

Lambeth Learning Disabilities Carers' Update

- March 2012 -

Review of Carers' Services

NHS Lambeth and the Council is carrying out a review of all carers' services. The review will look at respite care services, both residential and in the home, and services like the ones provided here at Lambeth Mencap and the Carers Hub.

It is important that you are involved in this review.

We will keep you informed of any events that are taking place and of any other ways that Lambeth want to consult with you.



You may be asked to be involved in a number of ways; Meetings, telephone interviews, surveys, attending events etc. **(see event on 29th March below - Hub Carers' Forum)**

The best and quickest way to find out how you can be involved is by getting on to our email mailing list. By giving us your email address, we can keep you up to date sooner. We can also save on postage and stationery costs. Ask to be added to our mailing list.

Just send an email to rhill@lambethmencap.org.uk asking to be added to our list.

Carers' Update - How to get a full colour copy!

Starting this month, if you are on our mailing list and we have your email details you will no longer receive this Carers' Update by post. Instead, you will receive a full colour copy via email.



Put a Spring in Your Step - Lambeth Carers' Hub Spring Carers' Forum

Dedicated to complementary therapies and inspirational activities

King George's Conference Centre

YMCA 40-46 Stockwell Road

London SW9 9ES



**Carers Hub
Lambeth**
Connecting Carers



On Thursday 29th March - From 11 am – 2pm

Refreshments, workshops, lunch, information stalls, new ideas and activities and a chance to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

Lambeth Council will hold a workshop on the Carers' Review

This is an opportunity for carers to be heard - so come along!

Please call 0207 642 0038 or email connect@carershub.org.uk to let us know you are attending.

Dates for your diary



Lambeth Learning Disability Partnership Board

2012 Partnership Board Meetings

All held at Lambeth Accord,
336 Brixton Road, SW9 7AA
10:00am - 1:00pm

30th May 2012 (big meeting)

5th September 2012 (small meeting)

5th December 2012 (big meeting)

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Lambeth Learning Disability Partnership Board

Profound & Multiple Learning Disabilities Sub-Group

All held at Lambeth Mencap,
43 Knight's Hill, SE27 0HS
11:00am - 1:00pm

Thursday 17th May 2012

Thursday 20th September 2012

Thursday 15th November 2012



**Carers Hub
Lambeth**
Connecting Carers

Carers' Hub Social Group & Carers' Forum Coffee Morning Activities for 2012

Angela, our social group volunteer and Louise have been busy making plans for 2012. We decided that we would run a group, which is open to all carers, once a month. The group will be part of our coffee mornings on the last Wednesday of the month from 10.30am to 12noon either at Woodlawns or Brixton. The dates and locations in 2012 are: -

- Wednesday 28 March at Woodlawns
- Wednesday 25 April at Brixton
- Wednesday 30 May at Woodlawns
- Wednesday 27 June at Brixton
- Wednesday 25 July at Woodlawns
- Wednesday 29 August at Brixton
- Wednesday 26 September at Woodlawns
- Wednesday 31 October at Brixton
- Wednesday 28 November at Woodlawns

You are welcome to come along for refreshments and a chat. There will also be an opportunity to take part in an activity, for example, making pancakes or having a healing session.

Please note that although we try and keep to the arrangements for the year, sometimes things change and it can be difficult to let you all know. Please give us a call on the enquiry line just to confirm you are coming and to make sure it is still running on that day, thank you

Telephone:

020 7642 0038

Email:

connect@carershub.org.uk

Lambeth Learning Disability Carers' Forum Have your say

Lambeth Learning Disability Carers' Forum Meetings for 2012

All held at Lambeth Accord,
336 Brixton Rd. SW9 7AA
11:00am - 1:00pm

3rd May 2012

5th July 2012

13th September

8th November

Come along and meet other carers, share experiences and have a chat!

We look forward to seeing you there

Carers' Week 2012

Carers' Week this year will take place from **18-24 June**. The theme this year is "In sickness and in health".

Does your GP know about your caring role and have you been offered health checks? If not, let your GP know you are a carer and ask to be registered as a carer with the practice.



