

International Day of Disabled People

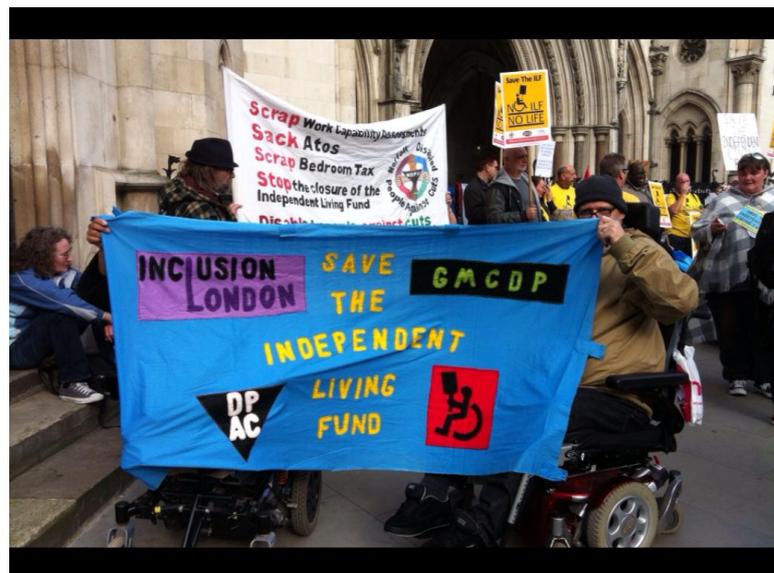
3 December is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. That is what the United Nations has called the day.

The day was started by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992.

The United Nations says the day is to

- Make more people understand disability issues. Get more people to support the 'dignity, rights and well-being' of disabled people.
- Make people see that including disabled people is good for society.

In 2014 the day is looking at how technology can be used to include disabled people and make life better for disabled people. It is looking at how technology



can be used in projects that support disabled people in poorer countries.

If you want to know more about disabled people in poorer countries contact Action on Disability and Development (www.add.org.uk).

For disabled people, 3 December is a day for celebrating our lives, our work and 'celebrating the difference'.

Disabled people started setting up our own groups in the 1981 International Year of Disabled People.

3 December is in the middle of Disability History Month. Last year Disability History Month looked at disabled people's independence and no going back to institutions.

This fit in well with the campaign to Save the Independent Living Fund and protests against cuts.

Disability History Month Events in Manchester

Disability History Month is from 22 November to 22 December.

This year it is looking at what effect war has had on impairment, and what affect impairments caused by war have had on society.

There is a broadsheet about this. A broadsheet is another word for a fact sheet. It is on the website:

www.ukdhm.org

If you do not have a computer, contact the GMCDP office. We can print it out for you.



There are two talks and two exhibitions for Disability History Month. The Manchester City Council Disabled Staff Group have organised them.

1 December – 5 January 2015

First World War: Soldiers, Shellshock and Disability. A Manchester Story.

This is an exhibition in the Virtual Archive Wall. It is part of the Archives+ exhibition on the ground floor of the Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD.

Open Monday to Thursday: 9am-8pm; Friday and Saturday: 9am-5pm.

3 December 2014: 12:30 – 1:30pm at the Central Library Archives Handling.

This is in Archives+. You can touch archives and rare books. They are usually kept locked away in the strong rooms of Manchester Central Library.

17 December: 5–7pm, at the Central Library Hidden Histories of Disabled Veterans and the First World War

In this talk, Dr Ana Carden-Coyne looks at how the First World War affected the two million men disabled by it. What happened to them? What happened to society when they came home from the war?

There will be a BSL interpreter. There will be tea and coffee.

To find out more email:

equalitiesteam@manchester.gov.uk

Until **22 February 2015** there is an exhibition of art called **The Sensory War: 1914 – 2014**. It is at the Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3JL.

The Sensory War is about how different artists show the effect of war on our senses. The art is from different times in the last 100 years.



Performance Celebrating International Day of Disabled People

On Saturday 13 December, Queer of the Unknown is holding an evening of performance. Performers are disabled artists against government cuts.

Queer of the Unknown are a queer poetry, art and theatre collective.

