



## April 2010 bulletin

### News from NAAPS

#### **Appointment of the new NAAPS Chief Executive**

As most of you now know, the Board of Trustees has appointed Alex Fox as the new NAAPS Chief Executive. He is currently Director of Policy and Communications for the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, knows of NAAPS through his current role and is very excited about taking up the position. Alex is working a notice period with the Princess Royal Trust and will start with NAAPS on 7th June 2010.

#### **New Tax Arrangement for Shared Lives Carers**

In the Budget Report in March the Government's intention to introduce the proposed **new tax arrangement for Shared Lives Carers** (reported in detail in January) was announced and **will be implemented from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010**. As well as making the calculation of any tax liability simpler for Shared Lives carers the arrangement shifts from being a discretionary arrangement to one that has legal status which cannot be removed without the consent of Parliament. Shared Lives carers will have to submit their final return under the existing system for the current tax year 2009/10 in October.

Also in the Budget **any liability that Shared Lives carers may previously have had to pay Capital Gains Tax on selling their house and where they have used part of their house for the exclusive use of a service user has been removed**. They are now included in the private residence relief which is given to other private householders. This has been **effective from the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009** which is the date on which the Minister agreed to the proposal to change.

#### **NAAPS Survey on uplift to Carer Payments**

Judith is gathering information to find out whether Shared Lives Carers are receiving an uplift in their payments this year. A simple YES, NO or DON'T KNOW to [Judith@naaps.org.uk](mailto:Judith@naaps.org.uk) will suffice giving amount % if YES. Results will be collated anonymised and fed back so you will all have the national picture.

#### **2010 Shared Lives Carer Holiday/Conference**

The Shared Lives Carer Holiday/Conference is always the event of the year – and this year will be no exception! It is running from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> September at Ribby Hall near Blackpool (a great venue) and places are filling up fast. The booking form for the holiday is attached to this bulletin – do get this out to your Carers as soon as possible – places are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis and we hate to have to turn people away.

## Consultations (England)

### **National Care Service White Paper published**

The National Care Service White Paper was published at the end of March. It builds upon ideas set out in the Green Paper Shaping the Future of Social Care Together which was published for consultation last year. You will know from the press coverage that this strategy does not have cross-party consensus and with a General Election looming it is difficult to know how much attention we should give this. Nevertheless it is worth taking a look – even if the White Paper is abandoned after the election the challenges that it addresses remain and any incoming government (whatever their colour) will take account of the ideas set out in this document.

Go to: [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

### **CQC consultation on interim registration fees for providers of adult social care and independent health care**

CQC has published a proposed fees scheme for independent healthcare and adult social care providers who will be registered under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 from October 1 2010. It is an interim fees scheme, which will last for six months from October 1 2010 to March 31 2011. The consultation document also sets out the arrangements for continuing charges for registrations, variations and annual fees under the existing schemes from April 1 to September 30 2010. There will be no fee for the transitional application providers will need to make to enter the new registration system. The closing date for this consultation is 16 June 2010

Go to: [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)

## Consultation (Scotland)

### **The Scottish Government: Self Directed Support: A National Strategy for Scotland**

This national strategy for self-directed support in Scotland has been developed to help take forward the personalisation of health and social care services in Scotland.

The strategy has been developed with the support of a National Reference Group and through extensive discussion with other stakeholders. It will be a long term strategy, spanning 10 years, and so what is provided is a framework for significant changes in the way support is provided. It is not intended as detailed guidance, which may follow as the strategy is implemented. The closing date for this consultation is 7 May 2010. Go to:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications)

## Policy News (England)

### **The Care Quality Commission**

Has published a Equality and Human Rights Scheme, developed with the active involvement of people who use services, families, carers, our staff and anyone with an interest in improving health and social care services.

In the scheme, CQC undertakes to:

- Ensure a diverse range of people are involved in their work
- Improve the information and intelligence they have across the health and adult social care sector in relation to equality and rights
- Ensure their approach to registration and compliance promotes better outcomes for all
- Promote a culture where staff are valued, involved and supported
- Improve the diversity of their workforce at middle and senior management level
- Ensure all staff are competent and confident in applying equality and human rights in their work.

Go to: [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)

## **Government's vision for volunteering in health and social care**

NHS and local government leaders are being called on to refresh their thinking on the role and value of volunteering by Care Services Minister Phil Hope, as he publishes a new Strategic Vision. The Strategic Vision for Volunteering in Health and Social Care sets out how volunteers can and do enhance health and social care and how this can be supported. Go to:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleasesarchive/DH\\_114036](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleasesarchive/DH_114036)

## **Vetting and barring scheme guidance**

Full guidance to assist employers and voluntary groups in implementing the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) has been published by the Home Office. The new scheme, which is delivered by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), aims to prevent unsuitable people who could pose a risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults from being able to work or volunteer with these groups.

