



## **CHOICES AND RIGHTS – UPDATE APRIL 2014**

### **CHOICES AND RIGHTS NEWS**

Welcome to the latest edition of our **UPDATE** email bulletin. We have had an exceptionally busy time and after our successful audit by the Advice Quality Standards, we are now being audited by Hull City Council. We have also had our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and as it is the end of the financial year, we have been dealing with many requests from direct payment users wanting to know holiday entitlement for their Personal Assistants!

#### **New Board at Choices and Rights**

Our AGM was successful and Amy Robinson has been re-elected as Chair for a further 2 years. We have recruited 2 new board members, but are always on the look out for more, so if you are a disabled person and think you have skills to offer, please email Mark Baggley (Company Secretary) at [markb@choicesandrights.org.uk](mailto:markb@choicesandrights.org.uk).

#### **Office for Disability Issues – Ambassador**

Mark Baggley, one of our direct payment workers was also an Ambassador the Office of Disability Issues”Strengthening Disabled People’s User Led Organisations” Project. Mark has recently stood down from his role, but hopes to keep in contact with many of the people and organisations he has worked with over the last 18 months. Some of you will be receiving this bulletin because of those links and if you wish to be removed from the list, please let us know.

The role of Ambassadors is changing and the good news is that it is hoped regional networks will be set up with a link into a national group that will meet with the Minister for Disabled People More information as we get it.

## **Victory over Access to Theatre (From GMCDP News)**

Doug Paully and a group of other disabled people from a Leonard Cheshire residential home in Leeds have successfully challenged the SMG entertainment group over theatre tickets for Personal Assistants (PAs). The York Barbican wanted to charge the group full price for tickets for their PAs when going to see Bill Bailey. Doug argued that this is discriminatory because it means disabled people who need PAs pay double to see the same show as non-disabled people not requiring a PA.

On the night before the case was due to go to court the SMG entertainment group acknowledged that they had discriminated against disabled people. This should have a wider impact on theatre ticket policies.

An article can be found on The York Press website:

[http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/10991417.Disabled\\_customer\\_wins\\_York\\_Barbican\\_legal\\_challenge/?ref=ms](http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/10991417.Disabled_customer_wins_York_Barbican_legal_challenge/?ref=ms)

## **Care Quality Commission inspection of North Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.**

The Care Quality Commission will be inspecting North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust on the 23/04/2014. The trust covers the following sites: Scunthorpe General Hospital, Goole and District Hospital and Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby.

The inspection team are keen to hear the evidence from local voluntary and community groups about the quality and safety of care at this hospital trust. You can send reports, peoples stories of care or other evidence your group holds about people's care to [hospitalinspections@cqc.org.uk](mailto:hospitalinspections@cqc.org.uk) or you can ring 03000 616161. Please put the name of the trust you are sending information about in the title of the email to help us pass it to the right inspection team.

You can send evidence of high-quality care as well as any concerns you have identified. CQC will use your information to help the inspection team plan the inspection and what to look for on the inspection. The inspection team will ask these five questions about the trust and its services:

- Is it safe?
- Is it effective?
- Is it caring?
- Is it responsive to people's needs?
- Is it well-led?

There will also be public listening events that you may want to attend or promote. These will be held on **Wednesday 23 April 2014**, 6.30 – 8pm:

Listening event 1 - Wortley House Hotel, Rowland Road, Scunthorpe

Listening event 2 - The Courtyard, Boothferry Road, Goole

Listening event 3 – Grimsby Institute, Nuns Corner, Grimsby

You can read more about how CQC carry out inspections at [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk).

## **Two new guides for disabled people**

The Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (RICA) have published a Public Transport Guide for older and disabled people. This can be found at:

[guide](#). (Please click on link)

Dosh has also published a banking guide: **Making Banking Easier**.

The guide is to help people with a learning disability, other financially excluded and disabled people, their families, and supporters and advocates to speak to banks and get the support and access they need.

The guide includes:

- Opening, changing and closing an account
- What should banks be doing?
- How can I get support with banking?
- How can I deal with problems?
- What do banking laws say?
- What do equality laws say? In particular, the Equality Act and Mental Capacity Act

- Links to further resources and helpful contacts

Along with the full guide, there is a short help sheet for people to take with them on trips to the bank as a quick reminder. This is also available for free from [www.dosh.org/banking-report](http://www.dosh.org/banking-report).

Please visit the Dosh [website](http://www.dosh.org) to read more about Dosh and their banking report, as well as download the free report and guide.

**Thanks to the Disability Action Alliance for the above information**

## **SAINTS AND SINNERS**

This part of the newsletter has been attracting some attention and we are receiving regular comments, but we would welcome more. So if you have had a good or bad experience to share, please get in touch. Maybe a shop went out of their way to assist you or didn't provide any help at all. We don't have to use your name, so let us know of your experiences.

### **SAINTS**

Attached to the email with this bulletin is an advert for disabled people who would be willing to take part in the "(Un)dateables, the Channel 4 show about disabled people looking for love. The series has generally been well received and has dealt with the issues in a positive manner. So if you're looking for love and fancy being a TV star, why not give them a call?

### **SINNERS**

The sinners this month are all the many organisations and services who advertise their services as Disability Complaint, DDA Compliant, etc. As pointed out by one of our DDA workers, Duncan Edge, no organisation can say this unless they have contacted every disabled person in the country and assessed their services for each one! It's fine for them to describe what they have in place. E.g. induction loops, accessible toilet, etc, but not that they are compliant about everything!

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.

*Choices and Rights Disability Coalition, Jude Lodge (Tiverton House),  
Tiverton Road, Hull. HU7 4DQ*

*TEL 01482 878778*

*Email [office@choicesandrights.org.uk](mailto:office@choicesandrights.org.uk)*

*Web [www.choicesandrights.org.uk](http://www.choicesandrights.org.uk)*

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