



Lothian Disability News

Summer 2017

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter!

Summer is finally here, and with it comes sun, holidays, and another packed edition of Lothian Disability news! In theory anyway; as we sit here in the LCiL offices, we're currently experiencing the wettest week of 2017 so far. Despite this, we have pulled together a packed edition of Lothian Disability News for you. We hope this will provide a great summer accompaniment - whatever the weather!

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Thank You!

From everyone at LCiL, thank you for supporting our work by subscribing to our quarterly newsletter!

Your feedback is important to us; we'd love to hear what you think about our Newsletter and articles. If you'd like to get in touch with us to pass on any views, comments, or suggestions for future articles, you can email us at:

callum.ogden@lothiancil.org.uk

Or call us on

0131 475 2467



Grapevine News Update

Big news for the Grapevine Advice service! Five day opening and National Standards Accreditation.



Grapevine at a Glance

In 2016-2017, the Grapevine advice line supported 773 service users in 1,204 enquiries, covering 4,338 individual issues!

Last year we helped achieve over £200,000 in financial gain for our service users.

The most common issues advised on are disability benefits such as Personal Independent Payments

As ever it has been a busy few months for the Grapevine Advice service, and indeed a busy year; the Grapevine service assisted with over 1,200 enquiries last year – our busiest year ever!

“Last year alone the Grapevine service assisted with over 1,200 enquiries – our busiest year ever!”

We’re proud to announce that from June 2017 the Grapevine advice service has achieved accreditation from the Scottish Government under the Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice Providers! We’re very pleased to have achieved this recognition of the quality of the advice and information we provide, it demonstrates the hard work and commitment from our team at LCI.

Also starting in June 2017, our advice line will now be open five days a week to provide information and advice to those who need it, Monday to Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm. This additional day will ensure we can continue to support as many people as possible in the Edinburgh area. If you need advice on virtually any topic related to disability, from benefits to access to services, see below for details on how to get in touch.

Need advice? Get in touch

Phone: 0131 475 2370

Email: Grapevine@Lothiancil.org.uk



Personal Independence Payments

The latest updates to the Personal Independence Payments Framework

With the new financial year beginning in April, there are a number of changes which could have an impact on those who currently claim Personal Independence Payments (PIP), and those who may be applying in the future.

Mental Health and PIP

Is it becoming harder to claim Personal Independence Payments in 2017? PIP is currently divided into two award components: daily living and mobility. Both of these can be awarded by the DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) at either a standard or enhanced rate. The mobility component is assessed against the individual's ability to move around, as well as to "plan and follow journeys".



Is it becoming harder to receive an enhanced mobility award?

In March 2017, new PIP regulations were introduced to make it harder to claim the enhanced rate of the mobility component. The new regulations stated that an individual could not be awarded the enhanced rate unless they could not plan and follow a journey "for reasons other than psychological distress".

Following this, Disability Rights UK (DR UK) wrote to the DWP to request clarification on whether it is now impossible for someone with a mental condition to be awarded the mobility component at enhanced rate. The DWP responded with some examples of situations in which it may still be possible to receive an enhanced rate award – but further guidance is still needed. DR UK stated: "We believe that PIP Decision Makers should be given far more extensive guidance to ensure that disabled people are not refused PIP just on the grounds that they experience 'overwhelming psychological distress'." We continue to await this revised guidance from the DWP so that the regulations may be clearer going forward.



Callum Ogden

Information and Communications Coordinator

Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living

Independent Living Team News

The latest news and updates from LCiL's Independent Living Team

It has continued to be a busy year for the Independent Living Team (ILT) as we support service users from across the Lothian area. As well as supporting disabled people, people with long term conditions and older people new to self-directed support (SDS) and direct payments we provide ongoing support and advice to ensure Personal Assistant employers meet their statutory requirements.

Over the 2016-2017 year, ILT supported over 650 service users across the four local authorities, an increase of 20% on the previous year. This includes over 4500 hours of direct support and some 700 home visits.

“Over the 2016-2017 year, ILT supported over 650 service users across the four local authorities, an increase of 20% on the previous year.”

Support includes recruiting PAs and agencies, creating contracts, liaising with local authorities, supporting service users through employment issues, payroll signup and general advice on SDS and direct payments.

Feedback from service users remains positive with one long-term PA employer recently telling the Independent Living Coordinator that “her quality of life and ability to live independently hinges on the support from LCiL.”

