

Loud & Proud

Spring 2001

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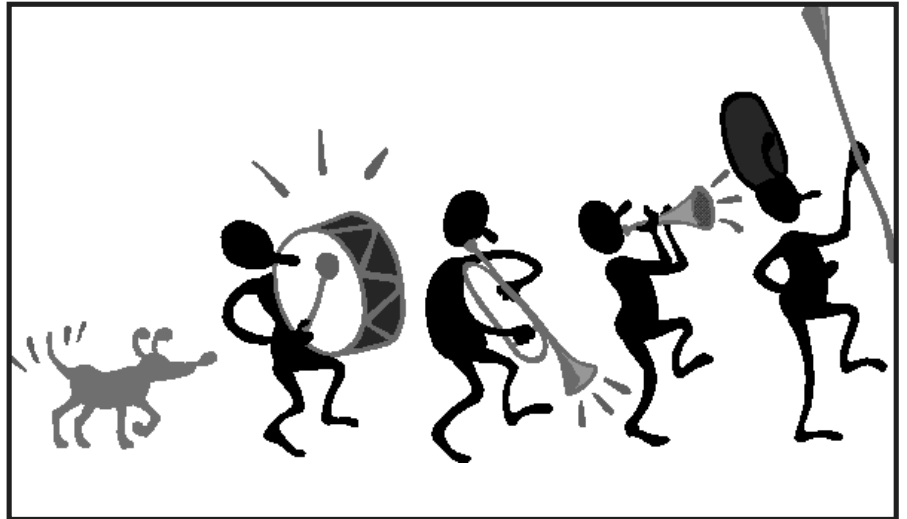
IT'S ALL GO! AT CHOICES & RIGHTS

Welcome to the latest edition of the Choices and Rights Disability Coalition Newsletter.

We know it's been a long time since the last edition, but there has been a good reason for the delay. We have been involved in discussing future funding for both Choices and Rights and the Centre for Independent Living (CIL) and are now able to announce the results.

Firstly, after detailed negotiations, the **in** Healthy Living Network has confirmed that they will continue to fund the Information Officer and Peer Support posts up until the end of March 2002.

This is great news as it means that we can continue the invaluable work we started last September and as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, both services are achieving a great deal of success as well as helping to empower many disabled people. Thanks to all at **in** for their support.



Secondly, we are pleased to announce that we have obtained funding from the National Lottery Charities Board for another two posts. These are for an Access Officer and a Training and Information Co-ordinator. Both posts will give the opportunity for a number of disabled people to develop new and existing skills, as well as providing improving access and awareness of disability issues. All members have been sent details of these jobs and we will be shortlisting in the near future. Good luck if you have applied.

Finally, we have submitted a bid that if successful, would secure the future of the CIL for five years. We have no guarantees that this bid will be successful, but it shows how the skills and experience of the organisation has developed that we have the confidence to submit a bid for around 1 million pounds. Remember that the Coalition started with nothing nine years

ago.

Despite all the funding bids, developing new services, Choices and Rights hasn't forgotten what we were set up to do. Fight for disabled people's rights. We have still got a long way to go to achieve equal rights, particularly around education and transport, not to forget that the issue of genetics is an ever-present threat to our very existence. However, this article is about good news, so thanks to everyone who helped with the funding bids, to all our members for keeping us motivated and to you, for reading the newsletter and for ringing up and asking when the next issue is coming out. It's nice to know it's wanted.

BREAKING NEWS

Latest news to reach us just before the printing deadline is that Choices and Rights could be going international. **More news in the next edition!!**

Inside:

- Extensions to Direct Payments
- UGC Cinema Listens
- Local DDA Victory
- Equality Training
- DIAL Survival Guide: *Medical Examinations*
- Media: Pro's & Con's
- Domain Name Fight
- ... and many more Bits 'n' Bobs for you!

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If you have any comments of suggestions for future issues of Loud & Proud, please let us know.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this issue of Loud & Proud.

Extensions to Direct Payments - April 2001

For our reader's information, government policy is to expand the criteria for Direct Payments.

Below, is a summary of the relevant acts of parliament, which may extend the option of direct payments to you, or people you know.

If you want to find out more about direct payments contact the Independent Living Scheme on 01482 336103.

Community Care (Direct Payments) Act 1996 and Carers and Disabled Children's Act 2000 - (in brief)

Direct Payments Act 1996

This act provides an option for disabled people to assist independent living. Cash payments are made instead of community care services. The act states that the disabled person must be "**Willing and able**" (with support if necessary) to use direct payments. In 1997 when the act came into force, Direct Payments were available to:

- Disabled people aged 18 - 65 years with physical and/or sensory impairments
- People aged 18 - 65 years with HIV/AIDS

In April 2000, the act was extended to include:

- Individuals with learning difficulties
- Disabled people aged 65 and over.