The performance is from 7:30 – 10:30pm in the Birch Community Centre, (off Brighton Grove, which is off Wilmslow Road), M14 5JT.

There will be British Sign Language interpreters and personal assistants. There will be snacks, drinks and cake.

The performance is free.

Book a place by emailing: idodp2014@gmail.com

The centre is wheelchair accessible with a slope up to the door. There is a bit of car parking in the Community Centre. The centre has an accessible toilet.



What has Happened with the Assisted Dying Bill

Many disabled people rallied outside Parliament on Friday 7 November. They were saying they do not agree with the Assisted Dying Bill. The Bill was being talked about in the House of Lords that day.

The Lords decided there should be a change to the Bill. A judge may decide if someone with less than 6 months to live and a 'determined' wish to die can be assisted to die. This would be by a lethal dose of drugs prescribed by 2 doctors.

There are a few media links to articles about it on the Not Dead Yet page:
www.notdeadyetuk.org



You can read what was said in the Lords on the parliamentary webpage:
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141107-0001.htm>

Discrimination in Employment Carries On

Disabled people have been asked what happens to them at work (their experiences). Of the people who answered the questions:

- 1 in 5 felt unsupported or discriminated against at work.
- Three quarters did not want to let their workplace know about their impairment. This is because they are frightened of discrimination.
- 1 in 6 felt they did not get support colleagues.
- 1 in 4 felt their manager does not support them.
- Less than half of the people had not asked for reasonable adjustments. They did not want to draw attention to themselves. Reasonable adjustments are changes to the workplace or job to make it accessible.
- 1 in 3 of people who had asked for adjustments felt they were given little or no support.

To find out more, and for a link to the report, go to the Leigh Day news page:
www.leighday.co.uk/News
(This is not written in words GMCDP would use.)

Use of Abusive Words Carries On

On 17 November, the Anti-Bullying Alliance gave the results of their latest survey. A survey is when people are asked what they think about something.



The survey found that:

- 4 in 10 adults use the words 'spaz', 'spastic', 'retard' or 'mong' in everyday chat.
- Half of the people see it as 'banter'.
- 1 in 10 adults have used abusive words to a disabled person to insult them.
- 1 in 5 said they use those words in banter.
- 65% had heard others use these words.
- 37% had seen them used online.

A survey of teachers showed that children use these words in school.

70% of teachers heard children use the words in conversation.

Half of the time the words were used casually.

Half of the times the words were used as an insult.

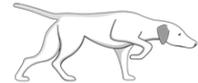
To find out more, go to the Anti-Bullying Alliance website:

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

Rumoured Changes to Benefits

The Benefits and Work website has said the BBC

Benefits and Work
Guides you can trust



has some papers. The papers say there will be a change to the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) of Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

The change will make ESA paid to people in the WRAG group 50p a week more than Job Seekers' Allowance. The Department of Work and Pensions has said this is not official government policy.

You can read the BBC News item at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-29821696>

The Disability News Service has written about Disability Rights UK doing disability awareness training for Maximus. Maximus is the company taking over some of the Atos assessment contract.

You can read the article at:

<http://disabilitynewsservice.com/2014/10/maximus-fitness-for-work/>

Inquiry into Benefits Sanctions

The Work and Pensions Committee is having an inquiry about benefit sanctions. An inquiry is when a group of people look closely at something.

Benefit sanctions are when someone has some of their benefits taken away from them.

The Committee want organisations and individual people to tell them what they think.

Two of the areas the Committee want to know about are:

- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) sanctions. Are the ESA sanctions right for ill and disabled jobseekers?
- Why the number of ESA sanctions is now higher.
- If some groups of people claiming ESA and Jobseekers' Allowance will be sanctioned more than others. For example people with certain impairment, of different ages, genders, etc.

You need to say what you think before 12 December 2014. To find out more go to the Parliament web page:

www.parliament.uk/business

Go to the heading 'Committees', click on 'Inquiries A-Z', then jump to the B list, there you will find 'Benefit sanctions policy beyond the Oakley Review.'

Personal Independence Payment

The Benefits and Work website has changed its guide about claiming Personal Independence Payment (PIP). This is because the Department of Work and Pensions have changed the guidelines for assessors.

