



Disability Backup

June 2012

Welcome to Disability Backup's Newsletter
Empowering, consulting and informing disabled people

Meeting Housing Need

Deputy Mayor Cllr Karen Alcock will be attending our June Forum. She is Joint Chair of the Better Homes Partnership and leads for Hackney on a wide range of housing issues.

Lettings manager John Isted, is responsible for housing allocation for housing association and Hackney Homes properties

Liz Watson is the manager of the private sector housing team, which protects the rights of tenants with private landlords. Tenants can contact the team if they have a concern about conditions within their privately rented accommodation where the landlord has refused to take any action .

The team also addresses public health issues related to private sector housing such as rodents, insect infestations and dumping of rubbish. Their role is to make sure that landlords deal with public health problems. If you a resident living in Hackney with such concerns you can call the team on 020 8356 4556

The Manager from the **Occupational Therapy team, Carlo Gizzarelli**, is also coming. His team assesses disabled people with mobility difficulties in their home environment and makes recommendations to allow disabled people to be safer and more independent at home. Carlo will give a brief overview of the service he manages and will be available to answers any queries that you may have about the occupational therapy service.

Next Forum Meetings

June 28th 2012

Direct Payments Forum
11.30am — 1.30pm

Speakers:
Amina Begum
City & Hackney Carers
&
Ali Rusbridge
Skills for care

Disability Backup Forum
2.00pm—4.00pm

Speakers:
Cllr Karen Alcock Deputy Mayor
John Isted—Housing Manager
Liz Watson—Private Sector Housing
manager
Carlo Gizzarelli— Occupational
Therapy manager
&
Andy Green—DPAC

St Matthias 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.

Olympics

Three DBU representatives met Charlie Forman, the head of the Hackney 2012 unit, at the end of May, following his presentation at the April Forum, to discuss access arrangements for disabled people during the Olympic Flame procession on July 21st.

The Torch procession will enter Hackney on Shoreditch High Street at 3.47pm. It will travel north up Kingsland Road, left into Stoke Newington Church Street and right into Green Lanes and on into Clissold Park at 4.47pm.

We agreed there would be a platform for disabled people sited outside the police station on Stoke Newington High Rd., where the footway is particularly wide.

We also pressed for:

- Banning cycling in Clissold Park on the day, so that people with visual and hearing impairments are not at risk;
- Use of some of the electric vehicles available in the Olympic Park for the Clissold Park event;
- Details of the location of parking bays for disabled drivers;

We also expressed concern that the one entrance to be used to Clissold Park, on Green Lanes, would mean a long walk for disabled people.

On August 29th the Paralympic torch will travel from Stoke Mandeville to Victoria Park and then on to the Lido in London Fields.

Activities for that day are not yet finalised and the Hackney 2012 Olympic Team have said that they are open to suggestions as they are looking for ideas. So if you have any ideas, let us know and we will pass them on!

Health & Human Rights

DBU representatives attended a meeting of the British Institute for Human Rights' Health & Human Rights network on 15th June.

David Price, a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Primary Care and Public Health spoke about the human rights implications of the Health and Social Care Act and Stephen Bowen, Director of the BIHR, gave an overview.

The meeting went on to discuss various groups' plans to incorporate awareness of human rights into their work in the next year.

MYSTERY SHOPPING

Do you have problems accessing a cinema, theatre, park, swimming pool, club, pub or church?

DBU wants to know about any problems you may have accessing these facilities. All you have to do is complete a checklist and return it to us we'll even pay for a ticket !

Checklists are available on request by calling Carol on 020 7241 5908. Or you can collect a copy at our next forum meeting on June 28th, or download it from our website.

If you would like to know more about our Mystery Shop checklist do not hesitate to ask.

A free and fun 2012 event for disabled people

Firstly, apologies, the Fattylympics - a non-profit community event satirising the You Know Whats in East London 2012 - will take place on Saturday, 7th July at Grassroots, West Ham (and not in June as we incorrectly reported last month).

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."*

The event will take place at the Grassroots Resource Centre, Memorial Park, Memorial Avenue, West Ham, E15 3DB.

How to get there:

Public transport: West Ham Station is served by the Jubilee, District and Hammersmith and City underground lines. It is also accessible via the DLR and is on the c2c line which goes from Liverpool Street to Shoeburyness. The 276 and 323 buses stop close by.

Private transport:- There is free parking on the streets by Memorial Park, and behind the Grassroots building. There are secure bike racks, and buggy racks for people with children, right in front of Grassroots.

<http://fattylympics.blogspot.co.uk>

DPAC

Andy Green of Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) will be visiting the June Forum.

"DPAC was formed by a group of disabled people after the first mass protest against the austerity cuts and their impact on disabled people held on the 3rd October in Birmingham.

DPAC is for everyone who believes that disabled people should have full human rights and equality. It is for everyone who refuses to stay silent about the injustices delivered by wealthy politicians on ordinary people and their lives.

If you would like more information about DPAC you can visit their website on: <http://www.dpac.uk.net> or e-mail: mail@dpac.uk.net

Receive training in disability advocacy and advice

Choice in Hackney is looking for people to take part in its popular 12 week training course in Disability Advocacy and Advice. Participants will undertake a 6-8 week work experience placement with a London employer.

Hackney Community Law Centre is committed to supporting disabled people and has signed up to offering a Choice in Hackney work placement at its offices.

Interested ? call Haq Ismail on 020 7613 8136 or email: haq.ismail@choiceinhackney.org

Academies Free to Ignore Protection for Disabled People ?

Following press reports of the refusal of Mossbourne Academy to admit an 11 year old boy with cerebral palsy on the grounds that his attendance would 'adversely affect other students,' DBU has written to Education Minister Michael Gove.

Mossbourne says that because it is an Academy it is not subject to a 'special educational needs tribunal,' like other schools.

This means that it is impossible to test the school's argument and regulations laid down to protect disabled people can be ignored by a school because it has Academy status.

So DBU has asked Mr Gove to whether this is the case and if so how it can be justified.

We think that young people should not be excluded from learning opportunities because of impairments which are irrelevant to their academic potential.

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



Personalisation - A co-operative approach

Do you want to learn about 'personalisation' and the opportunities it may bring for people who need carers and for paid carers?

26th June 2012, -1pm – 4pm
Venue: - St Mungos, 146 Mare Street, Hackney E8 3SG

Speakers

Caroline Nelson - Choice in Hackney
Brian Gardiner: LBH
Mick Taylor from Mutual Advantage

Book by calling: Jackie or Shamima on
0207 923 8361

Road Safety

Hackney's 'Streetscene' has a new project digging into road safety and allied transport issues in the Borough and would like to consult our members on how to proceed.

Our Transport Report discusses many transport and safety issues important to disabled people and this is a chance to take them up.

If you could come to a Focus Group meeting on **Thursday 12th July** (time and place still to be confirmed) please give us a call and let us know right away !

DBU Calendar

July 17th : Public Transport

September 26th : Streetscene

October : Welfare Reform Act