

my future choices

The Magazine of the Transition Information Network

Issue 3 2008



- EDCM campaign – Going Places!
- The Speaking Up Youth Parliament
- Mencap's Wecan2 project
- Young Researcher Network
- Trailblazing for Disability Rights!
- My Dreams for the Future

my future choices
is published by
the Transition
Information
Network.

my future choices aims to feature new opportunities for disabled young people from across the UK. The editors are pleased to receive relevant information and articles. Please enquire for details. The Transition Information Network (TIN) is an alliance of organisations and individuals who came together with a common aim: to improve the experience of disabled young people's transition to adulthood.

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Hello from TIN!



This issue of *my future choices* is all about having things to do and places to go. Here at TIN we think that all young people should be able to access positive activities in their area. This could include youth clubs, leisure activities and places to hang out with friends. Having things to do and places to go after school and at the weekends is really important. It is a way of making friends and getting involved in your local community. We want every disabled young person to have the same rights and opportunities as all young people.

This issue of *my future choices* has all sorts of articles about places to go and things to do for disabled young people across the country. You can read about Every Disabled Child Matters' new campaign called Going Places on page four and learn how to find out what's going on near where you live.

We are really pleased to be able to tell you about some projects that are going on around the country that are listening to disabled young people. On pages eight and nine we've featured two projects that are supporting young people to take part and be heard.

One of the purposes of TIN is to share examples of good ways of working. If you are involved in things in your local area and would like to tell us about your experiences, please get in touch.

Lucia Winters

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News from TIN

In June, TIN ran a free seminar at the Together Trust in Stockport. (www.togethertrust.org.uk)

The seminar was all about Disabled Young People in Transition and Education. The day was a chance to hear from the Learning and Skills Council about what is going on across the whole region, and from people who are doing good things in their colleges to make sure disabled young people are getting the support they need.

Jane Cowell from the Learning and Skills Council in the North West talked about *Reforming funding for learners with learning disabilities and SEN*. In her talk she mentioned all the new developments that will be taking place, such as diplomas and apprenticeships, and she talked about Learning for Living and Work, the strategy for learners with learning disabilities (www.lsc.gov.uk).

Students from Bridge College, with Andrew Nathan, who is the Transition Coordinator at the college, and other supporters, gave a presentation. They talked about the support they get from the college and the help they get to move on to life after college (visit the education section in www.togethertrust.org.uk for more information).

We also heard about *Transition support at Blackburn College*, which provides a range of innovative support to make sure students can access all aspects of the curriculum, whatever their support needs (www.blackburn.ac.uk).

Skill, the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities talked about their information resource and gave a national overview of the sorts of things students ask them about (www.skill.org.uk).

You can look at the presentations from the day on the TIN website. There are also links to the websites of all the organisations and colleges that spoke at the seminar.

Get involved with TIN!

The TIN reference group continues to meet twice a year and the TIN steering group meets about six times a year. If you are interested in being more involved with the work of TIN, would like to write a piece for the next magazine, or would like to tell us about your dreams for the future and see them in the next issue of *my future choices*, please get in touch.

▼ Young people and supporters from Bridge College



To find out more about TIN's seminars and events, please check our website:

www.transitioninfonetwork.org.uk

Going Places!



Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) is the campaign to get rights and justice for disabled children, young people and their families.

Last summer EDCM asked disabled children and young people: "If you were Prime Minister for the day and could change one thing, what would it be?"

The top answer was to **'have more fun things to do'**

This year EDCM wanted to find out more about what places to go and the things to do are like for disabled children and young people near where they live, and what they would like to change to make places better.

The top three things children and young people said would make the biggest difference are:

1. **Better attitudes** from staff, adults and other young people
2. **Better access** to places, so that they can join in
3. **Better transport** to get to places

Lots of children and young people also said: "You can find out what's best for us by involving us."