The Carers and Disabled Children's Act 2000*

which comes into force April 2001, effectively extends the option of Direct Payments to:

- Carers aged 16 or over who care for a person aged 18 or over
- Disabled children aged 16-17
- Parents of disabled children

Other features of the Carers and Disabled Children's Act 2000:

This act aims to support people who provide informal care and support to disabled people some other of the provisions of the act include:

- The right of carers to an assessment
- The power to local authorities to provide services to carers (after an assessment)
- The power to local authorities to issue vouchers to carers to take short breaks away.
- and, the right to charge!

(*Information source: Government information for carers web site.)

Please note where the act gives 'the power' to local authorities to provide services it means that the local authority (Social Services) have the *option* to provide - they don't have to!

Also note it will probably take local authorities a few months to implement the policy.

UGC Cinema - Lights, Camera, Action (the direct kind)!

As some of you may know, most cinemas have a policy in place that allows a person with a disability and in need of care a free ticket for their carer.

Well last November I rang the UGC cinema on Kingswood Retail Park, Hull to book a couple of tickets for my wife and I to go and see a film at the premiere screen, which is more luxurious than the normal screens because:

1. It has its own bar
2. You get a tray of complimentary nibbles, chocolates and dips
3. You get a free soft drink
4. The screen itself has reclining seats with plenty of legroom, which is very convenient if like me you have mobility problems.
5. There is a table next to the seat to put your food and drink on.

When I explained to the person on the phone that I was disabled and required the free carers' ticket I was told that this concession was only available for the cheaper screens. I asked how much the cheaper and the premiere screens were and was told that they were £3.50 and £8.00 respectively.

I then offered to pay the difference of £4.50 for my carers' ticket so that we could go to the premiere screen. But I was told that this was not possible because their computers weren't set up to do this.

I considered this to be a case of discrimination because in

effect, as it stood people who required a carer were being excluded from the privilege of enjoying the luxury of the premiere screen. The fact that they offered the concessionary ticket for the cheaper screen seemed to enforce this fact because they were already acknowledging that some people required a carer to enable them to visit their cinema. Bearing this in mind I decided not to attend the cinema on this occasion as a matter of principle.



Then on the 22nd November 2000 I attended the launch of the Centre for Independent Living, being managed by Choices and Rights at the Cornmill Hotel. Whilst at the launch I got talking to Humphrey Forrest, who is a solicitor at The Humberside Law Centre.

I told Humphrey of my experience with the UGC cinema and why I thought that they were discriminating against disabled people. Humphrey then offered to put my case forward in a solicitor's letter to UGC, in which

he pointed out the duty of service providers to make reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities to enjoy the same facilities as everyone else in accordance to the Disability Discrimination Act. I took him up on this offer and waited for the outcome.

Humphrey then received a telephone call and a letter from Katherine Ogden, who is the General Manager of UGC in Kingswood. Ms Ogden apologised and explained that this incident was a mistake by the member of staff that I had encountered. She went on to say that she will remind all of her staff about UGC's policies and that as far as she was concerned the concessionary carers ticket was available for all of their screens. She has also been in touch with her Head Office and they have assured her that disabled people are entitled to a carer's ticket for all of their screens. I was also sent two complimentary tickets for the premiere screen as compensation for my inconvenience.

I would like to thank Humphrey Forrest and Humberside Law Centre for their help and support with this matter.

I would also like to thank UGC for their quick response and the way that they handled my complaint.

All it leaves for me to say now is get down to UGC cinema with your carer (if you need one) and enjoy the premiere screen.

John Gilling

Disability Rights Campaigner

Disability Equality

Aims and Activities

Choices and Rights Disability Coalition is an organisation of disabled people established in 1992 (originally under the name 'Humberstone Coalition of Disabled People.').

The current aims and activities of our organisation are;

- To promote better awareness of disability issues and campaign for better opportunities and rights for disabled people.
- To provide a "voice" for disabled people to influence decision making and to improve related services.
- To represent the views of disabled people at planning groups, conferences, workshops, forums and in the local media.
- To provide an information service (affiliated to DIAL UK) run by paid staff and volunteers with information on a range of subjects accessible to any disabled persons in the Hull area.
- To represent Choices & Rights on various management and consultative committees both locally and nationally.
- To publish a regular Newsletter (Loud and Proud) compiled by disabled people.
- To prepare and deliver training packs and publications on a wide range of disability equality issues.



- To ensure that disabled people locally are able to access and manage direct payments, provided by the Social Services Department to enable them to employ their own personal assistants (via our Independent Living Scheme Co-ordinator)
- To provide learning opportunities for disabled people through a flexible programme of volunteering and training.
- Common Purpose (Hull)
- DUET (Voluntary agency involved in providing training opportunities for disabled people)
- Hull Council for Voluntary Services
- Humberside Careers Service
- Humberside County Council
- Humberside Law Centre
- Humberside Youth Service
- Kingston Upon Hull City Council

Disability Equality Training

DET has been delivered for over 6 years by Choices and Rights to a wide range of organisations. These include:

Training Resume

- Education Dept (Primary/ Secondary schools)
 - Housing Dept
 - Social Services Dept
 - Royal Hull Hospitals
 - University of Hull
 - University of Humberside and Lincolnshire
- youth project
- 8 years experience of welfare rights work
 - 3 years experience of housing and disability issues
 - 1 years experience working in Personnel completing a dissertation on 'Employment Opportunities for Disabled People in Mainstream Employment - A Critical Analysis' (1995) - looking at the issues and barriers affecting disabled people in employment.

