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A VOICE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Loud & Proud

Issue 14 - Autumn 2005

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IT'S YOUR LIFE !

Choices are Rights are pleased to announce that our annual conference will be even bigger and better than before! This year, we have managed to attract Alison Lapper as our key speaker. Alison is the subject of the statue in Trafalgar Square that shows her as a disabled naked pregnant mother and she has attracted a lot of national and international interest.

The conference "It's Your Life - What Are You Going to Make of it?" is to be held on Wednesday 23rd November at the KC Stadium, Anlaby Rd. Hull

The move to the KC Stadium has been necessary due to the huge demand at previous events. The conference will be fully accessible

for disabled people and will include a wide range of communication support (BSL interpreters, lip speakers, etc) as well as guides and Personal Assistant's and information will be available in a range of accessible formats.

The conference will be attended by several key speakers including representatives from the Disability Rights Commission. There will be numerous workshops that can be attended including workshops on Adult Protection, Self Defence, Employment opportunities, Assistance Dogs, and Relationships.

Highly acclaimed disabled

comedian Laurence Clark, will be appearing at the conference. Laurence is most well known for his shown "The Jim Davidson

Guide to Equality". Angered by Jim Davidson's refusal to perform at a show as the front row was full of disabled people, Laurence's show points out

the inequalities of how Jeffrey Archer got free prison care, but he has to pay for someone to take him to the toilet. Pride of place is a telling shot of Tony Blair ignoring wheelchair user Clark during a meeting.

To apply for a place at the conference, please contact Choices and Rights on Hull (01482) 878778 or email office@choicesandrights.org.uk



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If you have any comments or 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.

ICE - DO IT!

ICE (In Case of Emergency) is a simple idea to help save lives using mobile phones.

It was first proposed over a year ago by a British Paramedic after a survey revealed that 75% of people didn't carry emergency contact information, but 85% carried a mobile phone.

Bob Brotchie, a clinical team leader for the East Anglian NHS Trust, hatched the plan after struggling to get contact details from shocked or injured patients.

Bob, 41, who has been a paramedic for 13 years, said: "I was reflecting on some of the calls I've attended at the roadside where I had to look through the mobile phone contacts struggling for information on a shocked or injured person."

"It's difficult to know who to call. Someone might have 'Mum' in their phone book, but that doesn't mean they'd want them contacted in an emergency."

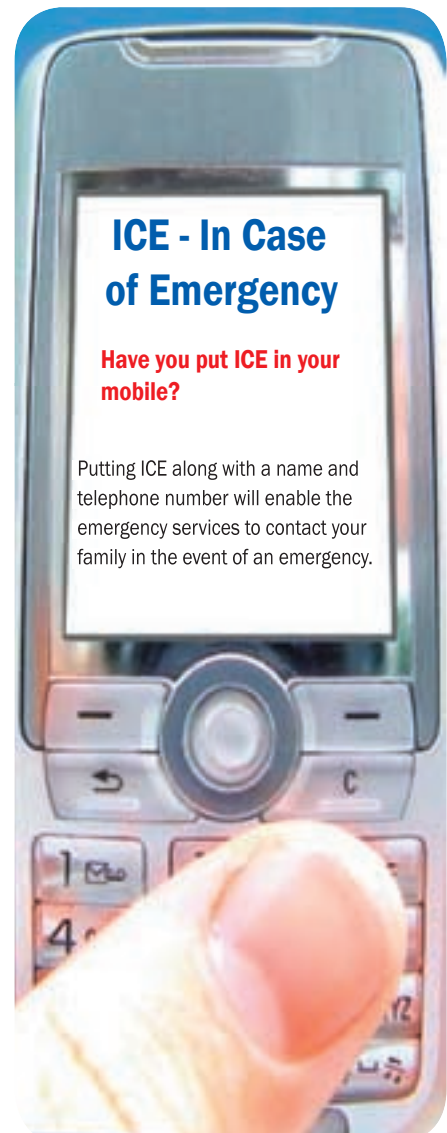
"Almost everyone carries a mobile phone now, and with ICE we'd know immediately who to contact and what number to ring. The person may even know of their medical history."

The idea has gathered momentum in the UK after the London bombings, and has also spread to Europe and the United States.

All you have to do is add an entry to the phone book of your mobile using the acronym 'ICE' followed by the name of your emergency contact and their telephone number.

If you want to add several ICE contacts, either use their names after the 'ICE' acronym, or simply add them to your phone book as ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, ICE4, etc.

Should your preferred ICE contact be deaf, prefix the number with ICETEXT instead of ICE.