The new guide is on their website:

www.benefitsandwork.co.uk

or contact the GMCDP office and we could send it to you by email or post.

The Department of Work and Pensions changed its guide for organisations who explain Personal Independence Payment to people. You can find it at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-personal-independence-payment-toolkit-for-partners>

Training Manual – Peer Support for Independent Living

There is a new training manual on peer support for independent living.

It has been written by the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) and Centre for Independent Living Sofia.



Peer support is when people in the same situation support each other. It is one of the principles of Independent Living.

To find out more, and a link to download the manual, go to the European Network on Independent Living webpage:

<http://www.enil.eu/news/enil-cil-sofia-publish-a-training-manual-on-peer-support-for-independent-living/>

Lack of Access Shown Yet Again

Two disabled people in London filmed their day with pin-hole cameras. One was a guide-dog owner, one a wheelchair user.

The film shows poor access. For example: no ramp or level access; high tables in cafes; faulty bus ramp and; the guide dog owner being refused taxis.

To see the report, and a link to the film, go to the BBC webpage:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-29917990>

London Underground to be Made More Accessible

London Underground has said that £75million is going to be spent to make the London Underground more accessible.



For more information, go to the Transport for All news page:

<http://www.transportforall.org.uk/news/london-underground-announce-75m-fund-to-improve-accessibility->

Information for Scooter Users

Rica is a consumer research charity.

Rica has written practical guides for people who use a scooter or are thinking of using a scooter. It is called Choosing a Mobility Scooter. It is on the webpage:



<http://www.rica.org.uk/content/scooters-and-powered-wheelchairs>

There is a database of scooter measurements called Mobility Scooters on Buses – at:

<http://bit.ly/1houLWp>

For more information about RICA, and other equipment reports, go to:
www.rica.org.uk

You can phone RICA on 0207 427 2460.

Permit Scheme on Metrolink

There has been a trial permit scheme for scooter users to use the Metrolink in Greater Manchester.

On 14 November, BBC Manchester reported that the trial has now ended and the scheme is permanent. GMCDP has spoken to Shopmobility, who said this is right. Shopmobility are doing the assessments for scooter users to be given permits.

To find out more, go to the Metrolink webpage:

<http://www.metrolink.co.uk/mobilityscooters>

Or contact Shopmobility by phone 0161 839 4060, or the contact form on their website:

<http://www.shopmobilitymanchester.org.uk/>

Shopmobility Manchester is at: L18 New Arkwright Way, Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AJ.

Calling Out to Young Black Men – We Tell You Project

42nd Street & Hideaway Youth Project in Manchester want to know what 500 young black

men think. They want to talk to 500 Black males across Manchester.

It is called the We Tell You project.

The project is giving young people a chance to have their opinions heard.

The project is looking at what positively and negatively makes a difference to mental well-being.

They want to know what young people do to keep mentally well.

The young men's ideas and opinions will be used to work out what wellbeing services that support young men will be like.

To find out more contact:
Paul Allen (Mental Health Practitioner)

email

paul.allen@42ndstreet.org.uk

mobile 07823 349236

phone 0161 228 7321 (42nd Street admin line)



Young People's Forum at Manchester People First

People First have a group for people with learning difficulties who are 18 – 25 years old and live in Manchester.

“You can talk about things that are important, be listened to and learn more about issues.”



It is every Tuesday, from 2:00 – 3:30pm.

You can ring 0161 839 3700 to find out more. People First is at: 3 Broughton Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester.M8 8R

New Groups for Visually Impaired People Over 50

Henshaw’s Society for Blind People is setting up coffee/tea mornings for visually impaired people over 50 years old living in Manchester.

The first south Manchester meeting was on 13 November. The central Manchester meetings will be at the Deaf Centre (Booth Street East, off Oxford Road). North Manchester meetings will be at the Avenue Library and Learning Centre, Blackley.

To find out more, ring 0161 872 1234 and ask to speak to a member of the Pathway Team.

Salford Disability Doorstep Football Club

This is a weekly football club for disabled people in Salford, every Wednesday 11am – 12noon.

The club meets at Salford Sports Village, Littleton Road, M7 3NQ.