The Trainers

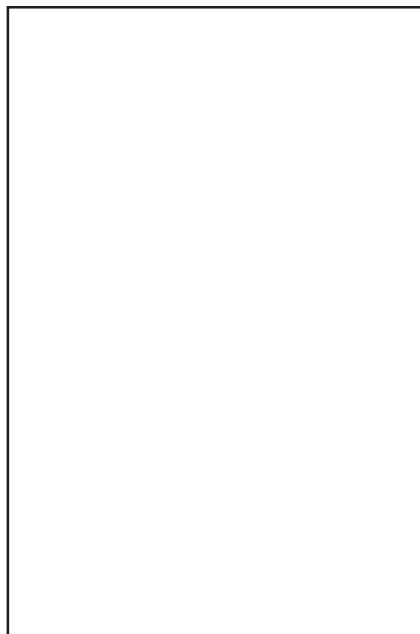
Choices and Rights two trainers, Mark Baggley and Liesel Dickinson have over 11 years experience in delivering training on disability equality issues and are well known locally as experts in their field.

Between them they also have the following skills and achievements:

- BA (Hons) degree in Business Studies specialising in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management
- BBC Radio 4 Presenters Course
- Leaders in a consortium of voluntary and statutory groups in developing a Centre for Independent Living and a healthy Living Centre
- 5 years experience in managing a integrated

Cost

Choices and Rights standard charge is £50 per hour. However, this is negotiable with voluntary groups and organisations of disabled people.



Resources

- Training materials available in a wide range of formats including large print, tape, plain language, etc.
- All training will be made as accessible as possible for all trainees, either via provision of accessible materials or through appropriate presentations.
- Portable OHP
- Flipcharts
- Portable Induction loop
- Display boards
- Directory of sign language interpreters

Contact

Mark Baggley/Liesel Dickinson
 Choices and Rights Disability Coalition
 Training Section
 Arthur Richardson Centre
 Savoy Road
 Hull
 HU8 0TX

Tel/Fax/Minicom:
 01482 788668

e-mail:
info@choicesandrights.demon.co.uk

Best Value Representatives of Disabled People

A lot of the work that is done by Choices & Rights goes virtually unnoticed by most people.

This is because it goes on behind closed doors, in meetings that are accessible by invitation only. Traditionally Choices & Rights have been invited by, for example, the health authority or the Local Authority, to talk to committees and focus groups, but we have never really known if anyone on these committees is actually listening.

However, recently I was asked to sit on the steering committee of a local authority Best Value Review.

This is important because it gives us an input into how the review is conducted and who is actually consulted by the review. This means that we can make sure that our voices are heard.

I asked why they had decided to ask for my input and was informed;

“Choices & Rights is recognised as the best organisation to represent disabled people at meetings like this.

We know that people from Choices & Rights will always conduct themselves appropriately and that you will speak up even when you know you’re going to say something that we don’t want to hear. ”

I was more than a little taken aback by this (I suppose I have always assumed that we were just seen as a gang of ‘bolshy crips’) and I wanted to mention it because this is not simply the result of the work that we are

doing now.

It has taken a long time for Choices & Rights to be recognised in this way and I think we should recognise the contribution of all of the disabled people who have been involved in Choices & Rights right from the beginning.

Those of us who are relatively new to Choices & Rights are starting to reap the rewards of their efforts. I would just like to say, “Thank you. “

Olympic News

Our hearty congratulations go to Bruce Maguire, a visually impaired Australian sports fan.

He wanted to take his children to the games, but discovered that neither the ticket booking information nor the souvenir programme was available in Braille.

SOCOG, the Organising Committee of the Sydney Olympics, were forced in court to produce the ticket book and promised the programme within nine months.

Bruce then tried to access the Olympic website. He reads websites using a braille pad that runs underneath the keyboard, but this only works if a website has been properly designed to be accessible - SOCOG’s wasn’t. When Bruce informed them he was told he should get a sighted person to help him.

Bruce took them to court under Australia’s disability discrimination laws. SOCOG made some changes, but did not

make the results table accessible, claiming that it would be too expensive.

The court pointed out that it would have cost less if they had made the site accessible from the start and told them to make it accessible - but they still did not do it!

Bruce Maguire had assumed that once he raised the issue something would be done about it, but by the start of the games only about 15% of the necessary work had been done and Bruce still could not access the website. Bruce went back to court to seek damages.