Once you've saved the details in your phone, don't forget to tell your ICE contact that you've nominated them!

Bob hopes that all emergency services will promote ICE in their area as part of a national awareness campaign to highlight the importance of carrying next of kin details at all times.

He said the idea was for the benefit of loved ones as well as the patient "Research suggests people recover quicker from the psychological effects of their loved one being hurt if they are involved at an earlier stage and they can reach them quickly."

MEL & RACHEL

We have been lucky enough to employ two new staff at Choices and Rights and for the first time, we have some admin support in the office!

But Rachel and Mel are much more than that and as way of introduction, we asked them to write about themselves ...

Rachel Carpenter

My name is Rachel and many of you may have already spoken to me if you have rung Choices & Rights recently as I have been working for them for a couple of months now.

My role at Choices & Rights is as an admin worker as well as helping Denise with her communication with her direct payments clients.

I enjoy going to the cinema and the theatre especially to see musicals. I love to listen to talking books as I miss being able to just pick up a book since I became visually impaired, I also enjoy bowling and going to my local pub to do the quiz which is usually helped along with a little tipple!!

I am a great animal lover,

I have 2 cats and 3 dogs at home I am also waiting for a guide dog which I am hoping will give me more independence when I am out and about on my own.

I have just finished studying at Hull College at the centre for students with a visual impairment as I had no experience at all with computers before I lost my sight. Whilst at college I learnt basic word processing and touch typing as well as study

skills learning to use the internet to research and collect data. I passed all my units with flying colours and I was even awarded a special achievement award.

I am enjoying working at Choices & Rights and I hope that I will make a great member of an already fantastic team.

I hope to speak to even more of you soon and maybe even meeting you at our conference in November at the KC Stadium.

Melanie Wakefield

Hi, my name's Melanie Wakefield. I'm 31 and married with children ages 3, 7, and 14. I've lived in Hull all my life.

I started work at Choices and Rights Disability Coalition in June as an Admin Assistant mainly around the Direct Payments. I'm a Direct Payments User myself.

I find the work varied and interesting,

sometimes challenging. But most importantly I'm really enjoying it.

I intend improving my knowledge and skills, so I plan going on a minute-taking course in the near future as well as ECDL and desktop publishing. I also voluntarily tutor a self-management course for people with chronic conditions.

I also enjoy swimming, pilates, weight training and spending time with my family.



Contributors:

- Mark Baggley
- Karl Dean
- Rachel Carpenter
- Melanie Wakefield
- Alison Lewis

Laurence Clark **The Jim Davidson Guide to Equality**

Directed by Rikki Beadle-Blair Narrated by Mat Fraser

August

31 Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmonds (with Mat Fraser) 01284 769505

October

06 Oakengates Theatre, Telford 01952 619020

14 Exeter Phoenix 01392 667080

15 Ilkley Playhouse 01943 816714

23 Square Chapel Arts Centre, Halifax 01422 349422

November

04 Grand Theatre, Blackpool 01253 290190

09 Salisbury Arts Centre 01722 321744

10 Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire 01952 728509

11 Octagon Theatre, Bolton 01204 520661

25 The Citadel, St Helens 01744 735436

December

02 Pyramid Arts Centre, Warrington 01925 442345

"Hard-hitting, hilarious and an absolute must-see"

EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS

"...irreverent, pertinent and that rarest of things - a humorous hour that leaves you looking at the world in a different light."

EVENING STANDARD

*"...a searing political satirist who ensures both his message and his jokes are on an equal footing – never lecturing and never being less than funny... He wouldn't be out of place on *Have I Got News For You*"*

CHORTLE

www.laurenceclark.co.uk



THE SCARMAN TRUST

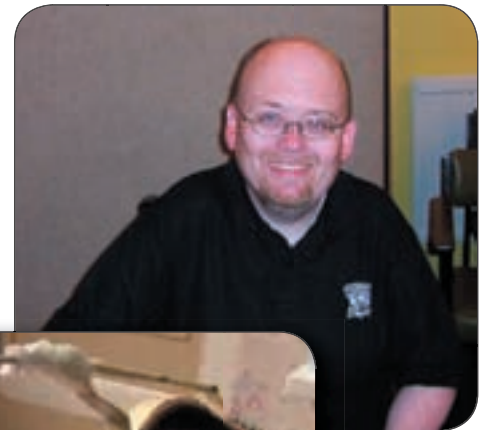


Phab Reunited
www.phabreunited.co.uk

A PHAB-ULOUS WAY TO REKINDLE OLD TIES

“The major selling point to the site is that Phab Reunited will offer 100% free membership to the users.”