The government is going to spend lots of money making places to go better over the next few years. We want the people in charge of the country to listen to disabled children and young people and make sure they can all have good places to go and things to do near where they live.

We have now published a booklet of children and young people's views and suggestions about what needs to change. We have made a **DVD** with the help of KIDS Hayward Adventure Playground and the Out & About group from Ipswich.

We have also published a **campaign tool** to help young people campaign for better places to go where they live.

The campaign tool helps you to find out

- What your council should be doing to make sure you have good places to go in your area
- How to get involved with making places to go better
- Questions you can ask your councillor or MP
- Other ideas for campaigning.

You can find out how to get in touch with your council by going to www.upmystreet.com and putting in your postcode. You could also apply for a Youth Fund. The Youth Funds are money that groups of young people aged 13-19 can apply for. The money can be used for activities or places to go. Find out more at www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/youthfunds

You can find out more about what young people said and download the EDCM booklets from www.edcm.org.uk/goingplaces

Update

from the National Youth Agency

At a glance

The National Youth Agency has recently been supporting professionals who work with young disabled people.

By Sarah Hargreaves

The NYA's mission is to support young people to achieve their full potential. The NYA works in partnership with young people and with organisations and services to ensure better outcomes for young people. The NYA have been doing some work to make sure disabled young people can access youth services.

The Stakeholder Group on joining together AHYP and AHDC

In July this year, the National Youth Agency, Council for Disabled Children and the Department for Children, Schools and Families met with people from around the country to look at how the government's initiatives 'Aiming High for Young People: a ten year strategy for positive activities' and 'Aiming High for Disabled Children: better support for families' can work together. These organisations will work together to ensure disabled young people have better access to mainstream positive activities like team sports, physical activities, arts activities and volunteering.

Workshop at 'Aiming High – Delivering in DCSF Partnership' conference, September 2008

The NYA ran a workshop with St. Christopher's Shared Care Project Solihull, The Children's Society about how councillors, who are volunteers elected by local people to make the main decisions on services and budgets in the local authority, should work with young people. The views of eight disabled young people were presented by a young man, who is very experienced in participation work, using multi-media. These young people's messages for local government workers were things like:

- We want to be part of it.
- Take time to listen to us – it might take longer than with other young people.
- Tell us the big picture – don't just ask us a question on part of it and explain what you will do with our views. Information is power.
- Ensure our voices are heard in relation to non-formal provision such as Youth Opportunity Fund, Youth Capital Fund and MyPlace.
- Some of those who have most to say are least able to be heard.

These messages were fed back to seventy people who are in charge of making sure that Aiming High for

Young People starts working in local authorities, the voluntary and community sector and the private sector.

Other recommendations from the workshop were:

- Providers of positive activities to work with social care staff to meet young disabled people's needs within mainstream activities.
- Involve young disabled people as trainers on programmes for staff working in services for young people.
- Explore the potential for young disabled people to use short break funds and direct payments to access positive activities.
- Make sure the needs of young disabled people are taken account of in all discussions related to strands in AHYP, for example, transport barriers to access to positive activities.

Workshop at a conference on the financial capability of young people

The NYA is organising four focus groups with young people, who will then run workshops at a large conference in November about how young people are able to manage money. A group of young disabled people will be invited to be a focus group and then run one of the four workshops. This is an opportunity to bring the messages in person to a large audience of people who are responsible for making changes.

The National Youth Agency

www.nya.org.uk

Hear by Right

Produced by The National Youth Agency, 'Hear by Right' is the set of standards for the active involvement of children and young people in decision making. Hear by Right includes guidelines, case studies and much more. It has been used within Local Authorities, Health providers, Education environments, the Voluntary, Community and Third sector as well as part of the implementation of Children's Trusts. www.nya.org.uk/hearbyright

The National Youth Agency
Getting it right for young people

The Speaking Up Youth Parliament

By Craig Milburn



I'd like to start by asking you some questions.