On November 6th 2000 Bruce Maguire was awarded damages of \$20,000. The judge commented that SOCOG had discriminated against him and humiliated him.

I think the next Olympics are due to be held in Greece. Anyone who speaks Greek fancy checking their website out?

Aids and Adaptations

Have you had or do you have any aids or adaptations provided by either Social Services or the Health Service? Did the staff who discussed them inform you of what choice there was, or did they only give you one solution? Have you had it repaired or replaced?

Mark Baggley, who runs Habinteg’s Disability Housing Service, would like to hear your experiences and views. All information will be treated in confidence. Please ring Mark on Hull (01482) 336104, or e-mail him at Mbaggley@habinteg.org.uk

The Disability Manifesto - is there anything in it for us?

I am sure you will all have heard about the bun fight currently ensuing over the date of the next election. You may not be aware that this election could have more significance to us than any before.

This because a coalition of disability organisations have drawn up a Disability Manifesto.

What is it?

The manifesto contains recommendations on issues of key importance to all disabled people.

These are: civil and human rights; poverty and benefits; employment, training, further and higher education; independent living and community services; transport and mobility; housing and the built environment; access to information; health; financial services; culture and leisure. There are also sections on disabled children and carers.

Copies of the manifesto are being sent to all prospective parliamentary candidates in every constituency in the UK.

Using the Disability Manifesto

Rights Now!, a coalition of over seventy disability, human rights and trade union organisations which campaign for full civil rights for disabled people, has produced a campaign resource pack to accompany the manifesto.

The pack is designed for use by people at a local level to raise disability issues with their own

local candidates.

During an election, candidates are more interested in local issues than what is happening on the national stage.

It is important that MP's know that disability issues are on the agenda in their constituency.

What can I do?

Here are some suggestions:

- Write to local candidates asking for their views. You could select the issues in the manifesto that are most important to you. Once the election has been called you can find out who the candidates are from your local town hall.

- Raise some of the issues with canvassers who call at your home, phone or stop you in the street.

- Write to the local paper or phone your local radio phone-in show. The media are always more interested if you can highlight an issue by speaking from personal experience.

There are on average 13,400 disabled voters in each constituency, a number that candidates can not afford to ignore.

The period in the run up to an election provides an opportunity for us to get our views across to the people who will make up the next parliament.

How to get a copy of the Manifesto

Download it from:
www.disabilityalliance.org

For a single copy send an A4 sae with stamps worth 33p to:

**Library and Information Unit
Scope
6-10 Market Road
London
N7 9PW**

For queries about multiple orders please ring Scope on:
020 7619 7341

The manifesto is also available in other formats please ring:
020 7247 8776

For a copy of the *Rights Now!* Resource Pack please send an A4 stamped self-addressed envelope to:

**Disability Alliance
Universal House
88-94 Wentworth Street
London
E1 7SA**

Please note: This is an abridged version of an article by Lorna Reith, Disability Alliance Chief Executive, which first appeared in the Spring 2001 issue of the *Disability Rights Bulletin*.

Incapacity Benefit Survival Guide:

1. You may be asked to attend a medical examination as part of the “personal capability assessment”.

This assessment is applied by the Benefits Agency to see if you are incapable of work and if you should continue to receive benefit as someone unable to work.

You should be notified at least 7 days in advance of the time and place of the medical examination.

If you are unable to attend the appointment, you must contact the office which arranged the examination as soon as possible and make an alternative appointment. If you simply do not attend the appointment you will be treated as capable of work and your benefit will be stopped.

In certain circumstances you may be accepted as having “good cause” for not attending an appointment. Contact your local DIAL for advice about this.

2. Medical examinations are normally held in specified government buildings, but if you would have difficulty in getting to the appointment, you can request a home visit.

You must contact the office which arranged the examination to ask that you be visited at home. They will ask you for details as to why you are unable to attend an examination and may well ask for a letter from your doctor to confirm that a home visit is needed.

If you have any problems in getting a home visit, contact your local DIAL for help.

Also, if you have any special needs for example you need an interpreter, contact the office arranging the examination as soon as possible.

3. **Always** have someone with you during an examination; this could be a friend or family member. You have the right to have your companion to be present actually during the examination.

Both you and your companion can claim travel expenses for attending an examination. If you need to travel by taxi, you must contact the office which arranged the appointment in advance to check they will pay the taxi fare.

4. When you arrive for the examination, you will need to give your name to the receptionist.

In some parts of the country, your medical examination will include both an incapacity and capability report. This is part of a new initiative set up by the government to help and support disabled people back into work. In some areas taking part in the scheme is compulsory, in other areas you will have the choice.

It is important to note that the capability report will not be used in the decision making process about your incapacity for work. The capability report will be sent to a personal advisor who will discuss whether there is any work you could do despite your incapacity, and which you would be interested in doing.

You will not be forced to take up work if you are incapable of work as defined in the regulations, and you do not want to.