The major selling point to the site is that Phab Reunited will offer 100% free membership to the users. There won't be any “top-up” additional fees either. All we want is a way that people involved with Phab over the years can get in touch, share stories and hopefully reform many lost friendships.



Phab reunited website is a newly formed online contact site for existing and ex-Phab members across the UK.

The website is similar to the friends reunited website with many exciting features. Members will be able to find old Phab members from their own clubs and share happy memories from the past.

In addition to this, there are discussion boards, forums and even chat rooms to save on those expensive phone bills!

Current Phab members will be able to share stories and photos, with individual members within their club. An exciting feature of the site is the ability to set up a Network group within your own, and other groups. This should lead to finding new ideas for Phab activities and, hopefully, meeting new friends.

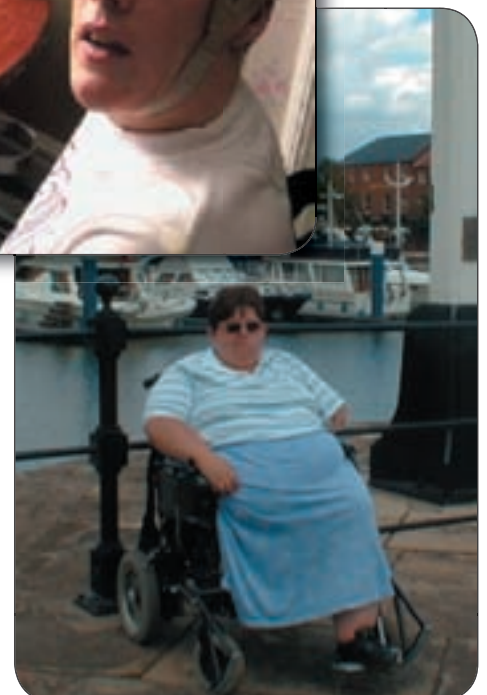


Sign up today - what are you waiting for? It would be a crime not to!

Just point your web browser at **www.phabreunited.co.uk** and follow the simple on screen instructions.

Happy Hunting!

*Karl Dean
 (pictured center)*



COMMON PURPOSE

Over the last year our chair, Mark Bagglely has been in Hull prison, interviewed Alan Johnson MP, and been put in a classroom with 35 children and one teacher. The reason for this? He has been a participant in Common Purpose, a national programme for leaders from all sections of the community.

I was recommended to Common Purpose by a previous graduate of the programme and the first thing that struck me was the enthusiasm of the Course Director, Susie Hay who interviewed me. It didn't take her long to convince me that this was something I wanted to do and thanks to a supportive employer, Habinteg Housing Association and a bursary from Common Purpose, I was soon eagerly awaiting the two day residential introduction.

From the beginning, my aim was to try and get the maximum benefit from the programme. Also, as a disabled person, I wanted to use the programme as an opportunity to influence others about the needs and civil rights of disabled people and to inform them of the work of Habinteg and Choices and Rights.

The residential was a very intense experience, meeting over 30 new people, challenging workshops, team events, presentations, but also enjoyable, thought provoking and fun. By the end of the 2 days, I had met people from areas of work that I had never been involved with before, including the police, private industry, chamber of trade and researchers. One of my aims was to ensure by the end of the programme, I had developed two working partnerships with some of these new contacts.

Moving on to the programme days, each day had its own challenges and experiences. But for me, the key highlights were:

- Governance Day - where I had the opportunity to have an in-depth

conversation with Minister Alan Johnson MP and the role play event that gave a great insight into how a Local Authority works.

- Crime Day - where the experience of visiting inside Hull Prison will remain me for a long time, but also how education, drugs, employment prospects, etc. have such an effect on the causes and the solutions of crime.



- Media Day - the opportunity to write an article for the Hull Daily Mail about Common Purpose that appeared in the paper that week was a good example of team working and how the media worked. Also, a presentation on comparisons between the cities of Hull and Newcastle, illustrated the importance that image can have on the economy of the city

- Education - the two visits to a primary and secondary school highlighted the difference in culture and opportunities for learning at different ages. On a personal level, being sat in a class with 35 students and the teacher was an experience I could only have gained through Common Purpose and was a particular highlight.

Although each Common Purpose day was a fascinating experience, the examples I have given highlight to me the variety of experiences and learning opportunities that the programme offers. I feel that I have now developed a much better understanding of not only how the City works, but how what appear vastly different organisations can share common aims and work together for the benefit of everyone.

