

Lambeth Learning Disabilities Carers Update

September 2013

And Carer of the Year 2013 is Maureen Charles

The Carer of the Year Awards was held at The Kia Oval, Kennington on Wednesday 11th September 2013. "Mistress" of Ceremonies was Jo Cleary, making her last public appearance before she retires. The Mayor, Cllr. Mark Bennett, presented the Certificates and the flowers, and speeches were made by Jo Cleary, The Mayor and Adrian McLachlan, Chair of the Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group. (CCG)

The Winner of Carer of The Year 2013 was our very own Maureen Charles who was delighted to receive this award.

One of the 2 runners-up was Kelly Bowen, another Learning Disability Carer



Many more pictures online. . .
If you wish to see them, Contact me at
rhill@lambethmencap.org.uk for a link and
password to access them

Although a number of Carers do not feel happy or comfortable with these Annual awards, there are many who do. This year's event was attended by many carers and was well represented by carers who care family members who have a learning disability. Those who attended were entertained by a Steel Band and enjoyed some very nice sandwiches, tea coffee, juices and scrumptious cakes!

Learning Disability Carers' Workshops



"Future Planning" - Session 2
Tuesday 15th October 2013

11:00am - 1:00pm ,
at Landmark, 47 Tulse Hill, London SW2 2TN

See inside for more details !



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Lambeth
mencap
1953-2013

Dates for your diary



Lambeth Learning Disability Carers' Forum

Have your say

LD Carers Forum Meetings for 2013

All meetings
11:00am - 1:00pm
at

Lambeth Accord,
336 Brixton Road, SW9 7AA

Thursday 17th October
Thursday 14th November

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
FOR NOVEMBER MEETING**

**Please let us know if you have any
suggestions for topics / speakers**



Lambeth Learning Disability Partnership Board

2013 Partnership Board Meetings

All held at Lambeth Accord,
336 Brixton Road, SW9 7AA

10:00am - 1:00pm

Wednesday 4th December

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Lambeth Learning Disability Partnership Board

2013 Profound & Multiple Learning

Disabilities Sub-Group Meetings

All held at Lambeth Mencap

43 Knight's Hill, SE27 0HS

11:00am - 1:00pm

Thursday November 28th

Learning Disability Carers' Workshops

We held our first session on The Mental
Capacity Act on 19th September 2013

The **SECOND** session is being held on;

TUESDAY 15th OCTOBER 2013

11:00am – 1:00pm

at
Landmark
47 Tulse Hill
London
SW2 2TN

**This is open to all Carers of an Adult with a
Learning Disability who live in Lambeth**

To book a place, or for further details,
contact Robert Hill :

020 8655 7707 - rhill@lambethmencap.org.uk

Our 3rd session will be on Quality & Monitoring
and planning with Local Authority departments
(e.g. Social Services / Housing / benefits). It will
be held on 19th November at Landmark.



Healthwatch Lambeth Hidden Voices Project and Care Quality Commission meeting.

**Thursday 10th October 2pm –4pm
Stockwell Resource Centre, SW4 6RA**

An opportunity to hear a member of the local
CQC team, Sonia McKay talk about the CQC's
work inspecting care homes, hospitals, and
other health and care premises. Find out how
inspections are carried out, understand how
the CQC uses the findings and why passing
information to inspectors is important.

To book your place, contact Kate at
Healthwatch, telephone **020 7274 8522**,
or email:
kate.damiral@healthwatchlambeth.org.uk





The 2013

LD Carers' Winter Celebration

Time to relax and enjoy yourselves!



This year, the Learning Disability Carers Winter Celebration will be held on;

WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER 2013

1:00pm - 4:00pm

at

Hideaway, Streatham



There will be music, Special guests, The Lambeth Mencap Grand Draw, and lots more.

Food, soft drinks, and a licenced pay bar will be available.

Full details to follow, but get this date and time in your diary NOW!

Where to get help and advice with benefits and finance in Lambeth

With the cuts and all the changes to benefits, you should really get expert advice .

Here are some of the places you can get help to make sure you are getting all you should be;

Every Pound Counts

Every Pound Counts offers a free benefits check and advice to ensure you claim your full benefits entitlement to:

- people aged 60 and above
- people living with long term illness
- disabled people
- people with sensory impairments
- children who are ill or disabled including children with special support needs because of developmental or behavioural conditions
- **or the carers of any of these people living in Lambeth.**



If you fall into one of these groups, you could be entitled to more money than you are claiming. To date, over £32 million has been claimed since Every Pound Counts started in April 2007.

