



Carers And Parents of adults with learning disabilities in Enfield

CAPE NEWS – June & July 2021

We were so disappointed to cancel our much desired 'in person' CAPE meeting arranged for July 12th, but when the Government extended lockdown restrictions, we really had no other option. Now that lockdown restrictions have been reviewed, we have re-arranged our meeting as follows

CAPE has now arranged an 'in person' meeting for Monday, August 9th!

We shall be meeting at our new venue – Park Avenue Disability Resource Centre, at 10.00 a.m. We have booked the main room, which is very large and should allow for everyone to maintain an appropriate level of social distancing. Vicky Main, the head of the Integrated Learning Disabilities Service (ILDS), who has taken over from Niel Niehorster, will be coming along to meet CAPE members. She will be telling us about changes in personnel and structure of the team, and she will also answer questions which members have submitted (see below).

Please would you bring your face masks, as we may require you to wear these during the meeting.

CAPE members have continued to meet with Enfield officers and still attend various 'remote' meetings, such as the L.D. Focus Group, the Health Sub Group, the Transition Implementation Group, The Money Matters Group, the L.D. Partnership Board, Carers Rights Week, etc., making every effort to raise concerns and issues on behalf of carers of adults with L.D. In addition, we have participated in giving carers' views in wider consultations, such as the Fox Lane Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme.

Local Covid-19 PCR Testing.

The Covid-19 PCR testing is still available, even for those who do not have symptoms, and we are grateful to Enfield for providing this. Tests are available on Mondays at Park Avenue Disability Resource Centre. If you, your Direct Payment staff, or the person you care for would like a test, please ring Rosemary Mann, on 020 8360 1195 or email her at Rosemary.Mann@enfield.gov.uk . Enfield has also now set up several centres where the high speed Lateral Flow Display (LFD) tests are freely available to anyone who would like one. Please check Enfield.gov for a centre in your area.

Re-Opening of Day Services.

This process is continuing successfully, and those in residential care settings or group supported living environments will soon, hopefully, be offered the opportunity to return to their day services. Please contact your day service provider or the Duty Social Worker (020 8379 5075), if you require any further information. ILDS is also offering a 'virtual' day service, provided by Radio Marathon. If you would like more information about this, please contact the Duty Social Worker.

Members may still feel uneasy about their family member returning to day services, at this time, or may even wish to consider temporary or permanent changes to their past arrangements. Again, please discuss this with the Duty Social Worker, if you have any concerns.

I must remind you again that the Formont pool is open for private hires, and you may use your Personal Budget to purchase sessions, which will be for your family member's sole use. You will need to organise appropriate support for these sessions. This is a really excellent facility, which my family is now using and enjoying tremendously. Please check with Shard Madhewoo at the Formont (020 8363 6388), for more information.

Supported by Enfield Disability Action



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Disability and Barring Service (DBS) Checks.

Any staff you employ privately using your Direct Payments should require a DBS check, possibly an Enhanced one. Please refer to this link to obtain more information about how you can do this:

<https://mylife.enfield.gov.uk/enfield-home-page/content/safeguarding/disclosure-and-barring-service/>

Your DP support provider will also be able to advise you on accessing this service.

Covid-19 Vaccine.

Hopefully, most carers and adults with L.D. will have received their Covid-19 vaccinations. If you have not yet been able to do this, I do urge you get this done, for yourself, but also, most importantly, for those for whom you care. Increasingly, proof of vaccine status is being required, and we know that this will be the only long-term solution to this pandemic. I should certainly be very uneasy about my son receiving services from anyone who had not been vaccinated, or, indeed, sharing communal services with unvaccinated service users. You can obtain paper confirmation of your vaccine status, if you do not access the on-line facilities, by calling 119. If you require additional support for your family member to obtain the vaccination, please ask to speak to the L.D. nurses on 020 8379 5039.

Money Matters Group (MMG)

This group has been set-up, at the request of the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board, to consider Social Care Charging and other Finance issues. The group has continued to be active and next meets on 21st July. Officers will be present to address some outstanding issues. We hope that there will now be a member who has L.D., and who is supported by an appropriate advocate. Regular reports are being made to the LDPB.