I think I can sum up my Common Purpose experience by listing the partnerships I have formed with other graduates. My aim was to have formed two key partnerships by the end of the programme. The end results were much better:

1. Common Purpose graduate to run a workshop on self defence for disabled people at a national conference run by disabled people
2. Invited onto Hull and East Riding Adult Protection Committee
3. Working in partnership with ARC (Humber Centre for Excellence in the Built Environment) to look at how the city can be accessible to disabled

people, with particular emphasis on accessible housing and Lifetime Homes.

4. Working with Hull Student Union to offer employment opportunities for students as personal assistants for disabled people
5. Question raised at Hull City Council meeting by councillor about Lifetime Homes at a key council meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank the Common Purpose staff (Susie, Nardia, Chris and Mark) for all their enthusiasm and support and to Habinteg for allowing me to participate. It was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone.

Mark Bagglely

Common Purpose Graduate 2005

WHAT IS IT?

As professionals, we cannot afford to be isolated from our fellow decision-makers.

As people, we cannot continue to be insulated from our fellow citizens.

These twin beliefs are the founding principles of Common Purpose and they have continued to underpin everything we do.

Julia Middleton, Founder and

part of it).

Very few people emerge from Common Purpose with their prejudices - or working practices - unchanged. As their perspective gets wider, their vision improves. As their vision improves, their decision-making gets better. They forge networks that can have a major impact on their organisation and the community

society's real issues and problems first-hand.

They visit prisons, housing developments, businesses, hospitals, plants. They discover that many of the issues they are grappling with are common to all sectors. They include:

1. finding and keeping good people
2. functioning effectively on



Chief Executive of Common Purpose; "Common Purpose is about leaders. Not just elected leaders. Not just business leaders. Not just established leaders. But all leaders. From all sectors of society."

Common Purpose helps people in leadership and decision-making positions to be more effective: in their own organisations, in the community and in society as a whole.

We offer:

1. a range of programmes for leaders of all ages, backgrounds and sectors
2. a website for citizens who want to take the lead, people who dream of changing the world (or their

(networks which no other experience can provide).

This can have far-reaching consequences. And can unlock leadership potential in a genuinely different way.

The programmes

Our leadership programmes are delivered in a unique way because they are rooted in the community. Why? Because this doubles the return on investment, resulting in better leaders and stronger communities.

The community is both our subject and our venue. Our participants don't just sit in meeting rooms doing exercises. They go out into the surrounding area and consider

limited resources

3. capitalising on opportunities
4. communicating their vision to others.

Together, they tackle live issues with the people who carry real-life responsibility

If you are interested in attending a Common Purpose programme, please contact:

Common Purpose Humber
c/o Viking FM
The Boathouse
Commercial Road
Hull
HU1 2SG
Tel.: 01482 593 170

ADVERTISE IN L & P

Competitive advertising to a wide ranging audience

Loud & Proud is the newsletter of Choices and Rights Disability Coalition and is currently published quarterly.

We publish on a limited budget compared with many glossy publications, but our content is always excellent and our newsletter is read by a great many more people than the number of copies we distribute.

We hope that by securing sponsorship and advertising we can increase the number we print to allow us to reach a great many more people, and if successful, increase the publication to bimonthly or even monthly!

Most of the articles are written by disabled people, for disabled people, with professionals and organisations involved in disability issues often writing articles specifically for the Loud & Proud readership.

We edit as little as possible to give our writers the freedom to speak their minds, and encourage positive thinking about the Social Model of disability as well as addressing key points regarding disability issues in

the United Kingdom and our local area.

We provide a great variety of content covering many aspects of disability and life in general, and get regular 'Thank You' letters and emails from people who have enjoyed reading Loud & Proud and like the way we say what we feel without pulling any punches.

Advertising and sponsorship of Loud & Proud tells our readers that you are serious about them as people, as well as customers.

We don't accept everyone as a sponsor, you have to show us that you are positive about disability issues - if you are, we want you on board !!

Who gets copies of Loud & Proud:

- Disabled People
- Disability Groups
- Council Offices
- Members of the public
- Parents/Carers
- Social Services
- etc ...

Loud & Proud distribution:

- Hull
- Beverley
- Holderness
- Leeds
- Goole
- Selby
- etc ...

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office@choiceandrights.org.uk

Advertising Rates

We offer advertising space with four options to suit most budgets.

You decide the level at which you wish to sponsor us by selecting the advertisement size and number of issues you wish to run the advert for.