Carers' Hub Lambeth will be organising events for Carers' Week so keep watching their website for details. www.CarersHub.org.uk



Lambeth PMLD Online Forum (Hosted by Lambeth Mencap)

Join the forum at : <http://lambethpmld.proboards.com>



Deafblind UK is a national charity offering specialist services and human support to deafblind people and those who have progressive sight and hearing loss acquired throughout their lives. www.Deafblind.org.uk

DEAFBLIND
UK

Tel: 01733 358 100 (Voice/Text) info@deafblind.org.uk

Television is going digital in APRIL - That is NEXT MONTH!

Are you ready for the switchover?

If not, contact the Help Scheme



The Help Scheme is run by the BBC to provide everyone aged 75 and over, or eligible disabled, with everything they need to switch one TV to digital.

Contact the Help Scheme free on **0800 40 85 900**, where call centre staff will explain things clearly and simply and will be happy to help.

Lambeth Resolve

Information, Advice and Advocacy for Older and Disabled People



Our service is based at The Accord Centre, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA and it is provided by four local charities working together:

Age UK Lambeth, Disability Advice Service Lambeth, Royal Association for Deaf People, Lambeth Mencap

Remember, one number gets you through to Lambeth Resolve; **020 7095 5720**

Are you a Carer of an adult with a Learning Disability?

Help, Support and Advice is available at Lambeth Mencap.

Contact: Robert Hill

020 8655 7707

or email;

rhill@lambethmencap.org.uk



Lambeth Autism Group

Our current activities include a monthly coffee morning for parents and carers, a weekly social group for young adults and occasional evening meetings for parents and carers around autism issues. For more information email; lambeth@nas.org.uk

For help & advice: **0808 800 4104**
(National Autistic Society helpline)

Clarification on vital carers' benefits entitlements

The Government confirmed in the House of Lords that the eligibility for Carer's Allowance, the main carer's benefit, would not be tightened with the introduction of the new disability benefit, the Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

In a response to questions from Peers and a direct question from Baroness Hollis, Lord Freud, Minister of State for Work and Pensions, stated that both rates of the daily living component of the new Personal Independence Payment would be used as a criterion to determine the entitlement to Carer's Allowance.

The clarification from the Minister came after Peers from all sides of the House raised their concerns that the Welfare Reform Bill left the future of Carer's Allowance unclear. The Minister made a commitment to make a statement at the start of Report stage of the Bill.

The Welfare Reform Bill will replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with a new benefit, the Personal Independence Payment (PIP). Several elements of the benefit will change and the number of care components will fall from three in DLA to two daily living components in PIP.

Entitlement to Carer's Allowance is currently established through a disabled person getting the middle or higher rate care component of Disability Living Allowance and there was a real concern that reducing the number of care components from three to two in the new disability benefit would squeeze out many carers.

Although it is worth only £55.55 per week and is the lowest benefit of its kind, Carer's Allowance is vital income for around 550,000 people who care, unpaid, for family or close friends and who cannot work full time. To be eligible, carers also have to be providing at least 35 hours of care per week and earning less than £100 after deductions.

If you are concerned about your welfare benefit entitlements, you can call the Carers Hub Enquiry Line on 020 7642 0038 to arrange an appointment with our specialist advisor. Or contact Robert Hill at Lambeth Mencap, 020 7655 7707.

(information taken from Carers UK website <http://tinyurl.com/72k2rzw>)

CARERS UK
the voice of carers



Lambeth Fix Yourself a Break Scheme

The Fix Yourself a Break scheme offers grants of £200 to carers to help pay for a short break or to get goods or services to help support you in your caring role. The grant is flexible and can be used to pay for an activity or item that gives you more time for yourself.

You can request a FYAB carers' assessment by contacting Lambeth Adults' and Community Services - Tel: 020 7926 5555.

You can also contact Robert Hill at Lambeth Mencap on 020 8655 7707 if you want to know more or need assistance with applying .

Carers' Respite (Carers' Breaks) - Can we have your views please?

As well as the Carers' Review, carers' respite will be reviewed. **It would be very useful if as many carers as possible could tell us what their needs and views are** with regard to respite.