Charging Assessments for 2021-22, Claims for Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) and 'Norfolk Ruling'.

Everyone should now have received their family member's annual financial assessment. This was accompanied by a lengthy letter, so, I hope everything is now clear. Again, even if you have been assessed as having a 'free' service, I do urge you to the phone 020 8379 8177, and request a breakdown of your charging calculation. The letter explains the changes due to the 'Norfolk Ruling', and many service users will have seen a decrease in their annual charge. For some the reduction may be large (approx £35 per week) and they may also be entitled to a refund of up to £1148.55 from July last year. If service users are entitled to a refund, they should be contacted by Finance about this. This refund will apply to many of those who had night care funded by the L.A. from July 2021 to April 2022. Again, I urge you to ensure that you have claimed all your family member's Disability Related Expenditure (ref my earlier editions of CAPE News).

Learning Disabilities Partnership Board - May 2021 – and 'Task and Finish Group'.

There is a serious issue which concerns many CAPE members: 'What happens when family carers are not there anymore?' and this was raised at the LDPB in May. A 'Task and Finish Group', which is a short term mechanism lasting six months, meeting monthly, has been set up to consider this. It is chaired by Ineta Miskinyte, from Enfield's Commissioning team. This will hopefully result in commissioning a service, which would put carers' minds at rest, by providing oversight, advocacy, etc., especially for those who have services provided by Direct Payments.. The group involves various relevant parties, as well as CAPE and ECC representatives. There have so far been two meetings, and it is progressing in a very positive way, focusing on Contingency Planning, at the last meeting. We shall keep members informed of progress.



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E-Cards for Direct Payments.

Service users, who receive Direct Payments, are being encouraged to use E-cards, as a way of facilitating these. These do have some benefits, both for service users and the L.A., but some people may wish continue to use a bank account. Please remember that you cannot be forced to use an E-card to take your Direct Payment - it is your choice.



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Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) Trial Schemes.

You may be aware that Enfield Council has closed off a number of roads as part of these schemes. We are concerned that these schemes are having serious effects on disabled people, particularly those who need to rely on specialist transport to access services.

The road blockages have caused significant delays in the surrounding streets, particularly around Southgate Circus and Palmers Green High Road, and we understand that disability transport managers have made a formal complaint to the Director of Social Services. Nevertheless, we think that Enfield Council will decide to make these schemes permanent, in spite of the significant level of residents' opposition to them. We think they are also considering more LTN schemes, in the future. The consultation on the Fox Lane LTN Scheme has now closed, but if you, or your disabled family member are suffering because of all the road closures, please contact your local councillor, or your M.P., to tell them about the problems which are being experienced.

Hilary Stannard.

You will have received an email about the sad loss of Hilary Stannard, who was one of CAPE's founding members, and who played a leading role in the early days of Enfield Mencap. We shall formally remember her at our next meeting.

Questions for Vicky Main on 9th August 2021.

We are delighted to welcome Vicky to our first meeting since lockdown began in March 2020. Vicky has now been in her post, as head of ILDS, for well over a year – but what a year it has been! As part of her presentation, she is happy to answer members' questions, and address any general issues which members may have. She has asked that these questions be put together and forwarded to her in advance of the meeting. She will be unable to address issues relating directly to individual service users. If you do have any questions for Vicky, would you email these to Luan (see below), by Friday, July 23rd, and we can then forward these to Vicky, for her to consider.

Finally!

Luan continues to support us from EDA, and we are always pleased to hear from members who wish to contact CAPE, or who have issues of concern. I do hope we have a good turnout to welcome Vicky, and please encourage any carer friends to join us on August 9th. Obviously, this will all depend on the situation we are facing in a few weeks' time.

Wendy Berry (Vice-Chair).

Contacts - Tel: Luan, 0208 373 6249 (or 07745 795347) email: CAPE@e-d-a.org.uk website: www.CAPE-LD.org