Your contribution helps to cover the cost of design, publication and distribution for the issue/s that you sponsor. The newsletter is printed in black and white on 80gms paper, and currently spans 16 pages. It is also published on the Choices and Rights website in colour.

These figures are correct at July 2003, but are subject to change:

Advertising rate per issue:

Size	Cost (£)
Sixth page	20.00
Full column	25.00
Half page	40.00
Full page	75.00

Cherry Tree Community AssociationComputability Scheme

The Computability Scheme is funded by the East riding of Yorkshire Council Social Services department and was established to provide I.T. equipment, enabling technology and training to people in their own homes who have a physical disability which consequently limits their mobility.

The objective of the scheme is to develop the individual to their full potential, in terms of their I.T. knowledge and skills, in the expectation that these new skills may put them in a better position to secure employment or a non-remunerative position whereby their skills can be of benefit to others in their community.

To be eligible for the scheme, you must satisfy the following requirements:

- Reside in the East Riding of Yorkshire.
- Be aged between 16 and 65.
- Have a permanent physical disability which limits your mobility.
- Be willing (after training) to return to full/part time employment or provide a service to the community using your new computer skills.

You can apply either by letter or telephone, where upon an appointment will be set up for one of our advisors to visit you at your home. Your case will then be forwarded to a committee who will decide whether to accept you onto the scheme based on the information gained.

Training incorporates flexible and personalized I.T. and support learning packages such as European Computer Driving License (ECDL) and New Computer Literacy & Information Technology (New CLAIT), both of which are nationally recognized qualifications.

The Computability Scheme provides all of the relevant equipment if necessary for the duration of the contract, initially six months, to enable you to complete the training. This includes a good quality PC and printer. After your contract finishes, you will have the right to purchase the equipment at a very competitive rate. If you do not wish to purchase the equipment then it will simply be returned to the Computability scheme.

A tutor will visit you normally once a week to provide the training which lasts around an hour. Workbooks are also used to enable the student to continue training on their own, although tutor support is always on hand.

Contact details are as follows:

Cherry Tree Community Association, 117 Cherry Tree Lane, Beverley, East Yorkshire, HU17 0AY

Tel: (01482) 871993 **Email:** computability7@hotmail.com

SEX SEX SEX - LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX!

My experience of sex education at school came about when I was 15, and involved one afternoon with a male teacher and a class of boys.

We were shown a film of some animals mating and the rest of the time involved a "discussion" with the teacher. He didn't say anything that was really useful or practical, he just talked around the issues. Frankly, we were embarrassed to have to sit and listen to this. At that age, I just wanted to get out of that the class as soon as possible. There was no mention of safe sex, of sexually transmitted diseases and no clue as to how you could have sex, if you were disabled.

Bearing that in mind, I wonder how many of you completed the Disability Now sex survey. It was the first time I remember as a disabled person that I had ever been asked about sex, apart from the obvious "Can you *have* sex?" - (yes, but not with you! If you need to ask that question you ain't got a chance!)

Although only 1115 people responded to the survey, it still makes very interesting reading.

Slightly more than half of the responses were from male readers, nearly half were from single people and 32% of people were living alone.

A further 31% were living with a partner and over 83% were straight. 45% were unemployed and nearly 80% of people had physical impairments, with a very small amount of people responded with a learning disability or a mental health issue.

The good news is that over the 84% of the people have had sexual intercourse at some point in their life and 46% have a current sexual partner.

Surprisingly, 21% of people claim to have sex by the time they were 15 years of age, with 32% between 16 and 19, and 24% between 20 and 30.

68% said they had sex since becoming disabled and 23% stated they had had sex in the last week!

94% of people said they knew what safe sex was, but despite this only 36% of people always practise safe sex, with 17% stating they did "sometimes".

from the idea of sex.

20% of the men who replied stated they had visited a prostitute or sex worker and a further 37% had considered using such a service.

62% of male respondents said that if there was a legal service that provided trained sex workers they would use it, and 74% of all respondents said prostitution should be fully legalised.

Although we could have a long



The bad news was that about 27% of people had been sexually abused or exploited by someone and 6% of these people had been exploited or abused by professional of support worker. Out of these 42% of people reported the abuse, and action was taken. Unfortunately 57% had reported the abuse, and no action was taken!!

It was surprising that although 94% of people knew what sex was, only 44% had received any sex education at school, and only 16% of these received any guidance on sex and disability. Sadly, many disabled people were still being discouraged

debate about the ethics of such a survey being carried out by Disability Now, (an organisation not run by disabled people), such as survey is obviously important for disabled people as a whole.