Contact your local DIAL for further information about the scheme and how it affects you.

5. When the doctor is

Medical Examinations

ready to begin the examination they will come and get you from the waiting room.

Make a note of the time the doctor comes to get you and when the examination ends – this may be important in the future if you are not happy with the doctors report.

Remember that the doctor will be constantly observing you – coming to collect you from the waiting room gives the doctor the chance to observe you getting up from a chair and walking. Just



behave as normal.

6. During the examination itself, the doctor will ask you questions about your typical day.

Be aware of the questions the doctor is asking you and how this relates to your incapacity for work – they are not just there to chat!

Questions about the gardening can indicate your ability to bend and kneel or to reach with your arms, while asking whether you watch any soaps or films on TV could indicate how long you can sit comfortably in a

chair or your ability to concentrate.

You can contact your local DIAL for a copy of the physical and mental activities used by the Benefits Agency when deciding on incapacity for work.

Basically, you score points for activities you have difficulty with.

Score enough points and you are confirmed as incapable of work!

7. Be truthful, do not feel intimidated into saying things that you know may be incorrect, such as under estimating your difficulties.

Give as much detail as you can about the problems you experience with tasks, taking into

account pain, tiredness or how your ability may vary from day to day.

Remember the issue is whether you could perform these tasks repeatedly in a work situation, not struggle to do things and have to rest.

The doctor is there to assess the effects of your condition over time, not just a “snapshot” on the day you attend the examination.

8. The doctor may want to

carry out a physical examination.

Do not let the doctor browbeat you into doing something that you cannot or that would cause pain or damage your health.

9. Remember the doctor will be observing you throughout the examination.

Behave as normal – if you need to stand up to ease discomfort then do so or if you need help to undress to be examined then say so!

10. The examination should take about 20-30 minutes, longer if the doctor is doing a capability report as well.

If you have any complaints about the doctors manner or attitude or the way in which the examination was carried out, contact your local DIAL who can advise you on the complaints procedure.

11. If you are unhappy with the decision about your incapacity for work contact your local DIAL for advice.

You have the right to challenge a decision that you are capable of work, but only have **one month** to do so from the date of the decision.

Don't delay, get advice as soon as you can.

Habeas Corpus

Readers may remember that in the last edition of Coalition News, I interviewed Kim Tserkezie, a wheelchair user who is an actress and presenter. Since that interview, we have become good friends and I was invited to go and see Kim in her first live stage performance as part of the cast of the Stage Focus Theatre Company.

The company was performing a comedy play called **Habeas Corpus**, written by Alan Bennett. Kim's role was not as a disabled woman, so I was interested to see how her part worked, particularly as I had already seen the play in Hull when a non disabled woman played Kim's part. The play was staged at The Live Theatre in Newcastle and it has excellent access. The bar and ticket office had good access for wheelchair users and although not on the night I was there, a signed performance had taken place the previous night.

There is car parking opposite the theatre and also single yellow line parking right outside the theatre if you are there early enough. There's varied seating inside the theatre, some movable tables and chairs at the front, three levels of seating, two of which are accessible to wheelchair users. There is also a lift to all floors, including the restaurant. The stage was completely level, with one small raised area for props and a couple of chairs. Although this

wasn't accessible to Kim, it did not interfere with her performance and you did not feel she was excluded in any way.

What I found particularly interesting was Kim's movement in her electric wheelchair. Her character was that of a middle-aged upper class "lady", quite haughty and very posh. Her movements in her chair seemed to add to this image as she moved very smoothly, almost gliding across the floor. This added to the powerful image of the character. In some ways, I suppose I should have reviewed the play as a whole and commented more on the acting abilities of the cast. However, this is a newsletter about disability issues, so I think it is important to focus on those issues.

The play was very funny and was well received by the audience (it sold out all three nights). Kim was great and it felt great to see an actress, who happened to be a wheelchair user, playing an interesting character. What is important to remember is that Kim got the part on her ability as an actress, not as a disabled person.

People like Kim do have a huge influence on the future of disability rights. At the moment, it may seem unusual for a disabled person to be an actor and although that can work in her favour regarding publicity, I know that she wants to achieve success due to her abilities. An added

bonus for the disability movement is that each time Kim gets a part, whether stage, film or TV, it can make disabled people realise that you can achieve what you want, if you're good enough and you have the drive and determination. It also helps to educate producers, directors, etc to use disabled people in their productions and not just as disabled people.

What we need now is for Kim to get a part in Coronation Street, Casualty, etc., so that she can achieve what she wants and disabled people can say "if she can do it, so can I". We know that our newsletter is read by many different types of people, so if you know someone casting a film, a play or a TV show, get in touch and we'll happily put you in contact with Kim.

Unusual Jobs

Seeing Kim in the play got me thinking about other jobs that disabled people can do or have done that may be seen by others as "unusual" for disabled people.

