

Getting There – Accessible Local Transport

Representatives from local transport services Taxicard, Dial a Ride, Hackney Community Transport and the Blue Badge parking scheme have been invited to speak at the May Disability Backup Forum.

These services are all valuable, but not without problems. Our recent survey of members for example showed that of those who used Dial a Ride 16% thought the service was good or very good, but nearly a quarter, thought it was bad or very bad. 29% thought taxicard was good or very good, but 20% thought it was bad or very bad.

In *Getting There*, our recent report based on the survey, we argued that, given the difficulties experienced by disabled people in using these services, management of them needs to focus upon flexibility and orientation towards the needs of the client. For example Dial-a-Ride Operators should be willing to consult an on-line map if the destination post code is not known to a disabled or older client.

Accessible transport is a vital right for disabled people, because it enables people to take part in the community, visit family and friends and generally lead their lives like everyone else. If you would like to find out about these services, or have issues to raise about how they work, come along to

the Forum and have your say.

Much more on transport and disabled people in Hackney is discussed in our report *Getting There*, which is available on request from us in electronic or paper form.



Next Disability Backup Forum Meeting May 31st 2012 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Representatives from
Hackney Community Transport
Taxicard Scheme
Dial a ride

St Mathias Church Hall
Wordsworth Road,
London
N16 8DD

Buses: 149, 67, 243, 76,

Nearest Land Mark: Princess May School

Help with transport on request for people with mobility difficulties.
Call Carol on 020 7241 5908

Getting In – Access to Culture and Leisure

Access to theatres, cinemas, concerts and all public buildings and events has improved in recent years in many respects. Major venues generally have an accessibility policy and details can be obtained on inquiry or on the organisation's website.

However, what happens in practice is not always the same as what is supposed to happen. That is why it is important for disabled people to check up and insist that venues live up to their responsibilities to make everybody welcome.

At the January Forum Mandi Peers explained how her organisation *Attitude is Everything* organises 'Mystery Shoppers' a team of disabled people who attend live music concerts and gigs, festivals, and nightclubs and then write reports on how accessible these events are. Mandi then collates the information and passes it to her colleague who works with event organisers to help them improve access at their venues.

Now we are doing something similar in Hackney. We appeal to all our members, supporters and sympathisers to let us know any problems they experience in accessing culture and leisure facilities. This could be a cinema or a theatre, or it could be a park, a swimming pool, a club or a pub – or anywhere you use – or perhaps would like to use but at present cannot.

DBU has a check list of access issues for venues. If you complete such a form after

attending a concert, stage event or film, we will pay for your ticket ! Just contact us for a form and let us know where you would like to mystery shop, as we do not need the same places to be checked over repeatedly!

Human Rights for ALL

Three DBU members recently attended an introductory course in the Human Rights Act run by the British Institute of Human Rights and put on by Age UK East London for volunteers and people taking part in its projects.

Too often the press gives the impression that human rights are something for terrorists or sex offenders, rather than rights enshrined in law for everyone, but especially for vulnerable people.

Far from being some foreign import, the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on which it is based, arise from the work of British lawyers in the aftermath of the Second World War and political leaders like Churchill, who were determined that the kind of brutal persecution perpetrated by the Nazis of disabled people, amongst many other groups, should not be allowed to happen again.

There is a possibility of a fully fledged human rights course opening in the Autumn to empower people to use human rights language in dealing with public authorities, like government, the health service and the local authority. If you would like to take part, please let us know.

Fancy getting fit with a buddy?

Are you a disabled person who wants to get active and stay active? Yoodo Sports, an inclusive project and website, is looking to link disabled people with volunteer buddies to get fit and healthy and discover the motivation to take part in regular exercise. The project claims it is particularly aimed at people who haven't been active for a long time or may have lost their confidence in sporting activities; promising to make it fun and supportive. Visit Yoodo Sports website: www.yoodosports.com or call the Telephone Team on: 08456 717173 (ext 1). Mobile: 07860021160.

New Community Learning Opportunity

Disabled People Against the Cuts, Inclusion London & London Civic Forum are offering a free skill sharing session in June.