What could be more empowering than having your voice heard, and your voice influencing the decisions of the person listening to you?

Having the chance to say you aren't happy with the way something is and because of what you say changing it?

Isn't one of the key principles of being a recognised and valued member of society the ability to affect change within that society through having your opinions heard and taken seriously?

Speaking Up is an award winning charity for people with learning difficulties and mental health issues. We have been awarded funding by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to spearhead a range of initiatives which will empower young people with learning difficulties to have their voices heard, not only on issues which affect their own lives, but on issues which will affect positive changes to the lives of other people within their communities.

The Speaking Up Youth Parliament will offer 14-25 year olds with learning difficulties the chance to lead their own youth forum – The Parliament. In this Youth Parliament, they will be able to represent the views of their constituents, such as other young people with learning difficulties, directly to the professionals and decision makers from within their community – people such as councillors, MP's and employers.

In common with the Westminster model of government, constituencies are identified and represented by an elected member.

In South Yorkshire, which in this case takes in Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley, where my team is based, constituencies will be formed from existing community services such as colleges, schools and youth groups. Each constituency will select a young person to become a member of the Youth Parliament. That member will then represent their views at bi-monthly parliament meetings.

In order to gain an insight into issues which affect the lives of young people with learning difficulties in South Yorkshire, my team and I are currently involved in a series of consultations with groups of young people throughout the county.



At a glance

Speaking Up has set up a new project to empower young people with learning difficulties to have their voices heard.

One issue that has already been made apparent through consultation is that the young people we have spoken to do not like the term learning *disability*, which is why the term learning *difficulty* has been used throughout this piece.

The information gathered from these consultations will also influence directly the campaigns which are facilitated through parliament and ensure that young peoples voices are heard and listened to and really do influence the decisions of those listening.

And to return to one of the questions asked at the beginning of this article – what could be more empowering than that?

For more information regarding Speaking Up's Youth Projects in South Yorkshire, please contact : **Craig Milburn, Project Leader** on 07827444076 or craig.milburn@speakingup.org

For more information regarding Speaking Up's Youth Projects in Nottinghamshire, please contact: **Jenna Hayes, Project Leader** on 0115 962 8278 or Jenna.Hayes@speakingup.org

For more information about Speaking Up please go to our website: www.speakingup.org



Wecan2

At a glance

Wecan2 was a research project led by young people with a learning disability.

Have a say • Be heard • Take part

Wecan2 was a project funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. It was managed by Mencap and led by six young people with a learning disability from Exeter and Blackpool. Partners for the project included the Youth Participation services in both areas and Dr Mary Kellet of the Children's Research Centre of the Open University. The six young people who took part in the project were Alice, Josh, Lizzie, Ryan, Ross and Allan.

The aim of the project was for the young people to identify barriers to their taking part in youth democracy projects in Devon and Blackpool, and to identify and test potential solutions.

The young people recruited their own individual support workers, which were initially paid for by the project and then later funded by Blackpool local authority and the Youth Opportunity Fund in Devon.

In the first stage of the research, the young people visited youth democracy projects and went to meetings. They found there were problems when:

- There was no individual support.
- There was no transport to get to meetings.
- People spoke too fast for the young people to understand.
- Minutes of meetings were not sent out beforehand and had to be read during the meeting.
- Minutes of meetings and other papers had small text and no pictures, which made it hard for the young people to understand what they were reading.
- People used too many big words (Lizzie recorded 66 big words in one meeting).
- Meetings were too long.

The young people made a number of suggestions on how these youth democracy projects could be made easier for them to take part in and then tested them. For example, in Blackpool, the young people's council voted to use cards which people can hold up to show when

they don't understand something, after they saw a film about using these cards made by the young people.