As 2017 progresses the team looks forward to supporting even more service users to live independently and is adapting to meet these requirements. Since the departure of Independent Living Coordinator Louise McMeel early this year, former Independent Living Officer (ILO) Iain McGregor has now filled this role and the rest of the team; William, Omar and Srabasti have recently been joined by two new ILOs, Christèle and Lucy. We've also said goodbye this year to former ILOs Katrina and Karen; in Karen's case re-joining us on a short-term basis after almost six years away from the organisation!

Want to Find out More?

Visit us online at:

www.lothiancil.org.uk



Edinburgh Taxicard Service Update

Changes are coming to the Edinburgh based Taxicard service. Read on to find out what this could mean for you.

Starting from 1st August 2017 Edinburgh City Council will introduce a £20 charge for successful Taxi Card applications in Edinburgh, and will lower the number of Taxi providers from six to one.

Taxi Cards are a scheme which exist in many Local Authorities around Scotland. They are intended to provide discounted taxi services to those who cannot access other means of public transport - such as buses - due to severe mobility difficulties.

Each Local Authority is responsible for administering their own Taxi Card scheme, with exact conditions and eligibility varying between authorities.

A Taxicard from City of Edinburgh Council lasts for three years and allows you to make 104 trips per year. Edinburgh Council state that this is the equivalent of one return journey a week. To be eligible you need to live in Edinburgh, have a permanent impairment and be older than two years old.



From late July, Central Taxis will be the sole provider of taxi card discounted Journeys in Edinburgh.

“Starting from 1st August 2017, there will now be a £20 charge for successful Taxi Card applications in Edinburgh.”

In June 2017, City of Edinburgh Council wrote to users of the Taxicard service to inform of upcoming changes to the service.

These changes will, from 24th July 2017, make Central Taxis the sole operator who will accept Taxi Card. In addition to this, a fee of £20 will be introduced from August 2017 for new successful applications to the Taxi Card scheme. Previously there was no fee for successful applications.

Find out more and apply for Taxi Card membership in Edinburgh:

www.edinburgh.gov.uk or call 0131 469 3891

'Personal Experiences of Self-directed Support' Report Published

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland's latest report, 'Personal Experiences of Self-directed Support', explores the impact of Self-directed Support (SDS) on the lives of people who require social care in Scotland.

The report finds that while there have been positive effects by giving people more choice and control over their social care support, the process of getting SDS and managing their support can have the opposite effect from what the SDS legislation intended.

The positive findings of the research suggest that people are becoming more satisfied with their support after moving on to Self-directed Support. At the same time, there is a welcome increase in people's awareness about SDS, with around 70 percent of participants indicating that they are informed about SDS, and approximately 80 percent saying they have talked with their social worker about the new provision.



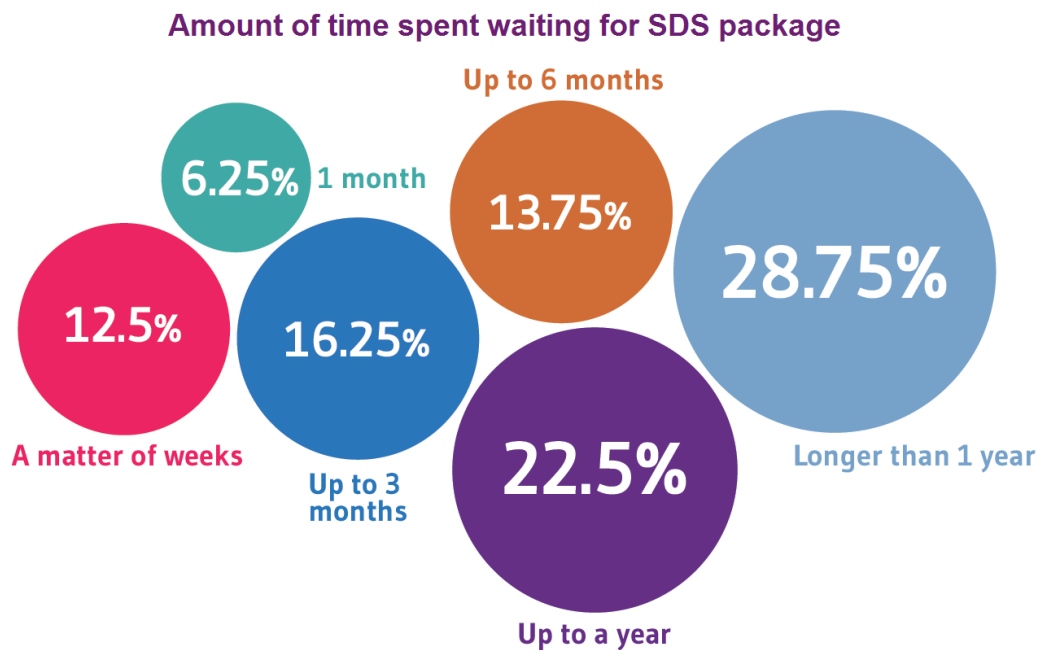
However, there are several key issues highlighted by the findings that the ALLIANCE believes must be addressed if the underlying human rights principles and values of SDS are to be fully realised. The key findings suggest:

- Almost a third of participants had to wait up to one year or longer before their support was put into place.
- People's depth of knowledge about SDS varies depending on which option they are on, their age, gender and characteristics.
- The key component of SDS, to give people choice, is highly dependent on how much autonomy people have over their care.
- Just over half of respondents stated that the number of hours they have through their SDS package is not sufficient to meet their needs for each day.
- People on option 3, which gives people local authority provided services (such as home care visits), are the only group who show a decrease in satisfaction with their support after being given self-directed support.

These findings could suggest that the more control people have over how their support is provided, the more positive they are about the support they use to meet their personal outcomes.

“...there is a welcome increase in people’s awareness about SDS, with around 70 per cent of participants indicating that they are informed about SDS.”

The main recommendation to come out of the research encourages the Scottish Government and Local Authorities to improve the communication and the availability of support to people going through the SDS process. The report shows that when people are properly engaged in their SDS from the initial assessment to managing their support on a day to day basis, they can be empowered to have control over their lives. By equipping people with the appropriate knowledge of their rights to SDS, as it was intended, disabled people can be enabled to live independently and to achieve their outcomes.



To read the full report, please visit www.alliance-scotland.org.uk

Please call Colin on 0141 404 0231 or email colin.young@alliance-scotland.org.uk Senior Policy and Outcomes Officer at the ALLIANCE, should you wish to discuss the research further or to promote the research findings at upcoming events and in publications.

LCiL Staff Changes

This is not quite a wave but a few of our colleagues are leaving LCiL for new pastures!

Charlie Dunbar, Co-ordinator of the Payroll Support Service, has left the organisation on 15th June. In just a few months Charlie has put his long experience and knowledge in financial services to good use and supported our organisation at a critical time of change and challenges for the service, and the organisation as a whole.



LCiL services are based out of our main office in Norton Park, Edinburgh. Want to join our team? See below for details.

Lorraine McKay, payroll officer, is also leaving after 5 years of great service to LCiL. As many of us will know Payroll is an essential part of employers managing their responsibilities. Lorraine's dedication, efficiency and sheer determination means that all PA employers using our service have received their paperwork on time to pay their PAs accordingly. Many will have also appreciated her support over the phone.

Finally, Amanda Beech, Training Officer, is taking a break after 7 years of significant work with PA employers and their PAs. Well known by many LCiL service users, Amanda has developed and organised many training opportunities as well as developed new links

with other organisations and businesses. Her commitment to LCiL has also been a gift to LCiL. Many of us wondered how, when leaving Ayrshire so early in the morning, and being late back home, she could still make us laugh. Jim, her faithful PA, driver and now husband, may have something to do with it!

To all we say a big thank you for making LCiL what it is and doing what it does best. We wish you all the very best in your new ventures.

LCiL periodically recruit new staff to join our team.

Find out more online:

www.lothiancil.org.uk

You can Support LCiL

It's now easier than ever to support the mission of LCiL by donating through our website. Find out how below.

Starting from July 2017, it has become even easier to support Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living. If you want to support our work, you can now do so simply and securely online by Debit/Credit card and PayPal payments, on either a one off or recurring basis.

As a registered charity in Scotland, we depend on the support of the public to continue providing our services in Edinburgh and Lothian.

You can help raise funds for LCiL and make a difference to the lives of disabled people, people with long term conditions and older people, in Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian and West Lothian.

We welcome donations from individuals and organisations, to deliver our services and advance the rights of disabled people and ensure Independent Living is a reality.

Donate

Donate to LCiL and make a difference

Help raise funds for LCiL and help make a difference to the lives of disabled people, people with long term conditions and older people, in Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian and West Lothian. We welcome donations from individuals and organisations, to deliver Our Services and advance the rights of disabled people and ensure Independent Living is a reality.

