



## **CHOICES AND RIGHTS – UPDATE OCTOBER 2013**

### **Choices and Rights News**

Welcome to the latest edition of our **UPDATE** email bulletin. There are lots to report on this month, so **UPDATE** is a little longer than usual!

### **Disability Discrimination Advice Service**

Choices and Rights are pleased to announce that we are now been able to provide a dedicated Disability Discrimination Advice Service for people in Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire. The service is funded through a partnership with the Hull and East Riding Citizens Advice Bureau and other voluntary organisations and has 2 years funding. We have recruited two workers, Duncan Edge and Zem Rodaway as advisors and they can be contacted on Hull (01482) 878778. This is a service that we know has been needed for some time and we know that there will be a high demand!

### **Disability Discrimination Case against Bus Company**

Doug Paulley, a disabled man from Wetherby, West Yorkshire, has won a legal ruling against a bus company over its wheelchair policy. He took First Bus Group to court after he was told he could not get on a bus because a pushchair user refused to give up the space. A judge at Leeds County Court ruled the "first come first served" policy was unlawful discrimination in breach of the [Equality Act 2010](#).

The full story can be found at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-24214346>

We know that there have been similar incidents in our area and we have been informed that both Hull bus providers are now re-writing their access policy. If you have any similar problems, please don't hesitate to contact us.

## **Personal Independent Payments – Assessment Centre in Hull**

We have been informed that the ATOS assessment centre for PIP will be at:

Highlands Health Centre  
Lothian Way  
North Bransholme  
Hull  
HU7 5DD

If anyone attending has any access problems, please get in touch with us and we can ensure that they are not breaking the Equality Act!

### **Changes to the PIP reassessment go live date**

The Government recently held a consultation on the PIP 'Moving Around' assessment criteria. Responses to the consultation are being carefully considered before the Government makes a decision about whether changes to the criteria are necessary. As yet, no decision has been made. Because of this, reassessment for existing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claims will start three weeks later than initially planned, on 28 October - however, if the Government decides changes are needed to the 'Moving Around' criteria, these reassessments will not start until after any changes have been made. New claims to PIP will continue as normal. More information about PIP is available on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).

### **Personal Health Budgets**

The National Health Service (Direct Payments) Regulations 2013 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/1617/contents/made>) came into force on 1 August, enabling the NHS across England to make direct payments for healthcare. Previously this was only possible in approved pilot sites (Hull was a pilot site).

NHS England is planning to publish guidance explaining the regulations.

Following a successful pilot programme personal health budgets are being introduced first in NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC). By April 2014, adults eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare (and also families with children receiving NHS continuing care) will be entitled to ask for a personal health budget, including a direct payment.

By April 2015 a personal health budget will be an option available to other people with long term conditions who could benefit from them. For example NHS England is looking at mental health as another condition where a personal health budget could be made available.

A free support programme has been developed that will help Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to introduce personal health budgets successfully. The support programme is based on best practice as well as information and learning developed during the pilot programme and includes training programmes, self-assessment tools and all the latest guidance.

### **Want to get online or know someone who can't?**

KC is helping Hull and East Yorkshire households get online by offering them computers for just £24.

KC has teamed up with Microsoft's Get Online@Home initiative to offer local households that don't have internet access a PC for only £24 or a laptop for just £74 if they sign up for a KC home phone and broadband bundle. The Get Online@Home scheme is backed by the Government and aimed at the 10.8 million people in the UK without internet access at home.

The computers come with everything people need to get online, as well as Microsoft software for security, documents, emails, messages, pictures and more. They are high-quality, refurbished computers that have been used before, usually by businesses, but have many years of useful life left in them. Old data has been removed, new software installed and all the hardware has been cleaned and polished for the new owner.

Research carried out by KC and Hull City Council shows that more than half of the households in the city that have never had internet access say lack of a PC or laptop is a barrier to getting online.

With a growing number of products and services now available more cheaply on the Internet, and more than three out of four jobs now having online application processes, households without internet access are at an increasing disadvantage.

The issue is likely to grow when an overhaul of the welfare system introduces Universal Credit, which is due to be rolled out to Hull early next year. The change will require people to apply for benefits via the internet and manage their claim through an online account.

