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NAAPS news

The future of NAAPS: member survey and debate

This Autumn finds us right at the beginning of our business planning process. We would like to get our members involved in this, so that you can influence the work that we put into our plans for next financial year (from April 1st 2011). We are sending Shared Lives schemes, Homeshare organisations and Small Community Service members some slides which we hope you will have a chance to look at - they contain six questions about your views on the future of NAAPS.

There will be discussions about these slides at every regional and country committee meeting and at the Homeshare meeting. We would be grateful if Shared Lives schemes could also discuss these questions with your Shared Lives carer groups locally. They are also available as an online survey to any member here:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/VNMMJ9K

Remember: support for our SCS members is now available via Tracy Turner on SCShelp@naaps.org.uk.

Member services and issues

Local authority funding cuts

What is your local experience? Is your service affected by any spending cuts? Please let us know, in confidence, so that we can present a national picture to policy makers and tackle any widespread problems.

Diversity

NAAPS has now started collecting equalities and diversity monitoring information through new joiner and membership renewal forms. We will keep this information separately to members' personal details and will use it only to generate a clearer picture of the diversity of our members. We would like to gain a clearer understanding of which groups may be under-represented or overlooked in our membership and in our committees and other ways of participating in NAAPS as a member.

Raising awareness of your work

Article in the MJ about Shared Lives

NAAPS CEO, Alex Fox, co-authored an article for MJ, the leading local government journal, about Shared Lives, which you can read at www.localgov.co.uk/index.cfm?method=news.detail&id=90923&layout=2.

New blog for NAAPS

Alex now writes a blog (a web-based diary) on NAAPS and its members' work which you can read and comment on at <http://alexfoxblog.wordpress.com>. It is one way in which we hope to have a discussion with members, including those who may not be able to attend committee meetings. We also advertise the blog to sector audiences to help engage people with our work.

Recent blogs: [In-house or out-sourced?](#); [Shared Lives is family life too](#); [NAAPS – we're all about the geese](#). At the bottom of each is space to leave your comments. If you have an experience or anecdote about your work which you would like to share, we would love to include some guest blogs from our members, so drop us a line! Blogs can be very short – about 300 words is fine – and we will help you edit it.

NAAPS in Community Care magazine

NAAPS featured in an article in Community Care this month – see below. From next month, Alex will have a monthly column on how personalisation is working (or not!) on the ground – if you have real life experiences to share, please get in touch!

Policy and regulation

NAAPS influencing government

Following positive meetings with the President of the Association of Directors of Adult Services, we have meetings coming up with the Director General for social care and the Minister of State for social care, as well as other senior Department of Health officials. We are pursuing meetings with officials in Communities and Local Government. Please let us know of any issues which you would like us to raise with policy makers and politicians.

Make sure your enterprise Gets Legal

Get Legal is a free online reference and decision-making tool for charities, social enterprises and co-operative organisations from NCVO, with clear information and guidance on the most appropriate legal forms that organisations should take in order to deliver their goals. For more information visit: www.getlegal.org.uk

The Law Commission

The Law Commission reviews the law in England and Wales, attempting to make it simple, accessible and modern. They are currently reviewing adult social care law. They are asking for suggestions as to areas of law which they might review. You can submit ideas at www.lawcom.gov.uk or via NAAPS. They cannot alter the intention of existing laws, but they do make recommendations where the law is unnecessarily complex, disproportionate or not doing what it was intended to do. The closing date is October 15th.

Personalisation and self-directed care planning

These documents came out earlier this year, but if you are looking at the way in which you carry out care planning, they are worth a look:

- [Changing lives together: using person-centred outcomes to measure results in social care](#) looks at new ways to measure success in local social services. It shares the learning from initiatives which aim to find out if people achieve outcomes which are important to them.
- Lincolnshire has put outcome-focused reviews into practice, making use of the In Control framework: [Lincolnshire review form](#).
- A group of disabled people, family carers and people from eight councils have worked together to develop a new way to carry out reviews: [Outcome-focused reviews: A practical guide](#).
- There is a guide to: [Personal budgets for older people - making it happen](#)
- SCIE has launched a new [website](#) to help councils with Putting People First.

Employment for people with learning disabilities

DH data for 2008/9 on National Indicator 146 shows that the employment rate for adults with learning disabilities known to social services is 6.8%, compared to 47% for all disabled people. See [The Resource Hub](#) for relevant resources.

Good nutrition for Alzheimer's sufferers - Food for Thought

The Alzheimer's Society's leaflet, "[Food For Thought](#)" has nutrition and food delivery tips for carers of dementia sufferers, based on carers' experiences.

Benefit Cuts

There continue to be concerns about cuts in benefits for disabled people. Disabled people 'face savage onslaught' from benefit cuts. Incapacity benefit claimants assessed as fit to work will lose up to £25 a week in benefits and face tougher requirements to seek work, while the government hopes that introducing medical assessments for new and existing disability living allowance (DLA) claimants will cut numbers by 20%. <http://bit.ly/dutZdc> We are concerned about the impact of reassessment, particularly on those with variable or cyclical conditions. Do please share your thoughts or experiences of benefits issues with us.

Policy news (England)

Big Society and micro-enterprise

The Prime Minister announced the first four "big society" communities in Sutton, Windsor and Maidenhead, Eden Valley in Cumbria and Liverpool. These four areas will now receive targeted and tailored help from the Government to ensure they can overcome bureaucratic barriers and take greater responsibility for the decisions that affect the local area and local people. If you are in one of these areas and think that

you might be able to benefit from this initiative, please get in touch with NAAPS and we can discuss making contact with the relevant departments.

