

## National Assembly calls for Welsh Government to show more leadership in tackling disability related harassment

### New report recommends a disability related harassment framework

**A lack of leadership and information sharing is hampering attempts to tackle disability related harassment in Wales, according to a new report from the National Assembly for Wales.**

The report from the Assembly's Communities, Equality and Local Government in Wales Committee proposes 10 recommendations the Welsh Government should commit to, including a framework for tackling disability-related harassment.

The committee's inquiry centred on the conclusions of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) inquiry, *Hidden in Plain Sight*, and received evidence from organisations including Learning Disability Wales, Disability Wales, EHRC, Safer Wales, Mencap Cymru, All Wales Hate Crime Research Project and Welsh Local Government Association.

The committee believes the Welsh Government should make eliminating the problem a higher priority and do more to encourage relevant agencies and authorities to work together. The inquiry found numerous examples of best practice for educating around Wales but heard evidence that this information was not being shared.

The report proposes 10 recommendations for Welsh Government and other agencies to take forward.

#### Leadership and Partnership to drive change

The Committee recognised that strong leadership is required from the Welsh Government.

1. Welsh Government should bring forward a disability related harassment framework developed with the Disability Hate Crime Action Group Cymru.
2. The framework should establish accountability across Ministerial portfolios and encourage partnership working between relevant organisations.
3. The framework should cover the provision of training to front line staff in public authorities.
4. Welsh Government should pilot the use of MARACs (used in the domestic abuse field) as a good example of partnership working. MARAC is Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference.

#### Equality duties

5. WG should monitor how many public authorities have established disability related harassment under the specific equality duties.

#### Rights based safeguarding

6. Development of Social Services Bill should include discussion on how human rights can be included in safeguarding measures within the Bill without restricting people's independence.

#### Increased reporting

The committee wants to see more work to help with removing barriers to reporting and recognising the importance of reporting, especially as it can help with early intervention.

7. The framework should standardise and co-ordinate third party reporting centres.
8. The framework should encourage use of existing resources to raise awareness of disability related harassment among disabled people.
9. WG should issue guidance on data sharing between agencies to ensure patterns of low level harassment are recognised before they become a hate crime.

#### Changing cultural attitudes towards disabled people

The committee see that changing cultural attitudes is central to addressing disability related harassment and the role that the media can play is vital. They wish to see research about perpetrators of disability related harassment as they believe this will point to further work that can be done in terms of education and cultural change.

10. WG should include a long term aim in the replacement Single Equality Scheme from 2012 to help change cultural attitudes towards disabled people.

The report, 'Disability Related Harassment in Wales', can be found at <http://bit.ly/wRYubX>. 'Hidden in Plain Sight' can be found at <http://bit.ly/r0JSIY>.

# Training and Events

## Free Arts Workshops at Arts Alive Wales

Arts Alive Wales have been working closely with Penny Hallas, Head of Arts Therapies, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, to provide creative activities for adults with learning disabilities. The workshops are for people of all abilities, and you can bring a carer if you like. They are part of celebrations for International Women's Day, which happens every year on the 8th March. This year, International Women's day is all about working together to stop violence.

**Date and Venue:** 7 & 21 February, Crickhowell

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Justine Wheatley or Maddy Gilliam, Arts Alive Wales, tel 01873 811579 email [justine@artsalivewales.org.uk](mailto:justine@artsalivewales.org.uk), or [madeleinegilliam@gmail.com](mailto:madeleinegilliam@gmail.com)

## Looking after Me: A Course For Carers

Looking after Me is a free NHS course for adults who care for a friend or relative living with a long-term health condition or disability. The course is about you looking after your own health needs. It aims to help you take more control of your situation and make a difference to your life. Looking after Me does not cover carers' rights or benefits, nor practical caring skills such as lifting and handling, although there will be information available on these topics.

**Date and Venue:** Once a week from 13 February to March 26, Cardiff

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Tel 02920 350620, web [www.eppwales.org](http://www.eppwales.org)

## North Wales Independent Living Workshop

Welsh Government is developing a Framework for Action on Independent Living for disabled people, due to be published by Summer 2012. The Independent Living project is being taken forward in partnership with disability organisations and with disabled people. Welsh Government are seeking disabled people to take part in developing the Framework. You can find out more about the Framework and taking part in the development of the Framework at this North Wales workshop. Additional regional meetings for March will be announced soon.

**Date and Venue:** 14 February, Llandudno Junction

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Carys Evans, tel 029 2082 3952, email [carys.evans@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:carys.evans@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

## Introduction to Marketing & Communication

Rhiannon Davies offer friendly and affordable training and advice about marketing and social media to charities, public sector and arts organisations. This training will focus on creating a plan that helps save you time, but maximises the results of your marketing. It will also cover tips to make sure your posters, flyers, press releases and other communication tools are as effective as possible.

