

Disabled People's Human Rights: How are we doing in Scotland?'

A number of reports have recently been published for the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Disabled People (UNCRPD).

The Convention gives a list of rules that governments have to follow to make sure that disabled people get their human rights. Every four years the UN gets a report from the Government and one from disabled people reporting on whether they are getting their rights.

The report from Disabled People, talks about what the situation is for disabled people in Scotland and has organisations like LCiL contributing to it.

Three crosscutting issues, have been highlighted, which have implications across a number of the Convention's articles, including:

- Austerity cuts to national and local public expenditure and changes in UK social security policy are affecting a range of rights, particularly under articles 19, 20, 25, 27, 28 and 30. These articles relate to things like living independently, participation, access to healthcare, employment and living standards.
- Independent Advocacy services, including specialist services, are underfunded and cannot meet need. This compromises the ability of disabled people to identify and access appropriate support to claim their rights, particularly in relation to articles 12, 13, 14, 26 and 28.
- Inadequate provision of accessible information affects rights under a range of articles and is not limited to Article 9. In particular, people with learning



Attention all postal Newsletter recipients:

Due to a malfunction in LCiL's database we have identified that some recipients were sent the Winter 2016 edition of Lothian Disability News with the incorrect name and/or address. We apologise wholeheartedly for this error and kindly request that if you wish your contact details to be updated, to get in touch so we can make sure these are correct going forward. **Please see page 11 for more detail on how to do this.**

Lothian Disability News is written and produced by Grapevine, Disability Information Service, which is run by the Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL).

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Email grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk Website: www.lothiancil.org.uk



disabilities, Deaf people and hard of hearing people find it challenging to obtain all the accessible information they require.

The reports can be downloaded in full from LCiL's website at: <http://www.lothiancil.org.uk/uncrpd-report-submission/> including an Easy read version: 'Disabled People's Human Rights: How are we doing in Scotland?'

A British Sign Language version has also been produced of the shadow report covering Scotland at: <https://vimeopro.com/deafaction/un-1>

An event to formally launch the report is taking place on:
Fri 10 March 2017, 10:30am – 14:00pm at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Glasgow Central, 36 Cambridge Street, Glasgow, G2 3HN. Lunch and reasonable travel expenses will be provided. Online tickets can be booked via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/report-launch-disabled-peoples-human-rights-tickets-31927668516> For more information please contact Inclusion Scotland on: 0131 281 0860.



Lothian Centre for Inclusive Centre (LCiL) News and Events:

Grapevine Disability Information have recently updated and created new publications for disabled people living in Edinburgh and the surrounding area, including:



- ❖ Council tax for Disabled People (factsheet). Downloadable for free from the Grapevine section of the E-library: www.lothiancil.org.uk
- ❖ Sports and Leisure Opportunities for Disabled People in Edinburgh and Lothians (new)
- ❖ Complementary Therapies in Edinburgh and Lothians (new).
- ❖ Emotional Support Services in Edinburgh and Lothians (2017 edition now available)
- ❖ Accessible Meeting Places Guide (2017 edition now available).
- ❖ Independent Living Aid Suppliers (2017 edition now available).

Request your free copy today from our advice line: 0131 475 2370 or email: grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk

LCiL's Living and Work Choices project coming to an end.



It is with great sadness that LCiL's Living and Work Choices (LWC) project will end in March 2017. The project has been funded by the Big Lottery for the last five years and has supported disabled people and/or people with long-term conditions across Edinburgh and the Lothians to increase their confidence and raise their self-esteem in order for them to live independently.

To celebrate what has been achieved through the project and thank all those who have been involved the LWC project team are hosting a celebration event on:

Monday 27th March 2017 12.00pm-3.00pm

Where: Hanover Conference Centre, 95 McDonald Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4NS

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. In addition, if needed, we can organise and pay for transport if you live in Edinburgh or the Lothians.

If you would like to attend the event, please contact Kelly Jack on 0131 475 2350/2320 or e-mail kelly.jack@lothiancil.org.uk

The LWC Project Team would also like to thank all LCiL's associate trainers and Personal Assistants (PAs) for their contribution to the LWC courses over the last five years. Your commitment to the project has been crucial and we cannot thank you enough!