Greg Clark MP, Minister for decentralisation at Communities and Local Government, talks about what The Big Society means. <http://bit.ly/c4vjiN> . He says it has three strands: public sector reform, community empowerment and philanthropic action. NAAPS believes that micro-enterprise is a blend of all three.

We are often asked by policy makers how to scale up micro-enterprise. Clark quotes a Bangladeshi economist called Mohammed Yunus, a founder of micro-credit, to back up his case that the fastest way to make progress is to start small:

"For those who are considering becoming involved in social business, you don't have to wait. You can see the impact right away - not on the whole of society, but on a portion of it... It's not necessary to wait to see the impact on millions of people. "Millions" is a big number. But if your work has a positive impact on five or ten people, you have invented a seed. Now you can plant it a million times."

We would agree with that: we want to see many more micro-enterprises. This is different to wanting micro-enterprises always to grow into large enterprises. We would be interested in your thoughts on this and on what makes it hard for micro-enterprises to start up and survive. alex@naaps.org.uk

Refreshing the National Carers' Strategy – call for evidence

The DH is seeking views, by 20 September, on what will have the greatest impact on improving carers' lives in the next four years. <http://bit.ly/czzJKt>

Consultation on support for adults with autism

There is a consultation on health and care services for adults with autism, following on from the Strategy for adults with autism: *Fulfilling and rewarding lives* and the Autism Act 2009. Views are now sought on diagnosis, increasing awareness of autism amongst frontline staff, needs assessment, services and the role of NHS and social care. Closing date: 22 October. Click the consultations link at: www.dh.gov.uk

Social Care Framework published

Supporting people to live and die well: a framework for social care at the end of life was published on 8 July. [Download the framework](#) or email: information@eolc.nhs.uk

Safeguarding vulnerable adults: awareness campaign

A government campaign to raise awareness of financial abuse of vulnerable people includes [downloadable posters](#) to increase awareness of staff and the public.

Policy News (Wales)

WAG Funding to promote dignity

Small grants for projects that promote dignity in health and social care are open until 1st September. Email: Gareth.Morgan5@wales.nhs.uk

Policy News (Scotland)

The Carers and Young Carers Strategies for Scotland: 2010-2015

Caring Together and *Getting It Right For Young Carers* are five year strategies published alongside *Good Practice and Carers and Young Carers Stories* (which mentions Shared Lives), and *An Analysis of Existing Data Sources on Unpaid Carers in Scotland*. See: www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/Health/care/strategy

Caring Together includes commitments to help carers including a Carers' Rights Charter, further investment in carers training, improving carer identification and promoting carer-friendly employment practices. £5 million over five years has been allocated to develop personalised short breaks.

New PVG scheme to go live on 30 November 2010

Details, guidance and training materials and contact details for Disclosure Scotland and the Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS) are at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1141/0100847.pdf

Public Spending in Scotland - Independent Budget Review Findings

To have your say on spending go to <http://blogs.scotland.gov.uk/publicspending/>

Resources and funding

Community groups can apply for a share of Big Local £200m

The [Big Lottery Fund](#) has announced the [50 areas](#) in England where community groups will be able to apply for 10 year grants from its new £200m funding stream, Big Local, to "identify their pressing issues and develop the skills and confidence necessary to start changing things in their community for the better."

New funding for social entrepreneurs from September

From September 28th, The Arthur Guinness Fund will award £6m in grants to 30 social entrepreneurs in partnership with [Ashoka](#), a global association of more than 2,500 social entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs will receive financial, practical and strategic support to run projects that bring about social change in their communities and others. To apply, go to www.guinnessforgood.com.

Research and Innovation

NAAPS teams up with Joseph Rowntree Foundation

JRF has published an open call for a research proposal as part of their Better Life programme, which focuses on older people with high support needs. The research will look at Shared Lives, Homeshare and micro-enterprises among other non-traditional support approaches. See: www.jrf.org.uk/funding and <http://bit.ly/adVo3Y>

Please let academic colleagues know – the deadline is 5th October 2010. To kick this piece of work off, Alex has written an article for JRF's website which you can find at www.jrf.org.uk/blog

Getting more from Direct Payments

A group of young college leavers with learning disabilities in Richmond upon Thames have piloted an innovative way of getting more from their direct payment care package. Supported by a local voluntary organisation, the Richmond Users

Independent Living Scheme (RUILS), the young people have pooled some of their money to set up a friendship group supported by personal assistants. The group of four to five young men enjoy going to football matches, the gym and taking part in martial arts together. The work may have spin-offs as families engage in community networking and other disabled groups access a guide written as a result of the pilot.

The case study can be downloaded here:

www.transitionssupportprogramme.org.uk/pdf/CSRichmond_Personalisation.pdf

New mentoring scheme to help those affected by dementia

People with dementia, their carers and family members are invited to become online Living Well with Dementia mentors. This is part of an innovative new support network set up by the DH, in partnership with online coaching and peer mentoring site www.horsemouth.co.uk Mentors will use their personal experiences of dementia to help others face the challenges of this condition, and can choose how much time they devote to their role.

Outcomes measuring

Do you try to measure outcomes for the people who use your services? We are keen to build the evidence base for the outcomes of micro-enterprise, so would be very interested to hear from anyone who was already measuring outcomes or who would be interested in doing so.

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is one approach to understanding and managing the impacts of a project, organisation or policy. It puts financial value on the important impacts identified by various stakeholders that do not have market values. There is a step by step guide to using SROI at www.thesroinetwork.org. SROI can be used at varying levels, according to your needs and resources.

Share your learning and innovation with the network

One of the ways in which we can help members is to ensure they find out about the lessons being learned by other micro-enterprises. We are always grateful for your contributions of brief practice examples and case studies. Please send us accounts of innovative or interesting work from which you feel your fellow NAAPS members might be able to learn.

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