After changes were made, the young people went back and found that they were:

- ✓ understanding more in the meetings than before
- ✓ really taking part in some of the meetings
- ✓ speaking out more
- ✓ being listened to more than before
- ✗ However this was **not** all of the time

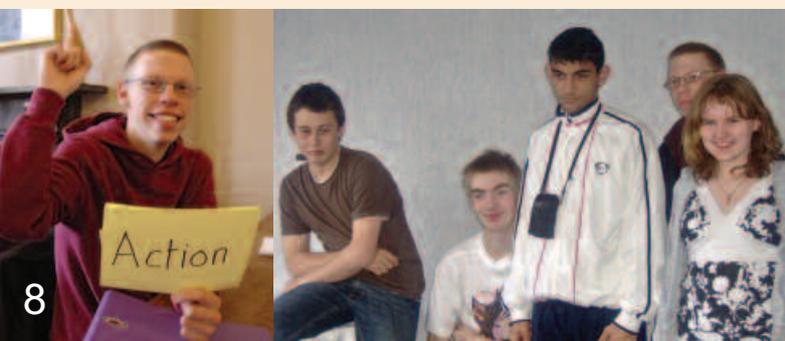
Within the project, the young people actively took part in local initiatives. In Devon, Ross reviewed the accessibility of Devon's young people's website and successfully applied to the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) for money to make the website more accessible.

Allan became co-chair of the Blackpool Youth Opportunity Fund, with the other co-chair acting as a peer mentor to him. Allan and Ryan also took part in judging the national Youth Opportunity Fund awards in 2007.

In Devon, Ross and Alice reviewed the UK Youth Parliament's (UKYP) recruitment process. Alice applied for Lottery Big Boost funding to shadow the UKYP for a year. She then gave recommendations on how they could make the organisation more accessible. The organisation adopted her recommendations and have used them as the basis for a lottery bid to make themselves more accessible to all disabled young people. Devon also took on board Alice's ideas and made their election and training much more accessible.

The young people have put their reports, recommendations and resources on a website
<http://wecan2.open.ac.uk>

For more information on the project contact Paul Smithson at participation@mencap.org.uk



“We are very proud of the research we did. It has become easier for us to take part in meetings since we did this research. There are still some difficult things but our ideas will help people make things even better”

Alice, Josh, Lizzie, Ryan, Ross and Allan

How the Young Researcher Network involves disabled young people in research

At a glance

The Young Researcher Network has been supporting young disabled people to become researchers.

The Young Researcher Network is a new project run by The National Youth Agency. It has been helping young people to do their own research. There are 15 projects across the country. Young people do the research in groups, where they build new skills and confidence, exchange information and spark new friendships, whilst also helping to influence and shape policy.

The research will be finished in November 2008. Then the groups will be using the findings from their research to push for change in local policy or practice on matters that affect their lives. The network gives the groups of young people lots of support to help them with their research projects. They get research skills training, a small research grant, access to a research toolkit, e-newsletter, website platforms, and advice and guidance from experts.

There are two groups of disabled young people within the network. They are pupils from Mencap Pengwern College and members of Just Ask! a Birmingham-based volunteering project. The young people at Pengwern College are researching the views of students around social activities that are available at the residential college. The project then aims to make sure that the views of the pupils are listened to and taken on board in developing a youth night at the college. The Just Ask! group have been using video diaries like the diary room housemates use in Big Brother to capture the voices of disabled young people in Birmingham. The findings will increase awareness and help to create more volunteering and employment opportunities for disabled young people locally.

Disabled young people take part in the Young Researcher Network in lots of different ways. They sit on the steering group, and are advisers on task groups around the

Researchers and supporters from Mencap. Back row: Gwenda Taylor, Liam Hough, Richard Durcan, Phillip Attherton, Front row: Jenny Unwin, Kieran Maund. ►

production of the research toolkit, and annual conference. At the beginning of the project the Young Researcher Network staff worked with Mencap's Participation and Accessibility Teams to make sure training and information was made accessible, delivered creatively and the timing of sessions were suitable for the needs of the disabled young people. Images from Change were used to introducing new research words and ideas to the young people. Doing this benefited all the young people taking part in training. It enabled them to go out into their own communities and confidently complete their research projects.