The full results of the survey can be seen on the Disability Now website at www.disabilitynow.org.uk

Finally, we would like to know your views about the survey. What you think about sex and disability. If you'd like to respond, please send us your response via e-mail or letter and all replies will be kept completely confidential.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE 'NEW' CIL OFFICE!

On the 10th August 2005, we held an open day for members at our premises at Tiverton House. The aim of the day was to enable members to see our new(ish!) Premises, meet both "old" and "new" staff and to give us a chance to chat to each other, something we don't often get the opportunity to do.

Around 18 people showed up during the day (slightly disappointing given the size of our current membership), including newly elected Member of Parliament, Diana Johnson (North Hull). Diana stayed for quite a while, chatting to both members and staff and went away with a good idea of what's concerning disabled people locally.

As well as providing plenty of refreshments (Thanks to Denise); we also had two assistance dogs on the premises, fighting for attention and tidbits. The clear winner was Denise's hearing dog Jude who had a bad stomach the next morning, clearly down to how many illegal treats he had been given!

If you didn't attend, we would welcome your views on why. Was it the wrong time of year, etc or would you prefer a different format? For example, set times, speaker, etc. Please let us know as your views are what help us shape our services.



BIT OF THIS ...

Police Warning - National Deaf Council

We have recently been informed by Humberside Police that there are a number of individuals making house calls to collect money for the 'National Deaf Council'.

We have been advised that this is not an organisation known to exist and that the callers are using it as a way of obtaining people's bank account details and/or cash.

If you receive a visit from these individuals or are suspicious about any other door to door collections, please do not give out your details and contact Humberside Police on 0845 60 60 222.

When is a Loo not a Loo?

An amazing story has reached Choices and Rights, about a pub in Dublin that had a bogus disabled toilet!

The Mezz bar in Temple Bar features a red door with a gold wheelchair sign, indicating disabled facilities. But the locked door is simply built into the wall and there is no toilet behind it. The space behind the wall is occupied by a table and seats in the popular nightspot, which is part of the River House Hotel.

Customers who have tried to open the disabled toilet door find it locked and have been told by staff that it is closed for 'renovations'.

Over the last 13 years, we have heard of a variety of discrimination against disabled people, but we have to admit that this is the first time we come across an organisation pretending to have a facility for disabled people, that it doesn't really have!

We wonder what is going to be next? Will it be a false lift shaft, a

pretend area for assistance dogs, or maybe a help button, that doesn't really work. Come to think of it, with think we already come across the last two.

If you know you better examples than this, please get in touch and will publish the results in the next edition of Loud and Proud.

ID Cards - Not for us!

Regardless of your opinion on whether everyone should have an ID card or not, there has been an interesting report from the Human Rights Group Privacy International.

They have estimated that up to 600,000 disabled people will not be able to use an ID card as we will not be able to register our biological details, due to the range of our impairments.

This means things like retina scans, fingerprint scans, etc would not be accessible and therefore in breach of the DDA!

In trials conducted by the passport office, 39% of people including many blind people could not give iris scans.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but wouldn't this mean that David (I'm disabled, but please don't ever mention it) Blunkett would not be able to have one?

Now, remind me, who is championing ID cards? Erm ... David Blunkett!!

What's the Story in Balamory?

Purely in the interests of research, our Chair recently visited Sheffield Arena to watch the stage version of CCBC's Balamory. He claimed he wanted to go because Kim Tserkezie, who is an actress and uses a wheelchair, is one of the stars.

The way that the show has been choreographed so that Kim can

be included in all the singing and dancing is amazing, and is setting a great example for what disabled people can do if they are talented and ambitious enough. Not only that, over 2000 people per show (many of them children) are watching a key character that is disabled where it isn't an issue and is a fantastic leap forward in thinking.

Even Kim's character's (Penny Pocket) key skills as she sings in rap are "organise and supervise" something that a lot of disabled people are talented at doing.

Mark (his sister, niece and nephew) went backstage afterwards to talk to Kim and she said that one of the nicest comments she had was from a non-disabled child who said "Penny, you really MOVE in that chair!" All in all, a fantastic example of inclusive thinking and hopefully, one day this won't be news, but simply the norm. Either way, hats off to Kim and the BBC for leading the way.

Did you know?

The first recognisable wheelchair was made for Philip II of Spain.

It then took a further 350 years for US mining engineer, Herbert A. Everest to design the kind of wheelchair that we recognise now that folds up, was more practical to use, and would fit inside a car.

Hull Connect - Good or Bad?

Choices and Rights are interested in hearing your experiences of using the Hull City Call Centre, Hull Connect on 300300.

