



Disability Backup

MAY 2013

Welcome to Disability Backup's Newsletter

Empowering, consulting and informing disabled people

Fuel Poverty

Fuel prices are shooting up. DBU members have shared concerns about the expense and difficulty of making home energy efficient so this month our Forum meeting will be looking at fuel poverty.

SHINE – Seasonal Health Interventions Network was established to tackle fuel poverty and reduce seasonal deaths and hospital admissions in Hackney.

The one stop referral to SHINE leads to an assessment for several other services to ensure that the individual referred receives the best possible care. The work undertaken by SHINE involves: energy advice, benefit checks to maximise income and befriending. If you want to know more call: 0800 281 768

East End Energy Fit will also be attending the Forum. East End Energy Fit works across Newham, Tower Hamlets and Hackney. They help individuals who have utility (gas and electricity) arrears to clear their debts off completely. They are funded by the British Gas Energy Trust and EDF energy trust, but can help customers of any power company.

East End Energy Fit role involves: clearing priority household debts: water, sewerage, council tax and rent. They also try to get money to pay other bills and costs such as telephone debts, boiler repairs/replacement and debt relief. If you would like to know more about the service please call: 020 8709 9737

Adult Social Care Event

Disability Backup over the past few months has been asking you to take part in a survey about Adult Social Care. On Monday May 20th Disability Backup will present the results of the survey to Adult Social Care Managers and give you the opportunity to feed back your views to them.

Please come out and support this event as it will be your opportunity to have your say about the services provided by

MAY Forum Meetings

Monday, MAY 20th 2013

Direct Payments Forum

11.00am — 1.00pm

Our experiences of social workers' assessments

Speakers

Adult Social Care Team

&

Disability Backup Forum

1.30pm – 3.30pm

Fuel Poverty & Disabled People

Speakers

SHINE

&

East End Energy Fit

Venue

Our Lady and St Joseph Kingsland Hall

100a Balls Pond Road,
London
N1 4AG

Buses: 30, 38, 56, 277

Help with transport on request for people with mobility difficulties.

DBU - Voicing Your Concerns

Equalities Scheme

Hackney is currently consulting on its Single Equality Scheme. The Council has a legal duty to develop a scheme to show how it is reducing inequalities of groups - such as disabled people - who are protected by law against discrimination.

DBU was represented at a recent consultation event on the draft scheme. You can comment on the draft until May 24th. Document and details on: www.hackney.gov.uk/Assets/Documents/Single-Equalities-Scheme-Consultation-Draft.pdf

Pedestrianisation of the Narroway

Buses are soon to be rerouted to avoid the Narroway, in a six months pilot, which will hopefully make the street friendlier for disabled people.

Starting in early June, the pilot will give you a chance to have a look and see if it is better. The dangerous scrum of buses at the Mare St end will obviously go, but we have some concerns about shared space with cyclists at this junction. Have a look and tell us what you think !

Intermediate Care Revamp

DBU was represented in the second of two focus groups on reorganising Intermediate Care - services that help prevent unnecessary admission to hospital, or help people live independently after coming out of hospital. Hopefully there will be better co-ordination of the different teams responsible for supporting people in the near future.

Young People for Inclusion (YPFI)

On Thursday, May 23rd YPFI will be hosting a another session for Young disabled people living in Hackney.

The event will take place at HCVS, 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street, Hackney, E8 2LY

Needless to say we are keen to get more young people involved. If you are a parent, a carer or a professional working with young disabled people in Hackney get in touch with us and find out more about

YPFI by contacting Rob Danson by email; rob@elfridacamden.org.uk or text: 07939 877 745. You can also contact Carol Davis by email: caroldavis@ageukhackney.org.uk or cal 020 7241 5908

User Led Organisation

CHOICE in Hackney has been awarded a grant from the Disabled Persons User Led Organisation Facilitation Fund to develop and strengthen user led service provision in Hackney. This is building on work in 2011 on a feasibility study for a Centre for Independent Living/User Led Organisation in Hackney.

CHOICE will be setting up a capacity building advisory group and will be advertising for members to join this group shortly. Disabled people are needed with skills and experience in:

- Engagement & communications
- Business or social enterprise
- Fundraising and bid writing
- Management Information Systems
- Quality Assurance systems

If you would like more information about the advisory group please

Email : info@choiceinhackney.org

Or write to:

CHOICE in Hackney
Defoe Block, Ground Floor
50 Hoxton Street
N1 6LP

Please mark your email / letter
'advisory group.'

