

Help needed Pharmacy accessibility survey

We are doing a joint accessibility survey with Hackney LINK of the 49 pharmacies in Hackney, with a questionnaire to see how easy it is to get into the pharmacy, to get to the counter, whether information about services is displayed properly and if any consultation room is private.

You could be part of a visiting team, or you could report on the pharmacies you regularly use by completing the survey form and returning it to us.

Please contact us and we will send you forms - but please return them quickly so we don't double up on visits.



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Centre for Independent Living?

A feasibility study is underway on the creation of a user led organisation providing services for older and disabled people living in Hackney.

To have your say, come to the final consultation event: Tuesday 20th September, 10.00am-12.30 Graeae Theatre, Bradbury Studios, 138 Kingsland Road, E8 2DY (near the Geffrye Museum).

Fully accessible - help with transport available if needed.

Let us know if you would like to attend.

020 7241 5908
Text: 07810 771692



9th September
Paralympic Tickets go on sale for 3 weeks, to register on line:
www.london2012.com

19th October
Naidex South at Excel
Homecare, disability and rehabilitation Exhibition: Your chance to touch, test and compare the latest products to aid independent living (free) Register on Line: <http://www.exporeg.co.uk/sites/emap/naidex/s11/vis/login.asp>

20th October
Disability Capital Conference at Excel
Free. Will cover Olympic legacy, transport, hate crime, volunteering, invisible impairments and disability equality practice. Register *online*: www.london.gov.uk/event-meeting/2011/oct/disability-capital-conference

In the Swim!

Enjoy free swimming for disabled people and carers in all four of Hackney pools!



Disability Backup

September 2011

Welcome to Disability Backup's Newsletter

Empowering, Consulting and Informing Disabled People

ON THE BUSES

DBU members Maureen Ford, Mary Moseray, Harry Gilmore and Andrea Rawlings attended the 'On The Buses' Day of Action - a joint initiative by Age UK London, Greater London Forum for Older People and Transport for All, focused on raising awareness of the barriers faced by older and disabled people.

Disabled and older people still face constant problems when travelling by bus in London. Attendees said that drivers were often insensitive to their needs in getting on and off the bus, risking falls and that drivers and fellow passengers sometimes behaved badly or abusively.

Commenting on the Mayor's new Transport Strategy, London Assembly Member, Jennette Arnold, said that some important issues

were not dealt with.

"We want to say to the Mayor: we have you in our sights!" she said.

Panellists all agreed that the best way to improve the service is to respond to the needs of the customers. Unfortunately people do not complain enough. If the public do not inform the bus operators of their concerns, then their problems will be ignored.

TfL state that new buses with better access are appearing and bus drivers will receive more intensive training on customer service, disability and equality awareness.

DBU is preparing a report to lobby for a better transport for disabled people living in Hackney - let us know your concerns!



L to R: Maureen Ford, Mary Moseray, Jennette Arnold and Andrea Rawlings

Next forum meeting:

Friday
23rd September 2011

Robbie Spence —
Disability Alliance
Disabled People and Welfare benefits

Debbie Hayes—Age UK
Advocacy Issues

10.30am—12.30pm

St Luke's Church
Homerton Terrace
E9 6RT

Buses: 30,236,276, W15
Limited parking available

Help with transport on request for people with mobility difficulties.

Benefits Bonfire

Cutting the cost of welfare is a top priority for the Government – and disabled people will be amongst those hardest hit, risking increasing poverty and despair for disabled people and their families.

The Welfare Reform Bill plans to abolish all means tested benefits for people of working age, as well as abolishing Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and Disability Living Allowance.

Neil Coyle of the Disability Alliance says: *“The Government’s plans contain some advantages for disabled people, but also significant risks surrounding how – and if – disabled people will be able to access appropriate support at crucial times”*.

The new benefit, Universal Credit is to be introduced in October 2013, replacing six existing means-tested benefits and tax credits for working-age people.

There are real risks for disabled people, who could have complex support arrangements removed.

Disability Living Allowance will become Personal Independent Payments (PIP). Although most eligibility rules will remain the same, some assessment criteria will alter and it may become harder to qualify if you have less severe health problems.

The Bill also proposes that people receiving PIP will automatically lose it when they reach 65 – or pensionable age. This means disabled people will lose support despite levels of needs and costs of living remaining high and is another worrying signal of the tough times ahead for disabled people and their families across Britain.

There will be more details and a chance to ask questions of a Disability Alliance expert at the Disability Backup Forum meeting on 23rd September.

Fair Charging Consultation

Hackney Council is asking for your views on proposals to make changes to how much they charge for care services for older and disabled people.

Hackney Council want to hear from people who may be directly affected by the proposals including service users and their carers.

To have your say you can

- complete the [online survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QF75HBH) (www.surveymonkey.com/s/QF75HBH)
- send written views by completing our consultation questionnaire and return to Freepost LON 18819, The Consultation Team, London Borough of Hackney, Mare Street, E8 IEA.
- email consultation@hackney.gov.uk including 'Fairer Charging' in the subject line.call on 020 8356 6244 to speak to someone or
- request help with completing the questionnaire.

Deadline to have your say is October 10th 2011

‘ Webinars’ for disabled people

On-line seminars aimed at disabled people are available in September and October. Martyn Sibley is working with the Council to deliver seminars to give, receive and discuss inspirational information online, in part, through his personal story. Disabled since birth, Martyn knows about the challenges, difficulties and complexities of life. Martyn explains how he and his parents accepted his limitations, identified the barriers in the way of his goals and then grabbed life.

The sessions will look at independent living; finding accessible accommodation, receiving social care and how to enjoy leisure or travel anywhere and everywhere. You can take part in as many or as few as you wish.

The webinar technology is simple. You will be guided with friendly instructions throughout. There is no need to travel to a venue either, just

reach a computer. Each seminar gives quick, helpful and applicable advice and the opportunity to ask questions. And it’s all free!

If you’re struggling to picture how it all works, you can look at one Martyn did on personal care <http://www.vimeo.com/20756380>
Wed September 21st @ 2pm - Independent living part 1
Wed October 5th @ 2pm - Independent Living part 2
Wed October 19th @ 2pm - Accessing local leisure
Wed 2nd November @ 2pm - Adventure holidays and travel.

If your are interested then you can access webibair from this link. <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/disability-webinars.htm>

Disabled? Looking for work

Here, at last, is a job board which specialises in disability! Only those employers who are genuinely interested in attracting disabled candidates will advertise on here.

There is no guarantee of a job, of course, but at least there won’t be that response of a potential employer running a mile in the opposite direction because a candidate happens to be disabled!

It’s free to register on the site. You can search for jobs and upload your CV. Some employers don’t advertise they just search for CVs, so it is a good idea to register :www.evenbreak.co.uk

Direct Payments Forum

5th October 2011

Speaker: Dona Randolph

Direct Payment Manager

St Luke’s Church
Homerton Terrace
E9 6RT

Buses: 30,236,276,W15

Do you have questions about Direct Payments?

This is your opportunity to ask them!