How often would you like to donate?

Just one donation

I'd like to give regularly

Monthly

Your donations will be used to help fund our services, including Grapevine Advice and the Independent Living Team.

Visit us online to donate to LCiL:

www.lothiancil.org.uk/about-lothian-cil/donate

Assertive communication workshops

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

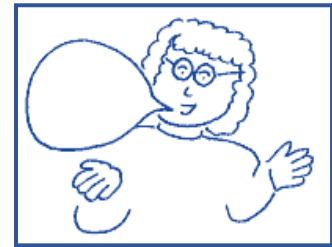
Do you want to learn how to:

- be more assertive?
- give yourself the best chance of getting what you need by preparing well for meetings or assessments?
- challenge decisions?



...and would you like to:

- meet new people?
- increase your confidence?



There will be two sessions:

Assertiveness 1

10.30am – 2.30pm, **Tuesday 1st August 2017**

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

At this workshop we'll cover different ways of communicating and their effects, and you'll have a chance to think about and plan how to make a case for something you need.

Assertiveness 2

10.30 – 2.30pm, **Tuesday 15th August 2017**

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

This workshop will give you the chance to discuss how you used what you learned in Assertiveness 1 and to take your skills further.



Please note: you **must** do Assertiveness 1 before you do this workshop.

It's great if you can come to both, but you're welcome just to do Assertiveness 1 on its own.

To find out more and to book, contact:

Emma Wynack at LCiL on **0131 475 2554**

or email emma.wynack@lothiancil.org.uk



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



West Lothian Networking and Peer Support Group

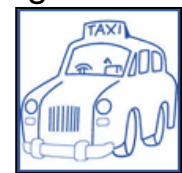
The Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) hosts a monthly networking and peer support group for disabled people and people with long term conditions who live in West Lothian. The networking and peer support group will give you the opportunity to:

- ◆ 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

Where: Almondbank Centre, Shiel Walk, Craigshill, Livingston EH54 5EH



Lunch and refreshments are provided and transport can be arranged for people who live in West Lothian.



To let us know you would like to attend or find out more information about the peer support group, contact Emma Wynack at LCiL on 0131 475 2554 or email emma.wynack@lothiancil.org.

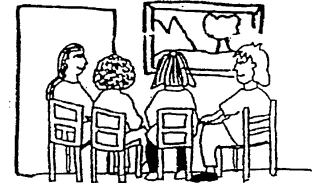
Peer Support for Parents and Carers

The Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) hosts a peer support group for parents and carers of disabled children and children with additional support needs. The parent and carer peer support group gives parents and carers the opportunity to:

- ◆ Meet other parents and carers
- ◆ Explore ideas and opportunities around support
- ◆ 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: Once a month, alternating Monday and Thursdays.

- 10.30am -1.30pm. Lunch from 12:30pm.
- Contact LCiL to find out the next date.



Where: The group will meet at Norton Park Conference Centre

57 Albion Road Edinburgh EH7 5QY

Lunch and refreshments are provided

To let us know you would like to attend or find out more information about the peer support group, contact Emma Wynack at LCiL on 0131 475 2554 or email emma.wynack@lothiancil.org.uk

Are you a disabled person or carer thinking about employing personal assistants?

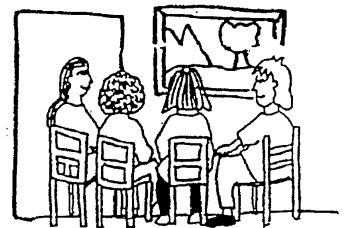
- * Would you like to attend bite sized information session while meeting new people with similar experiences?
- * And would you like help to increase your confidence and skills in managing a direct payment and get to grips with what you need to do as a PA employer?

If the answer is yes, this is for you!

The Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) is offering the first of a series of workshops as part of its Pick & Mix project.

The information session will look at:

- What are the mandatory responsibilities of being an employer?
- Identifying the steps in the recruitment process to ensure safe recruitment
- Begin to establish what you as an individual require from PAs



Date: 31st August 2017

Time: 10.30 – 1.00 followed by lunch until 1.30pm

Venue: Norton Park 57 Albion Road EH7 5QY



We can organise and pay for transport for people, where needed.

To book a place, or find out more:
Please contact Amanda Beech on 0131 475 2510
or email amanda.beech@lothiancil.org.uk