West Lothian Networking and Peer Support Group

LCiL host a networking and peer support group for disabled people and people with long-term conditions who live in West Lothian. The networking and peer support group will give you the opportunity to:

- Meet other people
- Discuss issues and share information
- Find out practical information, resources and information on who to ask
- Develop skills and build confidence
- Hear from guest speakers and organisations on a range of topics

When: Contact Emma to find out the date of the next meeting, meetings run from 10.30-12.30 followed by lunch. Transport can be arranged for people who live in West Lothian. **Where:** Almondbank Centre, Shiel Walk, Craigshill, Livingston EH54 5EH. For more information please contact Emma Wynack at LCiL on 0131 475 2350/2554 or email emma.wynack@lothiancil.org.uk



Getting it right for the future

A one-day event where you can explore finding the perfect home and the right support

Aimed at parents and carers of disabled children or children with long-term conditions, the day will give you the opportunity to:



- meet other parents and carers and share information
- get practical information from a range of organisations about support packages, support planning, adaptations and housing options
- take part in workshops and hear from people with lived experience

There will be:

- **Stalls where you can pick up information and talk to staff from:** Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living, Housing Options Scotland, Kindred, Ark Housing Association, Independent Living Fund Scotland, the Action Group and others.

- **Talks and workshops:**

Morning 11.00-12.00

What's possible? and how can advocacy help? A talk by the Good Life Group and Partners in Advocacy.

Our journeys: A talk and workshop – a young person and a parent share their experience.

Afternoon 14.00-15.00

Making a case for what you need: A practical workshop led by Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living.

Right home, right place; what are your options? A talk and workshop by Housing Options Scotland.

- **Videos of other people's experience**
- **A space to chat and share information with each other**

This is a free event

Refreshments will be available all day and lunch will be available from 12.30– 2pm.

You're welcome to come for the whole day, or just drop in for any part of it.

When: 10.30am – 3.30pm on Thursday 23 March

Where: Hanover Conference Centre, 95 McDonald Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4NS

To book or for more information, please contact Emma Wynack at LCIIL via:
Email: emma.wynack@lothiancil.org.uk or Call: 0131 475 2350/0131 475 2554

(Booking isn't essential, but it will help us with catering to have an indication of numbers)



Know your rights workshop

Are you a disabled person, or someone with a long-term condition?

Do you want to:

- Improve your knowledge of your rights
- Increase your ability to self-advocate?
- Learn how to make a complaint if your rights aren't met?

...and would you like to:

- meet new people? & increase your confidence?

in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere...then come along to our workshop!

Where and When?

Know Your Rights Workshop

10.30am – 2.00pm, **Wednesday 10th May 2017**

Training Suite, Norton Park Conference Centre, Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY

At this workshop we'll cover:

- the social model of disability
- where, when and how to get support
- where to go for support/advocacy with accessing benefits and services



Lunch and refreshments will be provided and if needed we can organise and pay for transport if you live in Edinburgh or the Lothians.



To find out more and to book, contact **Emma Wynack** at LCiL on **0131 475 2554**
Alternatively, email emma.wynack@lothiancil.org.uk

'Have you tried God, or snake venom?'

...are you tired of getting asked questions like this?

Are you a disabled person, or someone with a long-term condition?

Do you want to:

- Have increased skills in having 'difficult' conversations?
- Gain a better understanding of your own and others' motivations?
- Learn how to turn the conversation around to educate/change attitudes?

What about..?
You should



...and would you like to:

- Meet new people? & increase your confidence?

In a relaxed and friendly atmosphere...then come along to our workshop!

Where and When?

Have you tried God, or snake venom?

10.30am – 1.30pm, **Tuesday 28th March 2017**

Training Suite, Norton Park Conference Centre, Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY

At this workshop, we will cover:

- the social model of disability
- dealing with own responses to people trying to be 'helpful'



Lunch and refreshments will be provided and if needed we can organise and pay for transport if you live in Edinburgh or the Lothians.

To find out more and to book, contact **Emma Wynack** at LCiL on **0131 475 2554** or email emma.wynack@lothiancil.org.uk

FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY for PERSONAL ASSISTANTS (PAs)



The Personal Assistant Network Scotland is pleased to offer the following FREE training to PAs employed by the person they look after!

