

Disability Backup

Welcome to Disability Backup's Newsletter

Empowering, consulting and informing disabled people

Deputy Mayor Cllr Karen Alcock signs DBU Language Code

At our June Forum, Deputy Mayor Cllr Karen Alcock signed Disability Backup's Language Code.

One important area of ground-breaking work for Disability Backup is for key people and organisations in Hackney to adopt the Disability Backup Language Code and the Social Model of Disability on which it is based.



Cllr Karen Alcock and Maureen Ford

We campaign for equal opportunities and for a change in attitudes. One way of working towards more positive attitudes is to look at and improve the language used about disabled people.

Whilst we respect an individual's preferences on how they wish to describe themselves, Disability BackUp believes public services should embrace and use positive language.

We would like other key figures to endorse the Language Code.

If you would like to know more about the Code or would like to have a copy, please call 020 7241 5908.

Next Forum Meeting

July 17th 2012

Speakers:

Nick Clarke - Disability Law
Jackie Brett - City and Hackney
Health and Social Care Forum

Disability Backup Forum
2.00pm—4.00pm

St Mathias Church Hall

Wordsworth Road,
London
N16 8DD

Buses: 149, 67, 243, 76,

Nearest Land Mark: Princess May
School

Centre for Independent Living/ User Led Organisation

The last Government set a target that every local authority should have an independent User Led Organisation or Centre for Independent Living led by disabled people by the end of 2010. In Hackney the Disability Special Interest Group, a group of organisations working with disabled people and part of the City & Hackney Health & Social Care Forum, worked with the Council to produce a feasibility study into how this could be done. As part of the feasibility study a series of consultations were held last year. The feasibility report recommended that such an organisation should be established to deliver:

- Accessible advice, information and guidance;
- Access to employment;
- User involvement;
- Independent living;
- Lived experience:

The full report is available on the HSCF website here: <http://www.hscf.org.uk/?q=node/1431>

The feasibility study also recommended that a new organisation should be established for this purpose.

Hackney has been slow to act upon the findings of the report, given the funding difficulties in establishing a new organisation in the current climate.

However, Choice in Hackney is the main organisation led by disabled people and a member of Disability Rights UK.

The CIL Steering Group is therefore considering recommending that Choice in Hackney is best placed to take the lead on this work and to develop the new organisation, with partners. If this is agreed, Choice will set up an advisory group in the Autumn and will apply to a Facilitation Fund intended to strengthen such initiatives.

Personal Assistants Co-operative

Hackney Social Care Forum, in partnership with the Black & Ethnic Minority Working Group and Hackney African Forum has held an initial meeting to explore the idea of setting up a Personal Assistants Co-operative.

This was prompted by the need to ensure that local people in need of social care can get a good quality assured service and to ensure that local people who wish to work as Personal Assistants get the best training and pay possible within funding constraints.

One of the speakers at the meeting was Mick Taylor from Mutual Advantage who has helped to run pilots setting up PA Consortia. One that worked well was in Croydon and is called Caring Support <http://www.caringsupport.org/>. It uses a 'cluster model,' has an allied volunteer scheme and is run by users, carers and personal assistants working together.

Twelve individuals and organisations expressed interest in exploring this idea further and Hackney Co-operative Development is willing to give support. For them to do this more service users and carers need to get involved to make the project start with the right ethos. If you are interested in exploring this idea further please come to the Disability BackUp meeting to discuss it or contact Jackie Brett – hscf@hcvcs.org.uk or on 07982725372

Disability Law Service workshop

At the July Forum, the Disability Law Service (DLS) will hold a workshop explaining what you are entitled to expect from social services if you need help because of your impairment and what you can do if you do not get the help that you need. This is also a chance to discuss your experience of getting help from social services and any problems you have faced.

This workshop is part of DLS's London Development work.

Disability Law Service is a national charity that gives expert legal advice to disabled people, their family members and carers.

The areas of law that it can help with are:

- Welfare Benefits if you have been refused a benefit
- Community Care if you have trouble getting help from social services
- Disability Discrimination if you are treated unfairly at work, or when getting a service such as from a shop, hospital or council.

You can call DLS on 020 7791 9800 and book a telephone appointment with a lawyer or email them with an enquiry on advice@dls.org.uk or there are fact sheets on its website www.dls.org.uk

Academies Not Above the Law

Last month DBU wrote to education minister Michael Gove about the refusal of a place in a Hackney Academy to a child with cerebral palsy. The Academy claimed it did not have to justify its decision to a Special Educational Needs Tribunal - an important protection for disabled children.

We think that young people should not be excluded from learning opportunities because of impairments which are irrelevant to their academic potential and so we argued that Academies, like other schools, should have to argue their case before a Tribunal.

Mr Gove referred our letter to the Education Funding Agency for a response. Its Lead Officer for Academies, Mike McHugh, has responded admitting that there have been some difficulties in hearing appeals about the naming of Academies in a child's statement.

We are glad to say that he goes on to clarify that the government's position is that parents who wish an Academy to be named in a child's statement should have the same rights of appeal to the Tribunal as a parent who wishes a maintained school to be named.

This position has been upheld by an 'Upper Tribunal,' which has made clear that the special funding arrangements for Academies do not mean that they can opt out of appeals procedures - and Mr Gove has welcomed this decision.

Community Led Disability eConference

You may remember Hackney resident Martyn Sibley running disability webinars? Well he has been busy this year launching new and exciting technology services for disabled people.

There have been more webinars and the videos can be viewed here <http://martynsibley.com/webinars>

In March Martyn launched an exciting ecourse called 'Inspiring Employment' - A 7 week guide to gaining and excelling in the workplace. Martyn interviewed 13 worldwide contributors over Skype, shares useful websites and guides people through 6 key modules; volunteering, ideal job, the job hunt, on the job, career progression and self-employment. You can check this out for free on <http://ecourses.martynsibley.com/ie>

The latest online project is a Disability eConference. At the end of July Martyn's online community are coming together to share their experiences of how the internet has given them new opportunities. The website url will be available here <http://martynsibley.com/e-conferences>

To contact Martyn for more information email martyn@martynsibley.com, follow him on twitter (@martynsibley) and take a peak at his online magazine <http://disabilityhorizons.com/>

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



Direct Payments Forum

Members will know that we hold four Direct Payments Forum per year with speakers of interest for people who receive Direct Payments or are interested in Direct Payments.

The Direct Payments Forum meeting is a user led service, an informal get together where people can talk, share concerns and listen to how others make direct payments work for them.

The direct payments forum provides the opportunity to hear about different initiatives and to get up to date information about what is going on. The forum is the place to have a say about what is going on for you and what you would like to do with direct payments.

Our next Direct Payments Forum will be held in September (date and venue will be confirmed in our next newsletter).

If you would like to know more about Direct Payments Support Service details can be found on the website: www.hackney.gov.uk

You also have the option to call the direct payments line where you can speak to a support officer 020 8356 2354

DBU Calendar

(Dates to be confirmed in next newsletter)

September: Transport

October: Streetscene

November: Welfare Reform Bill