I was thinking about this when I went to Sheffield arena and one of the security staff is a wheelchair user. I had certainly never come across anyone with an obvious disability doing this kind of work before, although one person from Choices and Rights used to be a bouncer (sorry doorman!)

Do you know of anyone doing something different? Let us know at the Choices and Rights office.

Question Time



Membership Survey

Continuing our series of questions to the Loud & Proud readership, we'd really like to hear from you regarding Arts, so please send us your answers by letter, phone, fax, email or minicom:

- 1) What provision would you like to see for disability arts in the city?

- 2) Have you (or would you) ever attend a disability arts cabaret or event?

Yes/No

- 3) If so, what type of event was this?

- 4) **Would you like the Loud & Proud disability arts cabaret to become an annual event?**

Yes/No

- 5) **What type of arts activities would you like to participate in?**

Bit of this ...

Human Rights and Public Law Helpline

Liberty, the UK's civil liberties and civil rights organisation has launched a new helpline covering Human Rights and Public Law.

The helpline, which is free to call, will provide direct access to lawyers and they will accept direct referrals for complex cases.

The helpline will include issues such as health authorities refusing to fund treatment, charges for social services, refusing leave to appeal for social security appeals and will also assist with persuading the legal aid board to grant legal aid.

The helpline number is: **0808 808 4546**

Local Victory on DDA

In a recent MSF union magazine, it was reported that Simon de Winter-Davison, a deaf person has won a case against his employers, British Aerospace (BAE Systems).

Simon had campaigned over a long period of time for sign language interpreters to allow him to take full part in all computer meetings. After taking it through BAE's grievance procedure and still being turned down, Simon filed a case to go to an industrial tribunal under the DDA.

At this point, BAE gave in and conceded to Simon's demands. As it didn't reach tribunal, it doesn't set any new precedence in law. However, it does give an

idea of what can be achieved with perseverance. Simon stated that he wanted to dedicate his victory to the memory of a college Paul Jennison (1959- 1999) who was a MSF member, and is greatly missed.

Congratulations to Simon and thanks to MSF for highlighting the case in their magazine.

Gas Register

Many disabled or elderly people may be entitled to sign up for a "special register scheme" with their gas supplier. The register ensures that, regardless of individual suppliers, disabled customers can benefit from:

- Free, yearly safety check of all gas appliances in the home
- Provision of special adapters and pre-payment metres when required
- Re-positioning of the meter, if owned by the supplier
- Use of a password for identification of authorised officers
- Free advice on the use of gas, appliances and gas fittings
- Bills sent to a nominated person
- Quarterly meter reading where no-one in the household can read the meter
- Provision of information and enquiry/complaint procedures suitable for blind, visually impaired and/or deaf customers

To register on the scheme, just telephone your gas supplier and explain that you would like to be

put on the special register. You will be sent a form to complete and return.

If you experience any difficulties registering, contact your Gas Consumers Council office, free on **0645 - 060708**

Lottery Backing For Two New Posts

Choices and Rights are proud to announce that we have won the backing of the National Lottery Charities Board to develop our campaigns for better access and disability equality.

With a lottery award of £210721 we will be able to offer two more disabled people full time employment as an Access Worker and, Disability Equality Trainer. This will build on the access work we've already done and on the large amount of training we've already delivered to organisations such as the Health Service, Social Services and Universities. The funding is for three years and is further proof of the valuable work we are doing.

Elaine Applebee, Chair of the Yorkshire and The Humber Regional Awards Committee, said, "We are delighted to be supporting the work of the Choices and Rights Disability Coalition. The Charities Board wants to fund work with people whose needs are often overlooked by the rest of society. We believe that this grant will do just that.". Look out in the local press for these jobs being advertised shortly.

... Bit of that

Drunk in Charge of a Wheelchair?

How many times as a wheelchair user been asked that question? Millions I guess.

I've always either ignored it or smiled patronisingly at the "witty" person responsible. However, a recent article in a tabloid newspaper told the story of a guy in Germany who has been fined the equivalent of £200 after doing a wheelie in front of traffic police! He was breathalysed and found to be three times over the legal limit.

So the answer is Yes, you can be fined!!

Website Domain Name Fight

Please go to "www.leonard-cheshire.com" a site made by disabled people

An attempt is being made, and will succeed without your support, to silence our site that tells the truth about the big business that is charity. We are disabled people and the challenge to our site is being made by the non-disabled controlled charity, Leonard Cheshire Foundation in a Domain Name Dispute.

Did we come too close to revealing how profitable non-disabled people find the exploitation of disabled people is?

We have received legal notice that the Leonard Cheshire Foundation is taking us to the World Intellectual Property Organisation Arbitration and Mediation Center.

They have the money, your money our money; to fund this WE have nothing.

What can you do to align yourself against the power of a multi-million pound business dealing in human misery:

- Pass the information on to others - to anyone you think will support us in any way - to anyone in the media - anyone to assist in the legal side.
- Write to us at justice@leonard-cheshire.com to express your support, we need these to counteract those of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation.