**Date and Venue:** 5 March, Bristol, 13 March, Caerphilly

**Cost:** £65

**Contact:** Rhiannon Davies, tel 07531 706885, email [rhiannonldavies@gmail.com](mailto:rhiannonldavies@gmail.com), web [www.rhiannonldavies.co.uk](http://www.rhiannonldavies.co.uk)

Llais Update

## Learning Disability Wales Training



Learning Disability Wales  
Anabledd Dysgu Cymru

### Making Information Easy to Read and Understand - Level 2

8 February, Cardiff

This course will help you develop your skills in making written and printed information more accessible for people with learning disabilities. You will learn how to apply your skills to more complex documents.

### Introduction to Benefits and Work for Disabled People

29 February, Wrexham

A one day course to help you understand the benefits system and how it works for disabled people in work.

### Understanding Children Policy

21 March, Cardiff

This one-day course will help participants understand the range of policies affecting children and young people in Wales. It will help you understand how your work fits into local and regional policies, and will help you to influence their development.

To book a place or for more information contact: Inacia Rodrigues, Training Administrator, Learning Disability Wales, tel 029 2068 1160, email [inacia.rodrigues@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk](mailto:inacia.rodrigues@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk)

## Participation Sessions for Parents with Learning Disabilities and Professionals

Welsh Government will be issuing statutory guidance later in 2012 for parents with a learning disability. Learning Disability Wales are hosting two participation sessions for parents with learning disabilities and professionals working in this field to have their say about what should be included in the guidance.

**20 February, Carmarthen, 10am to 2.30pm**

**24 February, Llandudno, 10am to 2.30pm**

Places are limited and therefore booking is required.

To book or for more information contact Rebecca Watkins, tel 029 2068 1160, email [rebecca.watkins@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.watkins@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk)

# Noticeboard

## Stories from Ely Hospital exhibition

Cardiff People First have launched their exhibition about the history of Ely Hospital, at the Cardiff Story Museum (previously the Old Library).

The exhibition includes former residents and staff sharing their stories of life at Ely Hospital. The long-stay hospital was the centre of an abuse scandal in 1967, when the News of the World ran a statement from a Nursing Assistant exposing the endemic ill treatment suffered by people with learning disabilities at Ely. The allegations of abuse included: cruel treatment, verbal abuse, beatings, pilfering of food, clothing and other items, indifference to complaints, lack of medical care, and medication used to sedate residents.

*"We must never forget,"* said one former resident who lived in Ely for most of her life. *"It was a terrible place."*

Now, over 40 years later, former residents and staff are telling their stories about what life was like living or working in Ely Hospital. The excellent and interactive exhibition features many powerful memories.

John, a former resident, describes how he was denied the opportunity to go home for a weekend despite his mam and dad waiting downstairs for him. He describes how his birthday present was stolen and talks about the cruel manner in which he was treated by one member of staff. *"He kicked me around like a football"*.

'Stories from Ely Hospital' is on at Cardiff Story Museum until 28 February <http://bit.ly/znWJrl>. Contact Cardiff People First for more information, phone 029 2023 1555. A series of workshops are also being held, details of which can be downloaded at <http://www.c3sc.org.uk/images/stories/newspics/workshops.pdf>

## Doing Transport Differently guide

This new guide from Radar is aimed at people with lived experience of disability or health conditions and at those advising or working with them. It is not Easy Read, but it uses a question and answer approach to enable different people with different travel needs to dip into it in different ways. It will show you how far access to public transport has improved and how to make use of it.

Doing Transport Differently is part of Radar's Doing Life Differently series of guides and is written by and for disabled people. It features sections on planning your journey, how to use the different types of public transport and how to get assistance when you are travelling, plus useful contacts and resources and what still needs to be done to make sure public transport is available to all.

The resource can be downloaded at <http://www.radar.org.uk/publications/doing-transport-differently>.

## National Parks Access for All guides

National Parks aim to make sure that the landscape, scenery and tranquility of Britain's inspiring National Parks are available to everyone, no matter what their access needs are.

They have published new guides to accessible activities that will give you ideas about where to go if you need access for people with wheelchairs or for limited mobility.

The guides are available in a number of formats, including large print with photos and an audio file, and in both English and Welsh. They can be accessed at the Access for All section of National Parks' website <http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk/visiting/outdooractivities/accessforall.htm>.

## Disabled People's Costs Of Living - Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report

It is well known that disabled people face additional costs to enable them to meet their needs. However, there has been no clear evidence about the true extent of these costs.