With Lambeth's Every Pound Counts campaign, we aim to help make sure you claim all the benefit support you are entitled to receive. So, don't delay. If you live in Lambeth, contact us and make sure you claim what is rightfully yours. Social, health or other care professionals can refer clients to the Every Pounds Counts service.

Self-referral is also fine.

**Email: EveryPoundCounts@lambeth.gov.uk
020 7926 5555**

You can of course always contact me and I can refer you to the most suitable person:

rhill@lambethmencap.org.uk - 020 8655 7707



**Carers Hub
Lambeth**
Connecting Carers

Enquiry Line: 020 7642 0038

connect@carershub.org.uk

www.CarersHub.org.uk



Our enquiry line is open from 9am till 5pm Mondays to Fridays. We do our best to

provide information and advice as requested to Lambeth residents from our client group.

Enquiry line staff also work at our advice surgeries listed on our contact page.

If we are unable to help we will refer you to another service. This will usually be our casework or advocacy service but sometimes it will be to another agency.

We can help with:

Benefits advice * Housing * Debt * Repairs * Handyperson jobs * Employment * Residential Homes * Community Care * Transport * Health * Local Resources *

We can also help with issues regarding:

Disability Living Allowance * Employment support Allowance * Pension * Pension Credit * Housing Benefit * Council Tax Benefit * And more! Email us using this link:

www.lambethresolve.org.uk/contact-us

You can also call us at the Enquiry Line on

020 7095 5720.

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

Contact: rhill@lambethmencap.org.uk or **020 8655 7707**



Healthwatch Lambeth is now official, - with a new Board of Trustees . .

Healthwatch is the independent consumer champion for the public - locally and nationally - to promote better outcomes in health and social care for all.

There is a new Board of Trustees and a new Chair. Full details on the website.

Why not join and have your voices heard!

Healthwatch Lambeth, First Floor,
336 Brixton Road, London, SW9 7AA
Tel no: 020 7274 8522. Text: 07545211283

info@healthwatchlambeth.org.uk
www.HealthwatchLambeth.org.uk

healthwatch
Lambeth

Eye health

SeeAbility have produced a new series of easy read factsheets. "Getting the best eye care" and "If Things Go Wrong" to improve eye care for people with learning disabilities. These factsheets are concerned with maintaining good eye health. People with learning disabilities may not know they have an eye sight problem and may not be able to tell others. It is important that carers and supporters can recognise the signs of potential sight problems.

Available Factsheets:

- Healthy eyes
- The need for an eye test
- People with learning disabilities and eye problems
- Recognising the signs of eye problems
- Looking at eyes and behaviour
- Eye poking and touching - An introduction
- People with Down's syndrome and their conditions
- Role of the eye clinic liaison officer (ECLO)
- Consent to medical treatment
- Assessment and registration

The leaflets and much more information can be found on their website:

www.seeability.org



If you do not have access to the internet and are interested in any particular leaflet or leaflets, please contact me and let me know.

Email: rhill@lambethmencap.org.uk
Tel: 020 8655 7707

Other meetings / events that you may be interested in attending . . .

Thursday 3rd October at 12 noon:
Crossroads South Thames AGM,
The Vestry Hall, Mitcham, CR4 3UD

Tuesday 22nd October at 7pm
Lambeth Mencap AGM
Lambeth Accord, 336 Brixton Road, SW9 7AA

Wednesday 6th November 2013,
Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group
Governing Body Meeting
Pre-Meet – 12.00-1.00pm, Green Room
Main Meeting – 1.00pm- 4.00pm, Main Room Lambeth ACCORD, 336 Brixton Road, SW9 7AA (Public may ask questions at the pre-meet)

Thursday 28th November 2013 Learning
Disability Today Conference and Exhibition
Olympia Conference Centre, London—Carers can get FREE places

Personal Independence Payment

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Anyone not on DLA will now have to apply through the PIP process for a new claim.

From October, the 'migration' of claimants who are currently on DLA to PIP will commence. This will move forward on a staged process over the next 4 years as follows:

- Those people on a fixed term DLA award will be invited to apply for PIP when the fixed term ends
- Anyone who has a change of circumstances and wishes to have their DLA award reviewed would have to apply for PIP
- At their 16th birthday, young people on DLA would have to apply for PIP
- People can also self-select to apply for PIP

The timescale for submitting PIP applications is 4 weeks – this is less than the 6 weeks that applied to DLA applications.