Charity disables - we want Equality and Dignity in the new millennium not the Incarceration and Exploitation of the centuries before - JOIN US - JUST SAY 'NO' TO CHARITY

'EURO 2000 Final' Disgrace & Shame

Whilst practicing using the internet one lunchtime I came across an article on the 'When Saturday Comes' website regarding the treatment of disabled football supporters at the final of Euro 2000. I'll leave Roberto, an Italian supporter from Bologna, to tell you the story:

"On Sunday night and most of Monday's TV, another sad moment was reported, but it was not one on something that happened on the pitch. Six RAI journalists and cameramen were arrested by the Dutch police before the match, the reason; they

had objected to (and had started filming) the horrible treatment given out by the stadium stewards to a group of disabled Italian fans who were trying to enter the stadium with legitimate tickets. Since the Rotterdam stadium does not have disabled access ramps, the stewards asked the minders to carry the disabled fans on their back for four flights of stairs, and one of them allegedly said he had no time for 'Italian fans without legs'.

When the minders reacted angrily and the RAI cameras started rolling, a melee followed and the reporters were beaten up and jailed. RAI news specials devoted large amounts of time to this, adding a very sad final note to a Euro 2000 which has left a bad taste in the mouths of many."

I e-mailed Roberto to ask if we could print this extract in Loud & Proud and, in his reply, he added:

"After the incident in Rotterdam, I have to say, a few members of the Italian disabled group which entered the stadium and hung a banner admitted they knew there might be trouble but went ahead because they wanted to shame the Dutch."

I've included these extracts because I think it is worth us all remembering that it is not just in Britain that disabled people are campaigning for our rights, and that it is not just Britain where we sometimes receive a negative response. It is rather depressing to see that the European football's administrators can not get it right for an event with as high a public profile as Euro 2000.

Karl Dean: "In The Public Eye" - The media and me!

I am the first person with Cerebral Palsy in the UK to pass a degree by using a head pointer.

You will already know about this if you seen me in the newspapers/television, or if you read the last issues of Loud & Proud. If not where have you been?

It all started with the Hull Daily Mail knocking at my door, they heard about me from my old 'special' school Frederick Holmes School, since the teachers thought it was great as you don't get many people coming from this school and achieving a degree.

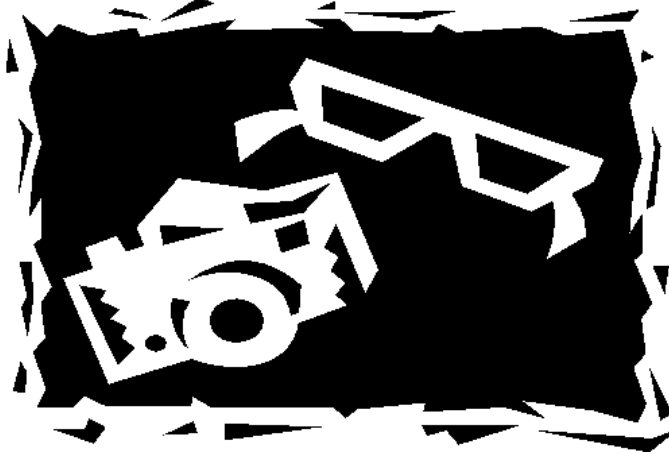
The Hull Daily Mail asked me if I would do an interview for them. I decided I'd do it for the following reasons:

- To show disabled people can achieve things on equal basis as able-bodied people.
- To encourage disabled people to go for a goal in life and breakdown the barriers.
- To tell the media my problems at the university.
- To get a job. (Yes a Job!)

Supposing an able bodied person was the first person in the UK to do something, they would be on the front page, so I don't think it wasn't patronizing towards me or towards disabled people. Actually the Hull Daily Mail was really good to me as they had

changed the first story (front page) the night before, as I said it was too patronizing because it had words like "suffering", yeah what an awful word as I am not suffering!

Consequently, we were changing the story over the email, as I wanted some positive features in the article. The end product



was 90% to my satisfaction as it had a lot of positive features. The Second night I had my own story what I wrote. Wow, they printed 95% of my own story! I thought this was excellent by the Hull Daily Mail to print my own story.

A few days later I had two freelance reporters interviewing me for the morning papers. I found out you don't get very much control over the article from The Sun. I thought the most awful article of all of them was by the Sun. The headline was "Triumph of Brave Karl", well it sounds like I've been in a world war or something! The third word in the article was 'suffering!' - do I need to say any more!

In the York Post and the Daily

Express were really positive articles without the word suffering. Therefore I think I had some control over these 2 articles.

Finally, I had the BBC interviewing me for Look North in the morning before my ceremony at the city hall. Actually, I liked being interview by the TV crew as you have 99% control of it. As they can only show what you say. OK, they will always cut and paste the film to suit them.

