



# Carers And Parents of adults with learning disabilities in Enfield

## CAPE NEWS – April & May 2022

### The CAPE next meeting will be 'in person', on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>

We shall be meeting at 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.

Our speaker will be Naser Boussebha, who leads Enfield's Shared Lives Scheme. This is an innovative service which provides respite and ongoing support for learning disabled adults, within a family environment.

Please would you bring your face masks, as we may require you to wear these during the meeting. Please take a Lateral Flow test, on the morning of the meeting, as Enfield L.A. still requires this for those attending their centres.

CAPE members have continued to meet with Enfield officers and attend various meetings, such as the L.D. Focus Group, the Health Sub Group, the Transition Implementation Group, the Money Matters Group, and the L.D. Partnership Board, etc., making every effort to raise concerns and issues on behalf of carers of adults with L.D.

#### April Meeting – 'Thinking Ahead'

Our last meeting, held in combination with Enfield Carers Centre, was a great success. There was an excellent level of attendance from carers, but we also welcomed a number of very senior officers, from Enfield, including the Director of Adult Social Care – Bindi Nagra. Christine Towers, from Together Matters, gave a very thought-provoking presentation and our hope is that the Integrated Learning Disabilities Service (ILDS) will take this forward and include 'future planning' as an integral part of every person's annual review of their Care and Support Plan. In addition, we understand that Enfield Carers Centre will be putting on events to consider contingency planning.

CAPE representatives continue to meet with Enfield officers, to consider how people with L.D. can be supported to continue with their Direct Payment funded services, when family members are no longer able to operate these on their behalf.

#### Financial Assessments for 2022-23.

Following the recent consultation on Enfield's Charging Policy for Social Care, there have been some positive outcomes, which should be evident from the notification of your family members' charges for 2022-23., The consultation process was unsatisfactory in many ways, but Enfield has agreed the following:

- Charging breakdowns will be sent out to everyone, with the charge notification letter
- All Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) amounts will be increased in line with the benefits increases (3.1%)
- All existing Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) and the 'reasonable levels' will be increased in line with the benefits increases (3.1%)

Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to the consultation, it may well have made a difference!

**Please make sure that you claim all your DRE!**

#### Household Support Fund (HSF) Payments & Heating Refunds

We are still attempting to find out the exact criteria for awarding the £100 payments from the HSF. So far, we have been unsuccessful in obtaining this information. We shall persist with our efforts! We shall also monitor the payment of the £150 heating grant for those in Bands A-C properties.



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## **Formont Pool.**

The Formont Pool continues to remain closed, following problems with the roof. The pool has been closed for approximately five months. The problem has been fixed, but there are now hold-ups obtaining the required checks on the water. We consider that the length of this closure is excessive, as this is such an important facility for Formont service users, as well as those who make use of the pool at other times. A formal complaint has been raised, and we do hope that the pool opens very soon. Our fear is that it may close permanently, if everyone happily manages without it! Please contact Duty (020 8379 5075), if you have been affected by the closure.

## **Funding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Support Staff**

We understand that some providers are requiring service users to pay for the PPE (masks, gloves, aprons, etc.) which care staff need to use, when providing support. CAPE raised this at a recent meeting of the Focus Group, and were informed that this should not be happening. Care companies must pay for the PPE which their staff require, when supporting disabled people. The head of the Brokerage team will be contacting care providers, informing them that they must fund the PPE which their staff require. If a service user is asked to pay for PPE, used by care staff, please inform the provider that this is not Enfield's policy, and if you have any difficulties, please call Duty (020 8379 5075).

## **Finally!**

Luan Malley and Deanna Rogers continue 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. We are extremely pleased to be getting back to our bi-monthly meetings, and very much welcome new members to come along and join us.

## **Wendy Berry (Vice-President).**

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