Active Lifestyle

CHOICE in Hackney's Active Lifestyle Project helps disabled people get more involved with sports and fitness. If you want to try something new, find a team or get sports coaching, CHOICE can help.

If you are new to sport or don't know where to start, the Active Lifestyle Project can also match you up to a Sports Buddy, a CHOICE in Hackney volunteer, who will be keen to share their love of sports and leisure with you. They can join you on activities and help you kick start your programme!

Don't know what to do?

Talk to us about the things that make you tick. There are plenty of activities to try and you don't have to go to a gym or sports centre. There are many exercises you can do at home with cheap or no equipment. If you're already involved in sport and fitness, then please join up because volunteers are needed who can spare some time introducing people to new activities.

Active Lifestyle Co-ordinator

Tracey Proudlock:

020 7613 3206, text phone: 020 7613 3208

tracey.proudlock@choiceinhackney.org

End of Life Rights Advocacy Project

The End-of-Life Rights Advocacy (ELRA) project is a pilot approach to ensure that older people in East London have the support to know their end-of-life rights and make informed decisions about their future medical treatment.

The project is delivered by Compassion in Dying in partnership with Age UK East London and aims to:

Increase awareness of end-of-life rights and options amongst Age UK East London's service users.

Increase awareness of end-of-life rights among local GPs, care homes and community groups.

Provide training and support for Age UK East London volunteers around end-of-life rights and choices, to enable them to provide information and advocacy for vulnerable older people in their homes.

We are aiming to link up with local groups to ensure that vulnerable or isolated older people are aware of and can access the ELRA project.

We can support you to make sure that your wishes for health care are legally respected, with **FREE**:

- Advocacy to empower you to understand your rights;
- Legal documents to communicate your wishes;
- Information and advice around nominating someone to act on your behalf should you lose the ability to communicate;

If you would like to take advantage of this service call:

0208 981 7124

or email:

info@ageuktowerhamlets.org.uk

MEETING ON FIRE BRIGADE CUTS Monday, 20 May 7-9pm

As part of the public consultation over plans to close 12 fire stations, remove 18 engines and slash 520 frontline fire fighter posts, the London Fire Brigade has agreed to hold public meetings across London.

Members of the public and their families are encouraged to go along to the public meeting and have their say. The commissioner will be in attendance at the meeting, arguing in favour of the cuts.

Monday, 20th May 7-9pm at Hackney Assembly Hall, Stoke Newington Town Hall, Stoke Newington Church Street,

DBU 2013 - 2014

In the last issue of the newsletter we reported that reduced funding meant there would be fewer meetings of the Forum in the coming year.

There will be quarterly full Forum meetings and Planning Team meetings in other months. Some of these will be open and will provide a chance for any member to come along and put forward ideas. Others will focus on organising business.

Please see enclosed leaflet for a schedule of all DBU meetings in the coming year

Disability Backup
c/o Age UK Hackney
22 Dalston Lane, E8 3AZ
E-mail: caroldavis@ageukhackney.org.uk
Web: www.disabilitybackup.org.uk

Tel: 020 7241 5908
Mob: 07779 501178
Text: 07779 501178



Thurs: 9.30am-5.30pm
Fri: 9.30am-12.30pm



Hackney disability rights Campaigner Eddie Barns dies



Eddie demonstrating against cuts, outside Hackney Town Hall, during the European Year of Disabled People.

Eddie Barns, a warm-hearted individual and a fearless campaigner for disabled people's rights in Hackney, has died, aged 63.

Eddie helped found the Hackney Disabled People's Freedom Pass campaign. He fought cuts and the introduction of a humiliating fitness test for the Freedom Pass and the Taxicard scheme, which led to assessments for disabled people such as walking around a Morning Lane car park in the pouring rain whilst being observed by Council clerical staff.

Eddie was also active in Incapacity Action, a national campaign set up by disabled people protesting about cuts to invalidity benefit. He also helped establish the Hackney Migrant Centre and was for some time, a councillor for Springfield and Leabridge Wards.