Some of the main current available options are;

Fix yourself a break

The Fix Yourself A Break (FYAB) scheme aims to help carers who need support.

Under the scheme you could apply for a one off payment of up to £200 to help to pay for a short break or to buy goods and services to support you in your role as a carer.

Residential respite

The person you care for can spend time away in a residential or nursing home, or with another family (Shared Lives) - dependent on the level or type of care needs. Or they may go on a holiday.

This can be for a weekend, week or fortnight as needed, and can be booked in advance to ensure that both carer and cared for receive regular respite.

Sitting services

With this type of service, you can have a break whilst the person you care for remains in your home with a trained person who will look after them.

Live –in

It may also be possible for someone to come and 'live in' with the person you care for, to take over your caring tasks whilst you take a break for a few days or longer.

Breaks together

Sometimes both you or the person you care for would like a break together.

This could be taken in many parts of the country where there are hotel facilities catering specifically for people with nursing or care needs.

Further options and full details are available here:

<http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/HealthSocialCare/Carers/CarersBreaks.htm>

Individual Budgets

Local Authorities are now being encouraged to provide individual budgets for people with care needs and for carers. This means that you should be offered choice in the way that services are provided, and may be able to use the funding to organise services yourself.

Direct Payments

In this case, Lambeth works out what services they think you may need and then, instead of arranging the services directly, they give you (or the person you care for) the money to buy the service directly from an appropriate agency or person. You could then use the money to employ somebody directly yourself if you wish.

Please contact us and let us know what your needs are and what you think.

You can contact us in any of the following ways;

Email Robert Hill: rhill@lambethmencap.org.uk

Telephone Robert Hill at 020 8655 7707

Write to Robert Hill, Lambeth Mencap, 43 Knights Hill, London. SE27 0HS

Please also tell us about any specific needs or circumstances such as caring for someone with multiple & profound learning disabilities, or if you have a disability or other needs yourself.

Please tell us before April 20th 2012

Is your son, daughter or person you care for deafblind?

Deafblind Guidance

The Deafblind Guidance gives deafblind people rights to appropriate services.

In 2001, as a result of campaigning from Sense and Deafblind UK, the Department of Health issued statutory guidance on how deafblind people should be assessed and what services they should receive from local authorities.

In 2009 the Guidance was re-issued, to make clear that it does not have an end date. This Guidance is very important because it makes clear that deafblindness is a unique disability and deafblind people need specialist services.

What does this mean?

The guidance is statutory. This means Local Authorities are obliged to take the following actions:

- Identify, make contact with and keep a record of deafblind people in their catchment area. This can be done in many ways, but a proactive approach is usually more successful.
- Ensure that assessments are carried out by a specifically trained person or team, equipped to assess the needs of a deafblind person - in particular to assess need for support on a one-to-one level, for assistive technology and rehabilitation.
- This person could come from the local authority sensory team, or local social services could request for the assessment to be carried out by another specialist organisation.
- Ensure services provided to deafblind people are appropriate, recognising that they may not necessarily be able to benefit from mainstream services, or those services aimed primarily at blind people or deaf people, who are able to rely on their other senses.
- Ensure that deafblind people are able to access specifically trained one-to-one support workers if they are assessed as requiring one.
- Provide information about services in formats and methods that are accessible.
- Ensure that one member of senior management has responsibility for deafblind services.

What if local authorities don't carry out their obligations?

If local authorities fail to comply with the guidance, this can be challenged through judicial review.

Please let us know what is happening in your case.

If all of the has happened / is happening, please let us know.

If your son or daughter or someone else you care for is deafblind and none of the above is being carried out by your local authority - please talk to Robert Hill at Lambeth Mencap.

020 8655 7707 or email: rhill@lambethmencap.org.uk



Sense is a national charity that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deafblind. We provide tailored support, advice and information as well as specialist services to all deafblind people, their families, carers and the professionals who work with them. We also support people who have a single sensory impairment with additional needs.

www.Sense.org.uk

Sense, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9LG, Tel.: 0845 127 0060, email: info@sense.org.uk