People in the 1st and 3rd groups above who are 'invited' to apply for PIP must therefore not wait before taking action. It is very likely that most people will not be expecting to be asked to apply for PIP – they will be used to getting an annual letter confirming their level of DLA award and may not realise that the benefit has changed. This is the experience from the migration of people from Invalidity Benefit to ESA over the last few years.

It is also vital that anyone applying for PIP seeks advice and support – the application process is different and the form is not easy to follow. And it is important that people submit sufficient supporting documentation with their application to ensure that an accurate assessment can be made using information provided by people who know them and their disability/medical condition.

Please contact us if you receive any invitation to apply for PIP for the person you care for so that this can be acted on without delay – please also ensure that any Support Workers are aware of this.

If people are late in submitting their forms or provide insufficient supporting evidence they may be required to attend for a face-to-face interview with ATOS. This needs to be avoided if at all possible as experience from ESA interviews is that the ATOS interview is may not accurately reflect the individuals situation.

It is possible to check when an individual is likely to be 'migrated' to PIP – the DWP has an on-line checker: www.gov.uk/pip-checker

The key messages are:

If you receive a letter inviting you to apply for PIP – seek advice straight away before doing anything else

If you want to apply for PIP because of a change of circumstances or because you think you can get a higher level of award – seek advice first



You can get advice here:

Every Pound Counts : 020 7926 5555

Carers' Hub : 020 7642 0038



or contact me at: rhill@lambethmencap.org.uk—020 8655 7707, and I will make sure you get the right advice.& support

With thanks to Julia Harris and Boz Borowy for this update on PIP

National minimum wage rise may be bad news for some Carers

Next month the national minimum wage (NMW) for those aged 21 and over will be increased from £6.19 to £6.31 per hour. Whilst this is good news for most low paid workers, it may cause problems for some parents on low earnings if they are claiming both carer's allowance and working tax credit. In order to get carers allowance your earnings after allowable deductions must be no more than £100 per week. Under the current NMW someone working 16 hours work earns £99.04 per week. Since this is below £100 they can receive carer's allowance. However from 1st October the NMW will rise to £6.31 per hour. This means a carer working 16 hours a week will have earnings of £100.96 per week. Because their earnings will be 96p over the threshold they are at risk of losing all of their carer's allowance. The obvious solution for a parent in this position may appear to be to cut their hours. However depending on your circumstances, cutting your hours to below 16 per week could mean you no longer qualify for working tax credit. This is particularly likely if that carer is a lone parent. If you think this will affect you, seek further advice urgently about whether there are any deductions that can be made from your earnings to help you retain carer's allowance. It's important to be aware that when calculating your earnings for carer's allowance, the Department of Work and Pensions will make certain deductions from your gross earnings. This can include not only tax and national insurance, which you are unlikely to pay on such low earnings, but also:

- alternative care costs - for example paying someone to look after your child whilst you are at work. There is a cap on the maximum amount that can be deducted in this way. There is no need for the caring to be done by a registered childcare provider. It can be counted so long as you pay someone other than a close relative; or
- 50 per cent of any pension contributions that you make into a work or personal pension. So for example, if you are paying £2 per week into a pension scheme you can deduct £1 from your earnings. If your actual earnings are £100.97 per week you would be treated as having earnings of £99.97, allowing your carer's allowance to continue.

SEEK ADVICE - Contact Carers Hub or Every Pound Counts

Carers' Hub : 020 7642 0038

Every Pound Counts : 020 7926 5555



Handyperson Service

The Handyperson service supports **disabled people and those over 55 years of age** within the borough of Lambeth.

Our Handyperson service will help making your life easier by assisting with small tasks around your home.

Our handypersons will come to you in a van and are equipped with all the necessary tools to ensure a satisfactory job completion.

They also carry an ID card and have the trust and confidence of the community in which they operate.

Contact: Sue Taylor:
020 7346 6806

sue.taylor@ageuklambeth.org.uk

or phone Kim Connell:
020 7346 6809



STOP PRESS !!!

FYAB Payment Delays

The Lambeth Finance team are down 2 members of staff and have a backlog of 130 FYAB applications.

This means a delay in getting payments made. It is envisaged that the backlog will be cleared by mid October.

Please contact me (Robert Hill) if you still have an outstanding FYAB.