Dealing with Behaviours that Challenge Boundaries

Edinburgh: Wednesday 15th March 2017, 9.30am-4.30pm

This course supports PAs in their approach to dealing with difficult situations within the PA/employer relationship. In addition to this, standards and techniques are introduced to ensure that risk enablement and defensible decision-making is evident in support of the human rights of both the PA and employer. It is intended that this course will encourage thought about working collaboratively and co-productively with the supported individual and other caregivers

To book a place please contact Sharon on 01563 522551 or email info@panetworkscotland.org.uk Spaces are limited

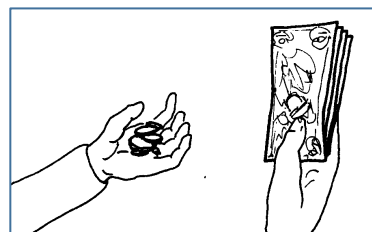
Please note

- All courses will run dependent on minimum numbers. Bookings will be taken up to one week before each course and if minimum numbers are not reached, the organisers reserve the right to cancel.
- Confirmation of your place will be emailed to you in advance—you must notify us immediately if you cannot attend.
- All attendees will be required to sign up to the Personal Assistants Network at: www.panetworkscotland.org.uk

BENEFIT UPDATE: Government must establish additional financial support for disabled people before introducing lower benefit rate, says Work and Pensions committee.

A UK Government cross-party report published at the start of February said that, if the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is to press ahead with introducing a lower rate of benefit for **new claimants** of the Employment Support Allowance (ESA) in the Work-Related Activity Group (WRAG) it must first have set out a clear plan for identifying where new claimants have additional, unavoidable living costs relating to their conditions, and how it will ensure that these costs are covered.

The House of Lords have twice tried to get the cut reversed, but to no avail. If this reduction goes ahead it will result in new claimants for contributions based Employment Support Allowance (ESA), who are placed in the Work-Related Activity Group, having their weekly benefit reduced to the same level as Job Seekers Allowance which is currently set at: £73.10 a week for people over 25 years old from April 2017.



Organisations representing disabled people across the UK have publicly spoke out about this change and its 'supposed incentive' to get more disabled people into paid employment.



Although Grapevine are unable to assist people with ESA claim forms, we can advise people on what they expect from the ESA assessment process. If you living in Edinburgh or East Lothian contact us for free and impartial advice on 0131 475 2370 (Mon-Thu, 10am-4pm) or we will signpost you to nearest service who can assist with claims for ESA.

News from elsewhere:

Access to Elected Office Fund Scotland

There are not enough disabled people in politics and elected office. Many disabled people are put off from seeking elected office because of the additional costs they face. These extra costs could be enough to prevent them from getting involved and standing for election. To help level the playing field and help pay for reasonable adjustments, the Scottish Government has agreed to fund a pilot access fund for the Local Council Elections in 2017.



The Access to Elected Office Fund Scotland, administered by Inclusion Scotland, has been funded by the Scottish Government as a pilot project to see if this type of support could lead to representation that is equal.

Disabled people seeking selection and election as a candidate for local council seats will be able to apply for financial assistance. Under guidance developed in co-

production with disabled people, awards will be made that specifically relate to access costs and reasonable adjustments to address impairment barriers. The awards will be decided independently of political views or parties.

Inclusion Scotland can also offer an Access to Politics advice and support service for disabled people. We can advise individuals on how to participate more fully in politics, and can advise political parties and organisations about how they can be inclusive to disabled members.

For more information and how to go about applying please contact Naomi Waite at Inclusion Scotland on 0131 281 0888 or email: naomi@inclusionScotland.org

Head injury information day

A FREE event for professionals and for people affected by all types of acquired brain injury and head injury, including families and carers.



Where: Hilton Edinburgh Grosvenor, 5-21 Grosvenor Street, Edinburgh EH12 5EF

When: Wednesday 17th May 2017, Time: 9.00am - 3.30pm

Refreshments available

Find out about:

- The effects of head injury and brain injury
- Different services you can access
- Support and help that is available to you

No need to sign up in advance, but if you would like more information please contact: Nicola on 0141 566 9416 or nicola.macauslane@digbybrown.co.uk

Further details about the event can be found at: www.hiid.org.uk

Event: Your Parliament, Your Voice

Mon 13 March 2017, 10:00am – 12:30pm

Where: Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5QY.