On the 15 November 2008 we are holding our annual conference at Warwick University. All of our network partners, including pupils from Pengwern College and Just Ask! are going to talk about their research findings. The National Youth Agency is proud to be hosting this event and sharing in the young researchers' achievements. The conference will include workshops run by young people and will consider the implications of all fifteen research projects for policy makers and practitioners. It will also allow people to learn more about how to involve young people in research.

Dr Darren Sharpe

Young Researcher Network Coordinator
darrens@nya.org.uk



At a glance

The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign has launched a new campaign network for young disabled people.

Trailblazing for Disability Rights!

By Bobby Ancil, Muscular Dystrophy Campaign

It's now almost three months since we launched *Trailblazers* at the Houses of Parliament on one of the few glorious summer's days this year has had to offer. In the prematurely autumnal weeks since that memorable day in July, *Trailblazers* have got our heads down and set about recruiting new campaigners and identifying and forming our campaigns.

Trailblazers is the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign's v funded young campaigners network. As *Trailblazers* we learn new skills, make friendships, take action and campaign on issues that affect young disabled people, meaning that *Trailblazers* is for young people and run by young people.

The launch

On July 15th of this year over 60 *Trailblazers* and their families came together with 25 MPs and Government experts to launch the young campaigners network in Westminster. With *Trailblazers* from across the country in attendance regional television news stations covered the event and *Trailblazers* were interviewed on why they were part of the network.

24 year-old Trailblazer, David Gale from Carlisle in Cumbria, who has Becker Muscular Dystrophy, said: "Trailblazers will be a great opportunity for me to get my voice heard on stadiums. By going to the launch at the House of Commons I had the chance to meet other young campaigners and tell the politicians what I think about facilities in Carlisle as well as elsewhere around the country."

23 year-old Trailblazer Matt Smith, from Bridgewater, who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy said: "Trailblazers will give me an opportunity to make friends with people in a similar situation to myself and to work together to push for progress. I personally am doing very well for my age and still walk using my leg braces. I hope to inspire and encourage younger members of the group to keep active. I think this is a great opportunity to make a real positive difference for people with neuromuscular conditions and hopefully all people coping with physical disabilities."



Campaigning

So far, we have selected three issues on which we want to get our voices heard and campaign. These initial campaigns will address the ways young disabled people's lives are complicated by and discriminated against by unsatisfactory access to public transport, education and leisure facilities, focussing in particular on cinemas and sports stadiums.

Access to cinemas

Our access to cinemas campaign is already up and running with two Trailblazers Ambassadors, Laura and Judith Merry, taking the fight to their local Odeon cinema in Aylesbury.

When the twins went to see the latest Batman film, they were told that they were a 'fire risk' because they were wheelchair users and they would take too long to transfer out of their seat in the event of a fire. As a result, they were forced to sit next to the fire exit in the front row, which resulted in painful necks and a disappointing experience.

Laura said: "Every time I have gone to the cinema I have always transferred and have done so with no issue made, in Ireland, Paris, London and the US. Transferring from a wheelchair to a seat is normal practice at theatres where most are old buildings. When you book tickets you are automatically asked if you want to stay in your wheelchair or transfer. You are given the option of where you sit."

"Luckily enough, I am one of the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign's Lead Trailblazers and I took this issue up with my local MP, the press and other disability groups, as part of a campaign to ensure improved access to leisure facilities for disabled people.

I've also met with the Minister for Disabled people in Parliament, only last month and will also be taking the matter up with her. It's so important that we let the people who make the decisions that affect our lives know what we think, and that we are simply not happy with the services we get."

The enforced seating of wheelchair users on the front row of cinemas is something that many Trailblazers know only too well, and as Trailblazers we will be doing everything we can to ensure cinemas provide better training for staff and improve accessibility.

