September 2018
Policy Update and other useful information

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What is it?

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Changes to the Mental Capacity Act

The government have started the process to change the Mental Capacity Act through a new Bill that started being looked at in Parliament in July

The Bill will change the law on when people can make decisions for themselves and when they need help to make decisions. This is called mental capacity and is based on if people have the right mental skills to make decisions on their own or if they need some help or cannot make some kinds of decisions even with help.

In September the new Bill will be looked at again in Parliament and could become the new law. We know a lot of people think the new Bill can be better than it is now.

This law affects a lot of people with Learning Disabilities, their friends and families and organisations that support them.

People can have their say on the proposed amendments to the Mental Capacity Act. CHANGE have created some information about the changes and a survey https://www.changepeople.org/blog/august-2018/changes-to-the-mental-capacity-act?utm_source=Sign-Up.to&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=32163-268789-Mental+Capacity+%28Amendment%29+Bill

SCIE have produced some information

https://www.scie.org.uk/mca/dols/practice/lps?utm_source=Sign-Up.to&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=32163-268789-Mental+Capacity+%28Amendment%29+Bill

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Insights from learning disability today -

Autistic schoolchildren to be better protected from exclusions after judge ruling

Human rights lawyers say that children with special educational needs account for almost half of all exclusions in schools.

Find out more here

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The 'So what, what next?' project

The So What, What Next? project was designed by the Transforming Care empowerment steering group to look at ways of supporting people with a

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What is it?

learning disability or autism who have recently been discharged from hospital to explore their skills and passions and to find ways to contribute these to their local communities.

https://www.local.gov.uk/so-what-what-next-project

Support Solutions - New Arrangements for Funding Supported Housing

The UK Government has reported back after January 2018 responses to the "Funding Supported Housing" Consultations. This ends 3 years of uncertainty for the sector that started with the proposal to apply the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) Cap to supported housing rents.

https://www.supportsolutions.co.uk/briefing/issue_12/funding_for_supported_housing.html

Help Inclusion International inform a global report on Inclusive Education - Share your stories!

At the Global Self-Advocacy Summit in May, self-advocates from all around the world agreed on some Calls to Action about the big issues that were important to them.

One of these Calls to Action was about Inclusive Education.

Self-advocates can now influence a global report by sharing their experiences and stories about education.

Inclusion International will be responding to a consultation on the report.

They want to include people's stories, experiences and knowledge of inclusive education:

- Experiences of being excluded from education
- Experience of when inclusion in education works.

Stories will help to influence global policy on inclusive education.

Send stories by 7th September 2018 https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScq4uPkfh2pF0AhmvdhNqwFQc5jA2tFBOZFdZa-PRhqChBcNg/viewform

Resources and other bulletins

Disability Rights UK seek lived experience policy advisors

Disability Rights UK are looking for people with knowledge, lived experience and insights on a range of issues to steer future policies.

New team members will meet once a month to support direction on topics including assistive - or 'liberation' - technology.

Disability Rights UK say they are not after subject experts.

https://bit.ly/2N6PM1x

Family Rights Group - Advocacy for families when social workers make plans for their children

This advice sheet is written for parents and others caring for children. In this advice sheet you will find information about the law and guidance that social workers and other professionals should follow when involving families in making plans for their children and how families may be able to use an 'advocate' to support them with this.

http://www.frg.org.uk/images/Advice_Sheets/10-advocacy-for-families.pdf

SCIE Social Care Online - Commissioning services for adults with learning disabilities or autism: the views and experiences of commissioners

Research to explore commissioning practice for services for people with learning disabilities and autism in England, focusing on the information used to help make decisions about services to commission and the challenges to commissioning effective services. The study explores the following questions:

- Is quality or outcomes of services part of the commissioning process?
- What sources of quality information are used in the commissioning process?
- What are the barriers and facilitators of using quality information in commissioning?
- What are the main challenges to commissioning high quality services?

The results are based on completed surveys from 45 local authorities and 25 clinical commissioning groups.

You will need to log in or register to see this resource http://bit.ly/2Pu8DRu

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Bulletin

All you see isn't all there is - looking beyond learning disability

Resources and other bulletins

This bulletin includes Consultant nurse Jim Blair and other health members talk about working with a patient with a learning disability.

Far too many health care staff attribute behaviours to a learning disability, rather than looking at the reasons behind them. "Staff need to understand that all they see, isn't all there is," he says. "We need to tune in to that individual and look beyond what they say or don't say. If we were to do that we would enhance and save lives. If we don't, we'll continue to have people with learning disabilities dying avoidably."

https://www.rcn.org.uk/magazines/bulletin/2018/may/overshadowing

Webinars and training

SCIE FREE webinar - Mental Capacity Act (MCA)

SCIE is hosting a webinar to discuss the forthcoming changes to the Mental Health Act and the Mental Capacity Act. The webinar will reflect on the important changes in how people's rights are protected. This is an online only event.

For more information click here

SCIE Advanced co-production skills training course
This course will help you to:
- identify some of the barriers to meaningful co-production
- co-produce some solutions to some of the barriers
- improve your knowledge and confidence about how to put co-production into practice

More information click here

Blogs

GOV.UK Social Care
What should care and support look like for older people with learning disabilities?

Margaret Lally is a former Director for the UK at the British Red Cross and is the Committee Chair for the new NICE guideline: Care and support of people growing older with learning disabilities.

She has had extensive experience in supporting people with learning disabilities. Here she discusses the key recommendations within the NICE guideline and shares her feelings about being involved in its development. https://socialcare.blog.gov.uk/2018/08/24/what-should-care-and-support-look-like-for-older-people-with-learning-disabilities/

NDTi - A Different Mindset for 'The Lives We Want To Lead'

NDTi's Chief Executive, Rob Greig, discusses the recent LGA's Social Care Green Paper

https://www.ndti.org.uk/blog/a-different-mindset-for-the-lives-we-want-to-lead

Social Care Futures

This year marks twenty two years since the first *Partners in Policy making* course in the UK. This is a leadership training programme for self-advocates and parents and relatives of disabled children. https://socialcarefuture.blog/2018/04/16/citizen-leadership-reshaping-the-future/

Learning Disability Today - Here's how to support the mental health of people with learning disabilities
The author of Mental Health in Intellectual Disabilities introduces concepts of support.

Find more information here