Inclusion Scotland and the Commission on Parliamentary Reform are hosting this event to give disabled people the opportunity to find out more about the Commission on Parliamentary Reform and feedback regarding how the Scottish Parliament can:

- engage more with the public.
- make clear to people what its role is;
- be confident it has the right checks and balances in place so it can work effectively.

The event will be small round-table discussions based on your experiences and/or expectations of engaging with the Scottish Parliament and trying to change Scottish Government policy. The discussions will focus on whether there are any particular challenges facing disabled people engaging with Parliament and, where there are, what can be done to break these down.

This event is free but please register, as spaces are limited! To register your place, visit the online booking site, Event Brite via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/your-parliament-your-voice-tickets-31965328157> Or contact Inclusion Scotland on 0131 281 0860

'Disabled Persons' Parking Place - have your say!



Disabled people and organisations are being asked to submit written evidence to the The Scottish Parliament based on their experiences of Disabled People's Parking Places.

The Local Government and Communities Committee wants to hear views on how the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 is working. The Act received Royal Assent on 1 April 2009. The Act's objective is to prevent disabled persons' parking places being occupied by those that are not entitled to use them by making all permanent disabled street-parking places enforceable.

Some questions the Committee are asking include:

- Do you think the Act has achieved its aim of preventing disabled person's parking spaces being used by those who are not entitled to?
- How well is the local authority in your area carrying out its duties required by the Act to convert all advisory on-street disabled persons' parking places into enforceable parking places, unless they are no longer required?
- Any other issues relating to the Act which you wish to bring to the attention of the Committee?

The closing date for receipt of submissions is Monday 20 March 2017.

Written submissions can be sent via email to: LGCCCommittee@parliament.scot and should be limited to no more than six pages of A4. Responses can also be sent by post to: Clerk to the Local Government and Communities Committee Office Room T3.60 Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP.

Written submissions will be made public on the Committee's webpage. If you do not wish your response to be made public, please contact the clerks to discuss. If you have any further questions about this inquiry, please contact the Committee clerking team at the above e-mail address or call 0131 348 5206

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✂.....

For postal replies:

**LOTHIAN DISABILITY NEWS UPDATE MY CONTACT DETAILS
PLEASE**

My contact details on the envelop are:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Please update contact details to:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:



Please insert in an envelope to: Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living, FREEPOST SCO2157, Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 0BR

Grapevine Disability Information Service



Providing up to date, reliable and accessible information to disabled people and their supporters in Edinburgh and East Lothian. We cover all disability related matters and our service is completely free and confidential.

You can contact us on:

Disability Information line 0131 475 2370 (Monday – Thursday, 10am-4pm). (If you can't get through to speak to someone please leave a message on the answer machine and someone will call you back as soon as possible). Alternatively you can email your enquiry to our secure email : grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk Or use our Online enquiry form at: <http://www.lothiancil.org.uk/>

Appointments can be offered to disabled people living in **Edinburgh and East Lothian** who require assistance on their Personal Independence (DLA) and Attendance Allowance (AA) forms.

Check out the latest news on our website at: www.lothiancil.org.uk or write to Grapevine, LCiL, Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5QY. To contact the Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) please call our main switchboard number on 0131 475 2350 (available Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm or email: LCIL@lothiancil.org.uk)

Here's a list of other helpful phone numbers if you need to speak to someone in an emergency:

Breathing Space - 0800 83 85 87 (Mon to Thurs 6pm - 2am) (Fri to Mon 6pm - 6am)

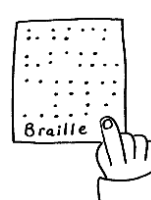
Samaritans - 08457 90 90 90 (24 hours)

Emergency Social Work Service - 0800 731 6969 (out of hours only)

NHS 24 Helpline (111)

NHS Inform Helpline – 0800 22 44 88 (8am to 10pm, 7 days) - can give you details of all pharmacies, GP practices and dental practices in Scotland.

This publication is available on request in a range of alternative formats, including Large Print, Audio and Braille.



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