What next?

We are recruiting more *Trailblazers* – anyone between 16 and 30 who is keen to fight for the rights of disabled people can sign up.

Once groups of ten campaigners have been established in each region, *Trailblazers* will then learn how to organise their very own campaign. This might involve anything from being an undercover reporter, running an event in Parliament, organising fun social events, managing a website or contacting local media.

Trailblazers will also have the chance to tap into their creative side – the name of the network was dreamed up by 17-year-old Michaela Hollywood who has spinal muscular atrophy and the concept for the unique *Trailblazers* flyers was created by young people attending the design studio at the Neuromuscular Centre in Cheshire.



If you want to hear more about *Trailblazers* and get a piece of the action:
email: Bobby Ancil at trailblazers@muscular-dystrophy.org
Sign up online at www.muscular-dystrophy.org/trailblazers
or text 'muscle' to 84424 and we'll get in touch

My dreams for the

Nat (22 years old)

I stay at home with my mum and dad. I go to Bridge College. I work in a local supermarket. Carolyn from college takes me to work. I like cooking and Northern Kids Theatre of Art.

Nichola (22 years old)

I go to Bridge College and I like cooking.

Shaffia (22 years old)

I live at home with my mum and dad but I would like to live in my own home. I go to Bridge College in Stockport. I would like to work in a shop. I like to watch TV and Bollywood films. I would like to live in Pakistan.

Jenny (22 years old)

I live in Edgeley, Stockport with my family. I would always like to live here. I go to Bridge College in Stockport. I like to watch TV and I like to go out with my PA Joan.

Catherine (19 years old)

Where do you live?

Kentish Town and I really like it there as I know it well.

Do you go to college?

I go to college, doing business studies.

What would your dream job be?

My dream job would be to be a carer to disabled children.

What do you do in your free time?

Not much as I'm too busy at the moment.

Do you volunteer?

Yes I do admin for a charity, Action for Kids.

What are your dreams for the future?

I'd like a job that pays well and gives me some spare time.

James (23 years old)

Where do you live?

I live in High Barnet, North West London. I would like to continue to live in High Barnet. I would be happy to move to a different place if there was a better job there.

What are you doing at the moment?

I have finished my National Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (Tree Surgery) and have finished my college course. I went to Capel Manor College.

What is your dream job?

My dream job would be working with a tree surgery company or perhaps a gardening company. I have just started doing some part time work with OK Trees, a tree surgery company. I work 8 hours.



◀ (Front row) From left to right: Shaffia, Nichola, Jenny and Nat

future

What do you like to do in your freetime?

In my free time I am part of CAMRA (CAMpaign for Real Ale), I help staff the Air Training Corps (A.T.C.) twice a week and I also partake in aeromodelling (making airfix models).

Do you do any volunteering?

I volunteer for The Childrens' Trust by doing speeches to help raise money for them, as I once went to them for rehabilitation following a severe Road Traffic Accident (R.T.A.).

What are your dreams for the future?

My dreams for the future are to continue to work as a tree surgeon and to raise over £5,000,000 for The Childrens' Trust.

Adam (16 years old)

Where do you live?

I live in an eco bungalow in York which is very big on the inside, and has a lot of living space with a lovely garden at the back. I like my eco bungalow because I get my very own wet floor shower room, but I would like to live in London because I would be able to see my Granny a lot more because she lives in London.

Do you go to college?

I have just started at York Collage and I am doing a media course because I would like to find out how they make films and TV programmes.

What do you like to do in your freetime?

I like to watch TV and films at home and I also like going on days out to the countryside or coast with my lovely family.

Do you go to youth clubs?

I don't go to any youth clubs but I am a member of the York Boccia Club and I have just been awarded a grant to pay for me to attend the 2009 Special Summer Games Event in Leicester. I am really looking forward to taking part in this national sporting event next year

Do you volunteer?