When? 10.30am – 4.30pm, Saturday 16th June 2012

Where? SCOPE offices, 6 Market Road, N7 9PW

Lunch is provided

BSL interpreters available – please notify if required.

This learning workshop, led by a skilled Take Part facilitator, is an opportunity for community activists who identify as disabled to learn together by sharing skills and expertise, and reflecting on experiences.

To sign up, please email Kate Burls at kateb@londoncivicforum.org.uk or phone her on 020 8709 9773 . Places are limited, so please act fast.

Supporting young disabled people to be future leaders

Young disabled people are being encouraged to become future leaders of the independent living movement via a European seminar taking place later this year.

The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) is offering disabled people, between 18-30 year old, the opportunity to take part in the seminar between 21 and 28 October 2012 in Strasbourg, France, and sessions will be in English.

If you would like more information about the project or wish to receive an application form, contact: enilstudysession2012@gmail.com or visit www.enil.eu. The deadline for applications is 10 June 2012.

A free and fun 2012 event access for disabled people

On 7th June 2012, the Fattylympics - a community event satirising the You Know Whats in East London 2012 - will take place at the Grassroots Resource Centre, West Ham. supported

Between noon and 5pm the event, supported by Disabled People Against the Cuts, will have fun performances and DIY activities, but the focus will be on non-competitive games. One of the organisers, Charlotte, said: *"It's important we make the Fattylympics as accessible as we can. It's free to attend, held in a space that is accessible by public transport, with parking nearby, and flat surfaces and accessible loos for wheelies."*

For further details or to volunteer see: <http://fattylympics.blogspot.co.uk/>

Social Care in the 21 Century- the reality and the vision

Free event: What social care do we need? What's working and what needs to change?

Help shape Inclusion London's and Age UK London's response to the Government's imminent white paper on social care.

12 June 11am – 4.30pm at: SCOPE, 6 Market Road, London, N7 9PW.
Information on the event is available from:
JAldridge@AgeUKLondon.org.uk
henrietta.doyle@inclusionlondon.co.uk

Improving Pedestrian Access

As part of Hackney's Local Improvement Plan from Transport for London, Hackney council has some money earmarked for 'pedestrian accessibility improvements' - that is dropped kerbs or other small improvements, probably at 15 or 20 sites. Alternatively, it could be used to do one or two small junction improvement schemes.

Where do you think such improvements could be made? Let us know and we will tell Streetscene.

Age UK Hackney
22 Dalston Lane, E8 3AZ
E-mail: caroldavis@ageukhackney.org.uk
www.disabilitybackup.org.uk/index.php



Disability Backup
Tel: 020 7241 5908
Text: 07810 771692

.DBU days
Mon: 1.30pm—5.30pm
Wed: 9.30am—5.30pm
Thurs: 9.30am—5.30pm



Promoting Independence

Hackney Council has produced a Commitment Statement on its adult social care services, which was discussed at the recent DBU event on adult social care.

The statement 'Promoting Independence' outlines the strategic principles which the Council will adopt in planning its delivery of adult social care in the coming period.

The Council says it aims to provide 'something for everybody,' whilst prioritising services that will help people live as independently as possible.

DBU members have a number of concerns about the document. For example it does not emphasise the need for the dignity of clients to be at the forefront of all adult social care.

This document affects everyone who is receiving or who may need Care now or in the future. We are concerned that the priority given to community support may be at the expense of budgets on care packages. If people do not meet the 'care criteria,' they will have to rely on 'support' from voluntary organisations that don't have the resources to deliver. People will be offered alternatives to care, e.g. social activity like tea dances, meals on wheels (perhaps a private sector version you have to pay for), befriending by volunteers, neighbours and other community members.

We will let you have the document on request, so get involved, read it and let us know your views so that we can let the Council know.

Future Forum Meeting topics

June 28th 2.00pm: Housing
St Mathias Church Hall, Wordsworth Rd,
N16 8DD

July 17th 2.00pm: Public Transport. St
Mathias Church Hall, Wordsworth Rd.,
N16 8DD