The publication comes ahead of the implementation of key changes which mean that from July 2010, employees starting work in an organisation or role affected by the new rules and volunteers working with vulnerable groups can apply to become ISA registered. The guidance document contains detailed information about what actions employers and employees will be required to take under the scheme. It also outlines what they should do in preparation for 25 July, when registration to the scheme

To view the guidance go to: [www.direct.gov.uk/vetting](http://www.direct.gov.uk/vetting) or [www.businesslink.gov.uk/vbs](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/vbs)

## **Implementation of Free Personal Care at Home delayed by six months**

The House of Lords amendment to the Free Personal Care at Home Bill delays implementation until April 2011. Tabled by Lord Best, with cross-party backing by Lord Warner, Earl Howe and Baroness Barker, the amendment delays the new arrangements by six months. It will allow local authorities additional time to plan and budget for this new service. Implementation was scheduled for 1 October 2010 at an estimated cost of £670m in a full year. Councils are expected to provide £250m from efficiency savings with the remaining £420m being funded by central government.

## **Jobs First: Supporting people with learning disabilities in to work**

A new pilot scheme – Jobs First – has been launched by the Department of Health to help people with learning disabilities to use their personal budgets to find paid jobs.

The pilot scheme will run in 7 local authority areas in England for 12 months:

- Essex County Council
- Oldham Council
- Leicester City Council
- London Borough of Newham
- Herefordshire Council
- North Tyneside Council
- Northamptonshire County Council

Each pilot site will develop its own model for providing extra support to people with learning disabilities. Jobs First will evaluate the effectiveness of each and share the evidence with local authorities across the country to help them use existing resources more effectively.

Jobs First will be closely aligned with Right to Control, an initiative run by the Office for Disability Issues, which aims to give disabled people more power to decide how they live their lives. For more information go to:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_101401](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_101401)

## **Right to Control: Trail blazer sites announced**

Right to Control is intended to give disabled adults more choice and control over the state funding they receive – allowing them to shape the support they receive, or use the money to buy their own services or equipment. Disabled people in the Trailblazer areas can expect a more personalised service joining up housing, support into work and community care. There will also be extra support and advice to help people choose services and decide how to spend their money.

Under the Right to Control, disabled people will be able to organise their current support arrangements to better meet their needs, choose a cash payment to buy their own support services or equipment, or have a mixture of both. Alternatively, if people are happy with the support they currently receive, they won't have to change anything.

For example, someone with a learning disability may get help from Supporting People to learn skills like cooking and budgeting. They may also get support from Work Choice, which helps people find a job. They could choose to combine their support by paying for a local college course, where they learn life skills and job skills. The eight trail blazing local authorities have been named as:

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Sheffield City Council (joint)
- Essex County Council
- Greater Manchester – incorporating Manchester City Council, Oldham Council, Bury Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and Trafford Council
- Leicester City Council
- London Borough of Barnet
- London Borough of Newham
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council,

- Surrey County Council (two Districts Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council)

### **Prioritising Need in the context of Putting People First.**

This new guidance from the Department of Health replaces the Fair Access to Care Services guidance and is essential reading! Although the concept of a threshold drawn somewhere across the range of Critical, Substantial, Moderate and Low, still remains, the new guidance also deals with other areas such as resource allocation systems, universal services, preventative services, pulling in social capital and how much detail is required for a support plan, .

Go to:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_113155.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_113155.pdf)

## **Policy News (England and Wales)**

### **Ordinary residence**

New guidance and directions to local authorities on ordinary residence, together with cross-border arrangements on ordinary residence disputes arising between England and Wales has recently been published. The guidance, directions and cross-border arrangements are effective from 19 April 2010.

Go to:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_113627](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113627)

## **Resources**

### **Care First Careers**

Social Care employers across Britain can get £1,000 for taking on a young person who is struggling to find work. Additional free pre-employment training packages will also get young recruits off to a flying start, through the Government's Care First Careers initiative. Care First Careers is part of the Government's young persons guarantee – that everyone between the ages of 18 and 24 who has been looking for work for six months will get a job offer, work experience or training. It makes £75 million available to fund up to 50,000 jobs.

To find out more about this scheme administered by Jobcentre Plus – and to learn how employers can apply for the subsidy, go to:

<http://www.caredirections.co.uk>