



Carers And Parents of adults with learning disabilities in Enfield

CAPE NEWS – DECEMBER 2020

I hope all CAPE members and their families are as well as they can be. So now we are in Tier 3 and Enfield's Covid-19 figures do not look good. It seems that Christmas will still go ahead, but I am fearful that things will get worse, if people act irresponsibly. Hopefully you have managed to obtain flu jabs, so these should protect us and our family members from that infection, at least!

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, and the L.D. Partnership Board, making every effort to raise concerns and issues on behalf of carers of adults with L.D. We have also met separately with Enfield's Public Health representative to raise our specific issues and obtain information.

Zoom CAPE Meetings.

I apologise that we have not made any progress on our CAPE ZOOM meetings. We did not get many responses from people wishing for these to take place, so we shall put this on hold until the New Year.

Local Covid19 Swab Antigen Testing.

The Covid19 Swab 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 D.P. 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 . We should like to be able to access the faster Lateral Flow tests, as Enfield does have some, but so far this has not happened.

Day Services.

Day services are currently still only operating for those considered to be high priority. The feedback has been pretty good, although I understand there have been some temporary closures when Covid-19 infection issues have arisen. Strict testing and Covid-19 rules are still being applied. Unfortunately, plans to re-open day services more widely are still on hold. Hopefully, services users who are living at home with families will all have been offered some day services. We do not know when the next stage in the day services' re-opening process will be, but we obtain regular updates from the L.A. officers, at our meetings. Your day service provider should be keeping you informed of any progress.

The Formont Sensory Therapy Pool is now available during the day, but only to private hires, at this time. Please think about using spare 'Personal Budget' to access this facility. Check with 'duty' on 0208 379 5075, to confirm that they are happy for you to do this – Trevor Uys has already agreed this in principle, at the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board meeting. You will need to organize your own support. Phone Shard Madhewoo at the Formont, on 020 8363 6388, for more information.

Updated Covid-19 Guidance for Support Living Environments.

There are still issues with inconsistent approaches being taken by some providers regarding enabling family visits. We have continually raised this with managers and asked for clear guidance, but we have been told that each case is being treated individually, with a separate risk assessment. It seems that the provider can, at the end of the day, use their own judgment. Please take this up with the duty social worker if you have concerns.



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Covid-19 Vaccine.

We were all delighted to hear the wonderful news about the vaccine. The rollout should now have begun, and I do hope that this can happen efficiently. We have requested information about this process, but so far we have been unable to find out the details of Enfield's vaccine rollout program. The Government has produced a Priority List as follows (currently):

1. residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers (*includes D.P. staff, supported living staff, and day service staff*)
3. all those 75 years of age and over
4. all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individual (*includes adults with Down's Syndrome*)
5. all those 65 years of age and over
6. all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality all those 60 years of age and over (*includes adults with severe learning disabilities*)
7. all those 55 years of age and over
8. all those 50 years of age and over

Please note my additional comments in **red**, as these will apply to the staff working with our family members and also to people with learning disabilities. You will see that all care staff are very high priority, so hopefully they will all avail themselves of the vaccine, as soon as they are able. I appreciate that many people with L.D. are averse to injections, and we know that currently there is no other option available. Hopefully this problem can be overcome, as learning disabled are particularly susceptible to Covid-19, and really do need to receive the vaccination. There are a number of campaigns to raise the level of people with L.D. in priority list. Cllr. Alev Cazimoglu, Enfield's Health & Social Care Cabinet member, had written to the Minister for Social Care, Helen Whately, regarding this, and also regarding the lack of any priority for family carers to obtain the vaccine. We very much support her efforts.

Enfield Carers Centre (ECC) A.G.M. and Carers Rights Day.

I do hope that some of you were able to hear and see Professor Luke Clements, at ECC's Carers Rights event. He is a recognised legal expert in the 2014 Care Act, and author of 'Community Care and the Law'. As always, he was so inspirational and informative, and at the end of his presentation he answered a number of questions which we had raised. If you were unable to participate, you can access the slides and the entire presentation via the following links:

[Luke Clement's presentation slides](#)

[Enfield Carers Centre Carers Rights Day November 2020 - YouTube](#)

Marc's Story.

If you have a moment please access this link to read about Jane Richards and her son, Marc. It gives a wonderful and informative description of their experiences and support from the Acute Liaison Nurse, Sarah Pope, when Marc was taken so very ill, and needed extensive hospital care, a few years ago.

<https://www.changingourlives.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?!DMF=c08d0f7e-c1ea-488a-9940-d0b14315e58b>

Seasons Greetings!

So, in the absence of any CAPE Christmas party, I, and all the CAPE committee, as well as Luan, do wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year. It all feels a bit empty, at the moment, but I am sure we shall see better times. Please keep in touch with each other, and let's hope we can all meet up again in the New Year.

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