This research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, conducted by the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University with the support of Disability Alliance, presents budget standards for groups of disabled people who have different needs arising from physical or sensory impairments. The budget standards represent the amounts disabled people (of working age) require in order to cover the costs of an acceptable and equitable quality of life. They were developed by disabled people themselves, through a series of rigorously conducted focus groups.

The budgets were not based on 'wish lists'. Rather, they represent the minimum essential resources necessary to meet disabled people's needs, to enable them to achieve, as far as possible, a 'level playing field' with non-disabled people. They were arrived at through debate and negotiation within the focus groups.

While the study did not research the additional needs and costs of people with learning disabilities, it still provides informative data on assessing the adequacy of benefit levels, judging the reasonableness of community care charges and the accuracy of Government measurements of poverty amongst disabled people.

The report can be downloaded for free at <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/disabled-peoples-costs-living>

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## Gwenda Thomas sets out Social Services Bill for Wales

Welsh Government have promised that a stronger voice and real control will be principal factors of the new wide-ranging Social Services Bill for Wales, Gwenda Thomas, the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services, has announced.

In a statement to the National Assembly on 24 January, the Deputy Minister said the new Social Services Bill will give people who receive care a legal set of rights, and extend the range of services for which people have the right to a direct payment.

The Bill will also extend the rights of carers to an assessment, by introducing a single duty which will allow Welsh Government to extend the right for a carer's assessment more widely, when circumstances permit.

The Deputy Minister also said Welsh Government wants a *“legal framework that supports the delivery of services in an integrated way, to people as people, not to children and adults separately. This Bill will wipe away inappropriate distinctions between people based on predetermined categories of need such as age”*.

The Deputy Minister's full statement can be watched at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/wales/newsid\\_9681000/9681068.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/wales/newsid_9681000/9681068.stm)

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## England: Social care staff urged to blow the whistle on abuse

**NHS and social care staff in England who have concerns about abuse are now able to access a new, free whistleblowing helpline.**

The free helpline, which went live on 1 January, is targeted at staff in England who have concerns about the services they work in but are unsure how to raise them or fear the repercussions of reporting them internally.

The whistleblowing helpline is funded by the Government and is part of the Government's drive to tackle poor practice. This is in addition to the introduction of a contractual duty to raise concerns, which will be enshrined in the new NHS Constitution.

The barriers to whistleblowing were highlighted by the Winterbourne View scandal (*Llais Update* 234, 235). Former nurse Terry Bryan reported concerns about poor practice at the learning disability hospital to his managers, and to the Care Quality Commission, but neither acted on his representations.

The free helpline number is **08000 724 725**. Provided by Mencap, the service will operate weekdays between 8.00am and 6pm. An out of hours answering service will be available weekends and public holidays.

## New regulations aimed at supporting unpaid carers in Wales come into force

**New regulations have come into force that will place a duty on 'designated authorities' to prepare, publish and implement a strategy for unpaid carers.**

The Carers Strategies (Wales) Regulations 2011 were unanimously approved by the National Assembly in December. The Regulations implement the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010, which came into force on 1 January 2012.

The regulations state that the strategies should say how information and guidance will be provided to carers. They should also say how carers will be consulted and involved in decisions affecting them and the people they support. The strategies have to be submitted to the Welsh Government by the end of October this year.

The first 'designated authorities' are all Local Health Boards across Wales, Velindre NHS Trust, the Welsh Ambulance Trust and local authority social services. The Health Boards are expected to work with key 'partner authorities' in designing and delivering these strategies. These partners include Social Services, Third Sector organisations representing carers, and GPs.

Funding of £5.8m over the next 3 years has been allocated to the Health Boards to help them train staff and implement their local strategies, with the clear requirement that they work together with their 'partner authorities' and that funding is shared accordingly.

Once the strategies are in place they will be reviewed every 18 months to ensure their effectiveness.

More information and links to the Regulations can be found at <http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&MId=592&Ver=4>

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## Welsh Politician of the Year Awards

**Education Minister Leighton Andrews has been named Welsh Politician of the Year. The Assembly Member for the Rhondda picked up his award at December's Welsh Politician of the Year ceremony in Cardiff.**

Nomination for the awards are made online by viewers of ITV Wales and the general public. Further nominations are also proposed by members of the judging panel.

The winners were: Lifetime Achievement - Lord Morris; Welsh Politician of the Year - Leighton Andrews AM; Local Politician of the Year - Alun Thomas, Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council; MP of the Year - Cheryl Gillan MP; AM of the Year - Alun Ffred Jones AM; Campaigner of the Year - Chris Bryant MP; Member to watch - Eluned Parrott AM.

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