



Disability Backup JANUARY 2013

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

Transport Accessibility

Jennette Arnold, Chair and member of the London Assembly will be coming to the forum on January 28th to talk about transport improvement and accessibility on the buses and tube.

Jennette is concerned about accessibility for disabled and older people and for some time has challenged the Mayor and Transport for London (TfL) to do more to demonstrate their commitment to improving accessibility.

We have also invited Michèle Dix to come and talk to members following the recent publication of '**Your accessible transport network**'. Michèle is the Equalities lead and Director of planning for Transport for London (TfL). Michèle will talk to members about the plans to increase accessibility in London. Michèle with TfL is looking to improve communications with disability groups in London and will tell members what this entails and how we can get involved.

'**Your accessible transport network**' which has just been published (Dec 2012) by The Mayor of London and Transport for London <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/your-accessible-transport-network.pdf>) spells out TfL's plans to increase accessibility of the transport network to make the transport service in London more accessible. Improvements may take place over the next four years. TfL promises to provide more accessible information, an enhanced infrastructure, an improved customer experience and better engagement with the public.

The improvements to accessibility include features such as 80 wide-aisle gates at 60 stations and the introduction of tactile paving on all platform edges across the network and 28 step free stations.

TfL want to know your thoughts and invite you to contact them with feedback:

Email: TfLAccessibility@tfl.gov.uk
or call 0843 222 1234

January Forum Meeting

January 28th 2013

Direct Payments Forum

10.30pm — 1.00pm

Speakers

(see inside for more details)

DBU Forum

1.30pm – 3.30pm

Speakers

Jennette Arnold OBE

Michèle Dix

Director of Planning for TfL

&

Cllr Sally Mulready

Venue

Our Lady and St Joseph Kingsland Hall
100a Balls Pond Road, Hackney,
N1 4AG

Buses: 30, 38, 56, 277

Nearest station

Dalston Junction Overground

&

Dalston Kingsland Overground

**Help with transport on request for
people with mobility difficulties.**

Let's talk about Home Care and Personal Assistants in Hackney.

Have you got a Personal Assistant (PA) or Home Carer?

Do you have or would you like a direct payment?

What support and information do you need?

What training does your PA need?

On January 28th 2013 Disability Backup, Hackney LINK and City & Hackney HSCF will be hosting an event which brings together service users and personal assistants (& potential personal assistants) to talk through some of the issues in Hackney. The event will take place at Our Lady and St Joseph Kingsland Hall, 100a Balls Pond Road, N1 4AG and run from 10.30am to 1.00pm.

Hackney LINK will also be launching their latest report on homecare.

Skills for Care will be explaining what support there is for training both for service users who are employers of personal assistants or carers and for personal assistants and carers employed directly by service users.

Then we will have round table discussions on:

- What good support looks like for service user employers and PA's
- What training do PAs need to do a good job?
- What are the pro's and cons of having a direct payment and employing your own PA
- How do we ensure safety of service users and PA's

- Is there a better way to organise home care in Hackney

How can service users get involved in the tendering of the framework agreements for homecare?

The discussions will help us to influence the council in the way it is taking forward personalisation and tendering.

To book or for more information call Jackie on 0207 682 0091 – or Carol 0207 241 5908 or email: caroldavis@ageukhackney.org.uk

Support Technology

Andrea joined a discussion group of medical professionals and service users in the imposing premises of the British Medical Association in December. She said:

"The event was very useful because I got to see the latest technology for self management and being in charge of my health care and all my support needs. There were systems for self management of heart conditions, Parkinson's disease and diabetes.

The biggest innovation was that sensory devices could be fitted into people's homes to monitor their whereabouts and detect any serious departures from normal routines. I could see that all these new technologies could be very helpful, but also felt they could be an intrusion to privacy. There were systems there for patients to control their own medical records, through a 'phone or computer - and for professionals to go into the system. This is a big step forward to

allow people who need access to records to have it, but with the patient having control of who knows what and when.

There was a fun aspect to seeing how watches and strips to put round your body could be used to monitor heart rates, building up a personal database to warn you if your health was possibly at risk."

Streetscene Dialogue

A DBU delegation of John, Karl and Maureen joined Living Streets advocate Brenda Peuch to meet Hackney's Streetscene officers on Dec 19th to raise issues from our recent Transport Report (<http://www.disabilitybackup.org.uk/lobbying.php>) and feed into preparations for Hackney's new Transport Strategy, updating the last one, which ran from 2006-2011. A public consultation will run from April-May 2013 but DBU was able to get in on the 'pre-consultation' stage to raise our concerns.

Issues discussed included icy pavements, pavement parking, road crossings, Toucan crossings, cycle parking, street seating, shared spaces (when bikes, cars and pedestrians are supposed to 'share' the same space), bus stops, access to overground stations and accessible parking.

Hackney's Parking Dept is experimenting with stickers on the poles at parking spaces for disabled people warning cyclists not to lock their bikes to them and making them inaccessible. If you see a sticker on a post please let us know.

stops should be fully accessible, except for ten involved in larger developments. Hackney will also do a follow up survey to the one carried out in 2006, which showed that 65 bus stops were not accessible out of 205. Unfortunately this does not include bus stops on the main roads which Transport for London is responsible for.

John also attended a meeting of the Council's Regulatory Committee, which agreed a zero tolerance policy of street clutter such as 'A' boards, which can make streets impassable for wheelchair users and dangerous for people with visual impairments. We are also pressing for the Committee to carry out an annual audit of all the things which can make navigating the streets difficult for disabled people such as tables and chairs, commercial

Need help to complete Disability Living Allowance (DLA) form

Changes to the welfare benefits system is likely generate a lot of anxiety amongst DBU members. The Hackney Information & Advice Consortium (HIAC) operates a service in 25 GP surgeries in Hackney.

HIAC offers advice on a wide range of issues such as Welfare Benefits, Housing and Debt to patients in their local practice on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

Please see insert which gives details of the 25 GP surgeries where you can get help to complete your DLA application form.

If your local surgery does not provide this service there are a list of other services that may be able to assist you.

Disability Backup Christmas Party 2012



Disability Backup members partying

The Disability Backup Christmas party was a success, over seventy members came. Thanks to everyone who attended and special thanks to John Wilson, our Chef for the day, for his tireless work, planning and preparation that made the day a success. The food was excellent.

One DBU member kindly lent some Christmas decorations to cheer up the tables. They belonged to her late mother and mean a lot to her. Unfortunately some of the decorations were taken by members as they left. If you did, we would plead with you to hand them back to Carol (in confidence and no names mentioned).



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Mon: 1.30pm—5.30pm
Wed: 9.30am—5.30pm
Thurs: 9.30am—5.30pm
Fri: 9.30am—5.30pm

Hackney Young People for Inclusion (YPFI) Launch

Thursday, February 7th 2013

YPFI empowers young disabled people. Come to our taster session and find out what we are about?

5.30pm—7.30pm

Unit 84, Springfield House,
5 Tyssen Street,
Dalston
London,
E8 2LY

If you are interested call Carol on
02072415908 or email:
caroldavis@ageukhackney.org.uk