At the ceremony, when I went up for the award. (Well I didn't really go up on to the stage, as they didn't have any ramps) I had three reporters taking my photo. I didn't know where to look. The

funny thing was my stupid hat kept falling off and the reporters kept putting it back on me. I think they were getting a little mad with my hat.

Overall, the media was good to me, and I hope I have encouraged disabled people to go to mainstream schools, colleges and universities. I think I have broke-down some barriers at the universities especially Humberside University!

I finally have a job next month for one week to create a website for the roundtable!

If you want to read any newspaper articles you can download them from my website at www.techno-man.karoo.net

Karl Dean

Mountain Climbing

(For the workers and management committees of C&R and the Humberside Law Centre.)

Our in-trays creak like snow fields before an avalanche, the warning is clear; too much risk is a danger

To the future health of our job prospects, but still the mountains are there inviting, seducing us to climb

Where no others have felt their feet sucked in, surrounded by a depth of snow that calls on us to bury ourselves

Inside its warm and fatal folds, to dig a snow-cave whose entrance invites us enter, then freezes us within.

But that is not today; for now we are all each other's watchers, looking for the fearsome glint which may foretell

That we have reached the summit of the mountain, looked over, and been seduced by the Siren of a higher peak.

DAE

Education Policies

I was reading the thought provoking writing on the subject of education on the Choices & Rights website, and wondered if the following could be passed on for anyone elses use, I really hope so.....

I recently have been addressing the issue of access to schools from a parental point of view and from the point of view of children, and through the red tape and processes discovered that at the moment there is a pot of money labelled the 'schools access initiative` .

The chap with the purse

strings is Dave Robinson his direct number to his desk is 613752..... I can hazzard a guess that you know this already but feel with the inclusion policy coming into place soon {hopefully September} that people should be made aware as this can benefit kids and parents alike.

I dont know if I am supposed to pass this information on but if people dont know it's there it wont be used and next budget they will axe it bacause it wasn't used.

By the way, excuse my typing I'm very new to this, its taken me nearly an hour to type this bit, I hope it's of some use let me know.

One of the things I wanted to learn about was CRDC. Now I do, I enjoyed finding out more about you and choices (I'm getting cocky now, typing with three fingers).

Anyway what can this guy do if I wasn't supposed to spill my guts? He can hardly be mad at me for wanting other kids and parents not to be living in the stone age!!

Clipart & Pictures

We're looking for some disability related clip-art and pictures to use in Loud & Proud.

We don't want the physical photographs or drawings themselves , but if you could email us copies of any royalty-free artwork that you have and that we can use in Loud & Proud we'd really appreciate it!!

Got any interesting stories, peoms, or jokes that you want to share with the Loud & Proud readership? (See the panel on the right!!)

How to send us your articles ...

We prefer you to send articles as computer files since this makes our layout work easier and quicker. If you don't have access to a computer, handwritten articles are best submitted in BLOCK CAPS text where possible.

Tips for sending computer generated files:

Save/Export your file as:

Plain Text (.txt)

Rich Text Format (.rtf)

Please DO NOT save the files in your programs native format as we may not be able to read/ access them. To send us a computer file please use one of the following media types:

(IBM / PC Format)

3.5" Floppy Disc
Zip 100/250MB Disc
CD-ROM

(MAC Format)

3.5" Floppy Disc

Notes for email:

Please insert as a file, or clearly mark where the article starts/ ends.

Where to send your articles:

Email:

lp@choicesandrights.demon.co.uk

Post:

Choices & Rights
Arthur Richardson Centre
Savoy Road
Hull
HU8 0TX

Fax:

01482 788668

STOP PRESS

Dave's Doing Well

A long-time friend of Choices & Rights, Dave Preston from Leeds, was recently involved in a serious car accident.

You'll be pleased to know he's getting well again and we'd like to send all our best wishes to Dave and hope he has a speedy recovery (no pun intended) and look forward to seeing him up and about again in the near future!

GET WELL SOON DAVE!!
from everyone
at Choices & Rights

Choices & Rights MUGS !!

Why not advertise your support for Choices & Rights by buying a Choices & Rights mug.

They feature our logo and web address on one side and the words, Informing, Campaigning, Volunteering, Training, Empowering on the other.

They cost £6 + =£1 postage and packing. Please make cheques payable to Choices & Rights Disability Coalition and send them to us at the usual address.

Disability Information Service



Using our own *local area* data and the national database provided and updated by DIAL UK, we are able to offer you lots of practical information on all sort of topics including:

- Law & Rights
- Education
- Social Issues
- Holidays
- Transport
- Accommodation
- Direct Payments
- Volunteering
- Personal Matters
- Arts & Leisure
- Aids & Equipment
- Sports & Interests

Contact Duncan Edge 10am to 4pm weekdays, or you may leave an answerphone message at all other times.

 - **01482 336106**

TypeTalk - 0800 959598 Fax - 01482 788688

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