The inexpensive PCs and laptops are available to people who are unemployed or receive any of a wide range of benefits, including Child Tax Credit, Income Support, Housing Benefit and Carer's Allowance.

Sue Belmont, KC's head of marketing and propositions, said: "We're committed to making it easier for local people to get online.

"Throughout the UK, while more and more households have several connected devices and superfast broadband, many others still don't have even basic internet access.

"This is causing a growing and worrying digital divide. Not having internet access excludes millions of people from vital and valuable services; prevents them from applying for jobs; and means they are increasingly isolated when so many day-to-day interactions are now carried out online.

"This new offer overcomes one of the biggest hurdles preventing people getting online - the cost of buying a computer or laptop. It will mean the thousands people locally who aren't currently online can buy a computer or laptop at very low cost, knowing that it has been fully reconditioned and equipped with all the software and security they need to go online with ease and confidence.

"We would encourage anybody who thinks they would benefit from this offer to call us so they can access the growing number of services and information sources that are available online."

To order a PC or laptop and a home phone and broadband bundle call 01482 602555. For more information click [here](#).

## **Saints and Sinners**

This part of the newsletter has been attracting some attention and we are receiving regular comments, so please keep them coming in!

Starting with Sinners, a venue we used recently, didn't make a good impression when two disabled spaces were blocked. One by a car

parked across two bays (No blue badge on display) and wait for it, the other one had a motorcycle in it!

This was raised with staff at the venue and we were told that the motorcycle owner had had a crash and couldn't walk very far. Although we are sympathetic to the individual, this still does not give them the right to use a blue badge space and they also do not require the amount of space a car would. We have contacted the manager of the venue about their responsibilities under the Equality Act and she has assured us that the people concerned have been informed not to do this again and has offered her sincere apologies.

We haven't had any nominations for Saints this month, so we have decided that Channel 4 are saints for commissioning *The Last Leg*, a brilliant comedy show that we think has done more for changing attitudes towards disabled people, than many other "worthy" initiatives. The programme hosted by Adam Hills (Australian comedian) and supported by Alex Brooker and Josh Widdicombe started out as a show for the Paralympic games, but was so successful, it was turned into a more general comedy show. It's not a "disability" comedy show; it's just a very funny show that has two disabled people as presenters. For more details, see: <http://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-last-leg>

### **Relocation, Portability and Social Care Practice – moving to a new Local Authority with your social care package**

A research project at the University of Hull is working to explore the experiences of people who receive social care support or funding, and have moved to a new Local Authority to study, for employment or for other reasons. We are interested in hearing about people's experiences as they move their social care support to a new area, the challenges they face and the positive steps they have taken. We will use the information from the research to produce information to help people who are planning to move in the future.

If you;

- Have moved (or are currently in the process of moving) from one English local authority to another in the last three years
- Have moved for education or employment, or for other reasons (such as to be closer to family, friends or support networks)

- Receive (or received at the time you moved) social care services or funding (including services paid for by direct payments),

then we would love to hear from you! To find out more about the research please go to

<http://www2.hull.ac.uk/fass/care/portabilityofsocialcare.aspx> or contact

Caroline White ([c.white@hull.ac.uk](mailto:c.white@hull.ac.uk) or 01482 466374) or

Dave Marsland ([d.marsland@hull.ac.uk](mailto:d.marsland@hull.ac.uk) or 01482 466626)

## Looking for Work?

Are you looking for work in Hull? If so, please register your interest to become a personal assistant for free at our website

[www.padatabase.org.uk](http://www.padatabase.org.uk) and we will send you the latest vacancies available across Hull. If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact us by emailing us at: [PAapplications@choicesandrights.org.uk](mailto:PAapplications@choicesandrights.org.uk) or calling 01482 878778. The service is absolutely free and you may be able to secure a position in paid employment & make a real difference to disabled people in the community.

Please note that we are not a recruitment agency and rather a charity supporting disabled people by placing adverts on their behalf.

This bulletin is published by Choices and Rights Disability Coalition. If there are any issues or articles you would like included please contact Mark Baggley on (01482) 878778 or email [mark@choicesandrights.org.uk](mailto:mark@choicesandrights.org.uk) Please also Mark if you wish to unsubscribe to this bulletin.

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