Have you had difficulty getting through to the right department? Have you been referred to another organisation that can help you? Have you had to wait a long time to

... BIT OF THAT

get through or are unable to use it because of your impairment? Have staff been really helpful or gone out of their way to assist you?

We would like to hear your experiences, good and bad. Anything you tell us will remain confidential, but we will try and talk to the Council about any general issues that may arise.

You can tell us about your experiences, either by telephone on Hull 878778, email us at "office@choicesandrights.org.uk" (please put Hull Connect in the subject) or write to us at our usual office address.

I wish we wouldn't see ... (Top 3 movie myths)

With the lack of anything good on TV recently, (apart from sport), I have been watching a few DVD's. It amazes me that despite all the changes that have happened to disabled people in our society over recent years, some old myths still happen in films. So here's my top three disability myths that I wish film makers would get to grips with.

"Disabled People Can't Have Sex" - Usually appears in a movie as an excuse for the disabled person's partner to have an affair with some non-disabled person. But can also be used as a reason as to why the disabled person becomes bitter, twisted, beats their wife, turns to world domination or is just downright evil.

"Blind people need to feel the face so they know what someone is like" - Despite meeting many blind and visually impaired people over the years, not once have they ever asked to feel my face! Another typical way that blindness can be used is to have the blind person meeting a killer, monster, etc and not realising that they are in great danger due to

the amount of dead bodies already piled up in the room. This, of course is contradictory to the another myth that because of the lack of eyesight, visually impaired people have enhanced smell, hearing, etc, so surely they would smell the bodies! But hey, why let any realism regarding disability get in the way of a good story.

"The miraculous cure" - There are so many example of this it is untrue. My 'favourite' has to be in Forrest Gump when he runs and runs until his callipers simply fall off and he can run without them. Looks good on screen and I guess him falling over when the callipers break wouldn't have worked as well!

Can you think of any others? Let us know your top three disability myths and we will be happy to publish them.

Dear Choices and Rights,

I visited your site today following a reference to it in the DN supplement.

I am the lead for Wycombe area Access For All (WAAFA) an access group (now a charity) in Wycombe District, Buckinghamshire.

I went to your site looking for info on PA and Direct Payments. I am a full time wheelchair user that has MS and use DP. I have, along with the group of DP users in this area, been trying to expand to have a pool of PA's do payroll etc.

I found your site such a refreshing change from the usual sites (ours is down at the moment).

At this stage I must add that I am here alone with my assistance dog 'Baggins' and the radio.

I do have work to do in the form of a preparation for a training session next week - but ... I discovered your magazines. My sides are still sore

from laughing at the sage of the runaway scooter - I too have done that. I have even left Habitat with, unknown to me, a fully decorated 7 ft Christmas tree in tow - the cables got caught around the back of my power chair when I got stuck in an aisle!

I have rearranged the displays in Next, and even collapsed the side of the counter in the chemists.

I am not a bad driver - the shops just leap out and attack me!!

You have made my day ...

Alison Lewis

Community Care Project to start shortly!!

We are extremely pleased to announce that we have successfully obtained funding for a Community Care Worker to join the CIL team.

This post came about after we had highlighted the lack of independent Community Care advice available to disabled and older people in the Hull and East Riding area.

We have developed a partnership with the Community Legal Service (CLS) to put the bid together and have worked very closely with their team and other voluntary groups.

The CLS will provide a steering group to guide the project, although day to day management of the worker will be our responsibility.

The funding has come through Hull City Council and is as a result of money redistributed as a result of the closure of Humberside Law Centre.

We hope to be recruiting for the post shortly, so if you are interested in the post, please keep an eye out in the local press and our web site for details.

Send your articles to:
office@choicesandrights.org.uk

NEW 'OFFICE FOR DISABILITY ISSUES'

Office for Disability Issues to be established later this year.

David Blunkett announced that a new Office for Disability Issues would be established later this year as part of ensuring services are fit around the individual, rather than the individual having to fit rigid services.

Speaking in Canada, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions described a parallel determination in both countries to end disability discrimination.

Mr. Blunkett said there were lessons to be shared and one way forward was to put decision making and, where possible, the finance to achieve this, into the hands of people with disabilities. He said: 'Rather than people fitting into services - services need to fit to individuals. Every person with a disability should have the power to choose the support and services they need from a wide range of possibilities that exist within a given community.'

'This concept of individualisation is now becoming global. The idea of a menu of choices - focused on the individual but supported by the community - is both powerful and inspirational.'