When I was doing my ASDAN course at school I did some volunteering in a care home for older people. I liked chatting to the older people, they enjoyed having some company and were very friendly.

What are your dreams for the future?

My dreams for the future are to work behind the scenes on a big movie in HOLLYWOOD! And have my own TV chat show and I will invite my hero Jackie Chan to be a guest on my chat show to talk about his latest blockbuster.



From left to right: Catherine, Adam and James

News

All the information on these pages, including links to websites and reports, are available on www.transitioninfonetwork.org.uk

Events

'A Home of My Own'

26th November 2008 in London

Dimensions are holding their second national conference on transition, where they will be highlighting best practice for moving young people with a learning difficulty into a home of their own. Delegates will also be the first to hear the key findings from their new research report 'A Home of My Own' that will be launched at the conference.

Cost: £199 (voluntary / charities) £249 (local authorities / public / NHS).

Download a booking form: www.lostintransition.org.uk

Email: conference@dimensions-uk.org

Telephone: 0114 241 2112



Skills annual higher education conference

26th November 2008 in London

Mission possible: improving disabled student retention in higher education

Monday 1 December – Tuesday 2 December 2008, Nottingham

This year's annual higher education conference is aimed at all staff who plan and deliver services for disabled students – including senior managers, heads of student support services, disability officers and departmental disability contacts. The conference will update delegates on the main issues in the sector and how these impact on disabled student retention, including HEFCE's review of its guidance and policy in relation to support provided to disabled students, and how the new centralised financial support service is working for disabled students.

More information and how to book

Email: Sally Hayward at sally@skill.org.uk with 'HE Conference' in the subject bar.

Web: www.skill.org.uk

Overcoming Transition Challenges for Young People with Asperger Syndrome

25 November 2008, London

With the recent government launch of a national autism strategy and the appointment of a new autism champion, the profile of this invisible disability is set to rise dramatically. In addition, a study on the needs of those in transition from children's to adult services has also been commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health. This Brookdale Care conference focuses specifically on Asperger syndrome and the transition between children's and adult services.

For more information:

Tel: 020 7347 3574

Email: ebookings@lexisnexis.co.uk

Opportunities

Get blogging for Mencap

The Mencap family carers team is looking for parents, carers and people with a learning disability who want to share their experiences of daily life with others in a series of online blogs. Each blogger chosen will receive £50 worth of M&S vouchers! A blog is like an online diary, where you can share your daily experiences of learning disability. You can create your blog from written entries or from a series of photographs – like a diary in pictures.

If you would like to create a blog for the Mencap website, please email or call for an initial chat about your idea: Rachel Crews, Telephone: 0207 696 5411

Email: Rachel.crews@mencap.org.uk

Web: www.mencap.org.uk

Policy update

Aiming High for Disabled Children

Aiming High for Disabled Children is the Government's transformation programme for disabled children's services in England. There is a lot of work going on around the country on the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme. In many areas more short breaks are available to families.



You can read all about this programme, and download a Summary for children and Young People from the Every Child Matters website.

Web: www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/ahdc/

Bercow Review

A ten-month review into provision for children who have speech problems by the Conservative MP John Bercow, has been published. The review shows that seven per cent of children have a serious communication problem and in some of the most disadvantaged areas, up to 50 per cent of children have speech problems.

Web: www.dcsf.gov.uk/bercowreview/

Youth Crime Action Plan

Published 15th July 08

The Youth Crime Action Plan is the government's plan for how they will tackle crimes committed by young people. It contains some reference to disabled young people and young people with special educational needs.

Web: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/youth-crime/

14-19 Education

There are a lot of changes to 14-19 education that will be starting from September this year. They are things like the new Diploma that students can study, raising the participation age: by 2013, everyone will stay on in learning or training to age 17, and to age 18 by 2015. Foundation Learning Tier: additional support for students who aren't ready to engage with GCSEs, Diplomas or Apprenticeships.

