the deprivation of liberty to take place.



The easy read guide to Deprivation of Liberty is on the news page of our website
www.northantsldpb.org.uk

You can contact the Northamptonshire DOLS service for a paper copy of the easy read guide or to discuss any questions you may have about deprivation of liberty issues and to make a referral.



The phone number is 01933 220724 and email address is dols@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Six Lives: A new report about providing public services to people with learning disabilities



A new report has been published about the complaints made by Mencap on behalf of the families of six people with learning disabilities who died whilst in National Health Service or local authority care between 2003 and 2005.

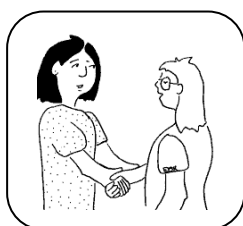
The report says:

- There were big failures in health and social care services



- Some services did not give people human rights such as dignity or equality
- Many organisations did not respond well to the complaints and this made family members feel unhappy and not listened to.

Other things that were not good are:



- Communication
- Partnership working and co-ordination
- Relationships with families and carers
- The failure to follow routine procedures
- Quality of management
- Advocacy

The report has said three things must happen

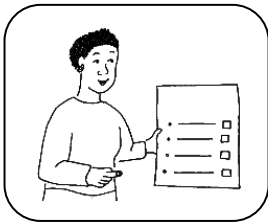


1. That health and social care should review urgently and report back in the next 12 months about:



- How well they are working together.
- How good and how many services are provided.

They must meet the full range of needs of people with learning disabilities in their areas. This must include people with complex needs.



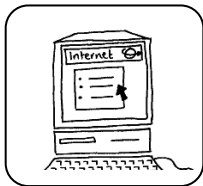
2. That people who check health and social care services should make sure that they are checking everything properly and report back about this.



3. That the Department of Health should check and make sure change really happens and write a report by October 2010.

These things should change attitudes and the way we work for a long time

To read the full report about Six Lives, you can go to



http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/improving_services/special_reports/hsc/six_lives/index.html



Dates for your diary

Learning Disability Partnership Board

This is an open meeting and anyone with an interest in learning disabilities can attend

Thursday 21st May, 1-3.30pm

At Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton NN3 6LL

Contact Lisa Judge on 01604 237014 or email
LJudge@northamptonshire.gov.uk for more information

Training on Support Plans for Personal Budgets

The training is for anyone who would like to know more about support planning. It is for people with learning disabilities, family members or friends of people who are going to do support plan.

Thursday 14th May 9.30am to 3.30pm

at the Innovation Centre, Tresham College, Wellingborough.

Contact Sarahlee Richards on 01933 220720
or email SDS@northamptonshire.gov.uk for more information



Advocacy Phone Numbers



Advocacy Northants has a team advocates that are helping people in NHS homes to make choices about their lives. Call Jackie on 01604 595326 or email jackie.topp@nht.northants.nhs.uk for more information

Advocacy Northants provides advocacy to all disabled people and co-ordinates Listen to Us Groups. These are local groups of people with learning disabilities that meet to talk about what is important to them. For more information contact Karen on 01933 664800



Our Advocacy has advocates that can help people with personal budgets and moving out of NHS homes. Contact Kate on 01604 587451 or email Kate.hamilton@advocacyalliance.co.uk



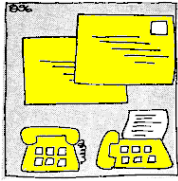
Parents in Partnership offers an advocacy service for parent carers. You can speak to them on 01604 671888 or email advocacy@parentsinpartnership.org

**Central
England
People
First**

People First is an organisation led by people with learning disabilities that can offer an advocacy service and help with direct payments. You can contact them on 01536 515548 or email northants@peoplefirst.org



Speaking Up are an advocacy organisation who are helping people with learning disabilities to tell the council what they want day services to be like. Call Jody Wicks on 07872 601311 or email jody.wicks@speakingup.org for more information



Contact Us

If you would like to speak to us about this newsletter or would like information about anything you have read, please contact Lisa Judge.

You can also contact Lisa to receive previous editions of the newsletter.



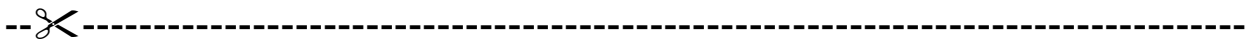
You can write to Lisa at:
Northamptonshire County Council
Learning Disability Partnership Board
John Dryden House
8-10 The Lakes
Northampton NN4 7YD



Phone: 01604 237014



Email: Ljudge@northamptonshire.gov.uk



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The person the letter was addressed to does not live at this address

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