'Choice is something the UK is committed to. Many more men and women are now realising their potential with our measures to support them into work, including the new work rehabilitation pilots, such as Pathways to Work'.

'We want to ensure individuals have control where possible over budgets so they themselves can hand-pick services. This is a key driver in our ambitious strategy to tackle

inequality for people with disabilities within a generation.

'This programme will be co-ordinated by an Office for Disability Issues which will be established later this year. This new unit will be responsible for driving action and delivery across the whole of Government and linking with the work of the Disability Rights Commission in ensuring equality across society.'

Crucially it will be working with organisations of and for people with disabilities, businesses and public services in changing attitudes and facilitating inclusion. This is an



example of how nations can share good practice and we are studying Canada's own model.

'Ultimately we are talking about a truly fair society we want for ourselves; inclusive and supportive but not paternalistic or confining which liberates, not patronises

people. Creating independence, but with mutual help - something for something - not abandoning but helping people overcome the additional barriers to a full life'.

Mr. Blunkett turned to welfare reform and the issue of inherited disadvantage between generations: 'Helping our communities adapt for the future is not about ameliorating poverty, but overcoming intergenerational disadvantage in order to root out poverty and exclusion. I have seen this work in practice in Vancouver.'

'The coming months will be crucial for both our countries - with both Governments looking to make major changes to their welfare systems.'

But both Governments must look further in working to change attitudes and embedding the social capital which is central to successful integration and cohesion of our societies'.

The Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report this year published an ambitious twenty year strategy to build on recent disability rights for people with disabilities by radically reforming the way local public services are delivered - centred on the consumer, based on

individual needs, and funded through transparent, individualised budgets. This will give real choice to people with disabilities over how services are delivered, ensuring they are suited to their needs and helping them achieve independence.

DRC CLOSING CASE WORK

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) have recently announced that they are closing their case work service that last year helped over 1000 disabled people deal with DDA cases from all over the UK. This service will stop in November and the DRC hope that this aspect of their work will be carried on locally.

Choices and Rights were one of two organisations in Yorkshire and Humberside that have worked in partnership with the DRC to try and improve the position locally.

They provided training on aspects of the DDA to staff at the CIL that has enabled us to support some disabled people with cases of discrimination locally. To give you a flavour of what we have dealt with, here's some recent cases (We have changed some details to maintain confidentiality for the people concerned)

A disabled person was working for their employer who decided they weren't out to carry out their duties due to changes in their impairment. The employer was initially offering some work, but this would involve a considerable change of post, loss of status and earnings. After involvement by Choices and Rights, the person has

returned to work with an amended job description, reduced hours, but with pay and hours appropriate per rata for their revised job.

A dental surgery informed a wheelchair user they would have to move to another dental practice as since October 2004 their premises were no longer "DDA accessible". After involvement by Choice and Rights, the surgery has looked at what access



improvements they can make to their premises, the wheelchair user can still attend the surgery and some compensation was offered.

A young disabled person was sent home from school as their teaching assistant refused to help them with certain aspects of personal care. Again, after our involvement, the person was able to return to school and there are ongoing discussions to prevent this happening again.

However, as pleased as we are to be able to assist in these situations, the problem we have is that we have no funding for DDA advice and we are having to do this, on top of the work we receive funding for. We do this, because we strongly believe in the rights of disabled people, but longer term, we need funding to do this work more successfully. We have submitted a bid for Big Lottery funding for such a post and we should find out early in 2006 whether we are successful.

How to send us your articles ...

We prefer you to send articles by email or as computer files since this makes our layout work easier. If you don't have access to a computer, handwritten articles are best submitted in BLOCK CAPS 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 native format as we may not be able to access them. We accept 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 and finishes.

Where to send your articles:

Email:

office@choicesandrights.org.uk

Post:

Choices & Rights
Tiverton House
Tiverton Road
Bransholme
Hull
HU7 4DQ

Fax:

01482 370999

Disability Information Service

Using local area data and national data provided by DIAL UK we are able to offer you lots of practical information on all sorts of topic including:



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

Contact the office 10am to 4pm weekdays, or leave an answerphone message at all other times:

 - **01482 878778**

Text: 01482 370986 - Fax: 01482 370999

Contact Details

Tel: 01482 878778

Fax: 01482 370999

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Website

<http://www.choicesandrights.org.uk/>

Disability Housing Service

Tel:	01482 370983
Mark Bagglely	MBagglely@habinteg.org.uk

DISCLAIMER:

The views in Loud and Proud do not necessarily reflect the views of Choices and Rights Disability Coalition.

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