Read more on the DCSF's website here:

Web: www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19

£96 million boost to improve healthcare and employment prospects for those with learning disabilities

People with learning disabilities are to benefit from £96million in Government funding that will help provide them with better healthcare, community support and employment prospects.

The new £96m of revenue funding will pay for costs incurred as a result of people with learning disabilities moving from campuses to housing in the community. This will include support for health action planning, workforce training and development, advocacy support for more inclusive community based activities and help to get people into employment.

Web: <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=376083&NewsAreaID=2>

Reports and Resources

The National Charter of Rights for Disabled Children and Young People Handbook

This is an unique handbook written by Include Me TOO, disabled children and young people and supported by UNICEF and NSPCC. It clearly identifies the 10 Standards of the Charter and how they fit within the Every Child Matters Agenda and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is the first time that the rights of Disabled Children and Young People have been amplified and recorded. This handbook is an invaluable resource that ensures that these rights can be upheld, valued and supported by society and all agencies and individuals working with disabled children and young people.

To order a copy:

Email: im2@includemetoo.org.uk.

Tel: 01902 711604

Web: www.includemetoo.com/media/pdf/IM2_Book_order_form.pdf

Healthcare for all: Report of the Independent Inquiry into access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities

The Inquiry, led by Sir Jonathan Michael, sought to identify the action needed to ensure adults and children with learning disabilities receive appropriate treatment in acute and primary healthcare in England. The establishment of the Inquiry followed the publication of Death by Indifference

by Mencap and the Disability Rights Commission's formal Investigation into health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities and people with mental health problems.

Web: www.iahpld.org.uk/Healthcare_final.pdf



New report from Contact a Family highlights financial struggle of families with disabled children

Contact a Family has published a new report called 'Counting the Costs', which shows that families with disabled children have been rocked by the soaring cost of living and are going without basic food and heating. The report is based on a survey of almost 800 parent carers in the UK about their financial situation in the current economic crisis.

For families concerned about their finances, you can telephone Contact a Family's freephone helpline: 0808 808 3555.

Download the report: www.cafamily.org.uk

New guides from Participation Works

'How to celebrate children and young people's success'
This guide will look at what we mean by celebrating success, why it's so important, and how it should be an integral part of all work with children and young people. Through case studies, the guide will also show how different organisations make sure they involve children and young people in celebrating their achievements.

'How to use multimedia tools to engage children and young people in decision-making'

This guide sets out a wide range of media tools you could use in your work with children and young people. It also provides a range of multimedia toolkits with information and tips on using specific tools.

Order line: 0845 603 6725

Web: www.participationworks.org.uk

Useful Organisations

Organisations that make up the Transition Information Network

Association for Real Change (ARC)

www.arcuk.org.uk

Contact a Family

www.cafamily.org.uk

Council for Disabled Children

www.ncb.org.uk/cdc

Dimensions

www.dimensions-uk.org

Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities

www.learningdisabilities.org.uk

Macintyre

www.macintyrecharity.org

Mencap

www.mencap.org.uk

National Autistic Society

www.nas.org.uk

Scope

www.scope.org.uk

Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities

www.skill.org.uk

Organisations that support the Transition Information Network

Barnardo's

www.barnardos.org.uk

British Institute of Learning Disabilities

www.bild.org.uk

Children in Scotland

www.childreninscotland.org.uk

The Children's Society

www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Children in Wales

www.childreninwales.org.uk

Home Farm Trust

www.hft.org.uk

National Development Team (NDT)

www.ndt.org.uk

Norah Fry Research Centre

www.bristol.ac.uk/norahfry

Paradigm

www.paradigm-uk.org

Sense

www.sense.org.uk

The Shaw Trust

www.shaw-trust.org.uk

Speaking Up

www.speakingup.org

Valuing People

www.valuingpeople.gov.uk