To find out more, contact Andy Jones at Salford Community Leisure:

Phone 0161 778 0769

Email andy.jones@scll.co.uk

Art Funding to Apply For

Unlimited supports disabled artists to create and present work across different art forms.

Disabled artists and companies who are creating new disability-led work can apply for funding.

There are some times when you can talk about the application to people from Unlimited in different parts of the country. You can find out about this at:

weareunlimited.org.uk/

Applications must be in by 2 February 2015.
Funding decisions will be announced at the end of March 2015.

Unlimited is delivered by Shape and Artsadmin.

For more information, go to:

Website www.weareunlimited.org.uk

email info@unlimited.org.uk

phone Shape 0207 424 7330

phone Artsadmin 020 7247 5102

New Issue Raised for Disabled Actors

Mik Scarlet has written a piece on the Disability Arts Online website. He has written about an interesting issue for disabled people working in theatre, film and TV.

He has asked if it is OK for disabled actors to play a character who has an impairment which they do not have themselves.



Until now people have talked about putting pressure on for disabled actors to be cast in the role of a disabled character. This would be instead of non-disabled actors getting the roles.

You can read the article on the Disability Arts Online webpage:

<http://www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk/disabled-actors-in-the-theatre>

Disabled Artists are Making Art for Parliament in the Making

In 2015 there is a celebration of 800 years of Parliament. Part of this is an exhibition of large banners showing important changes. For example, the Chartists, the Levellers and Suffrage.

3 of the 9 artists asked to make banners are disabled artists:

- Rachel Gadsden, a visual and performance artist;
- Jason Wilsher-Mills, a disabled digital artist; and
- Paula Stevens-Hoare, a painter.

To find out more, click on arts and cultural events on the Parliament in the Making website:

<http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/2015-parliament-in-the-making/>

Ex-Remploy Worker Speaks Out

A member of GMCDP told us about this article.

GMCDP has never supported segregated employment. Remploy workers have not been treated well since it closed. The people who campaigned to keep it open feared this.

The article is on the Labourlist website. James Stribley is an ex-Remploy worker and union convenor.

James says what life is like for many ex-Remploy workers now.

James says when he spoke to people, half were still out of work, and some had chosen to retire.

James gives numbers from a GMB Union survey. It shows only a quarter of ex-Reploy workers had a new job. Quite a few who had a new job were on part time, agency or zero hours contracts.

James has moved from skilled work to two part-time jobs.

The article is at:

<http://labourlist.org/2014/10/remploy-a-year-after-the-last-closure/>

Evidence from the Front Line – Report

Making Every Adult Matter has written a report. It shows the effects of recent changes on people with 'multiple needs'.

The report says changes in benefits and services are making life more difficult for people with multiple needs. Multiple needs means someone needs support with more than one issue or access need.

You can download the report from the MEAM webpage: <http://meam.org.uk/publications/>

MEAM is a group of 4 national organizations: Clinks, DrugScope, Homeless Link and Mind working together.

MEAM wants local services and organisations to work together to support people.

NHS Complaints Not Working

Healthwatch

England has

written a report. It

is about the NHS complaints procedure. A

procedure is what you have to do step by step.



It shows

- 3 out of 5 people who complained about poor treatment felt nothing was done.
- 1 in 5 said they only had to complain once before someone listened to them.
- Fewer than 1 in 10 were given support to make a complaint.
- Over 80% said they would be more happy to complain if they could see it making a difference.

The report suggests some simple changes to dealing with complaints:

1. Make it easier for people to complain.
2. Make sure there is a compassionate outcome.
3. Make the people who do not listen take notice.

To download the report, go to:

<http://www.healthwatch.co.uk/resource/our-report-complaints>

For a copy of this report in a different format:

Email enquiries@healthwatch.co.uk

phone 03000 68 3000.

First Waiting Time Standards for NHS Mental Health Services

From April 2015 there will be new waiting time standards for mental health services. Waiting time standards are how long someone should expect to wait for an appointment.

These standards will be the same as standards for physical health services. At the most it will be an 18 week wait.

There will be an extra £120 million for making mental health services better.

Annual State of Care Report

Each year the Care Quality Commission (CQC) writes a report about how good health and social care services are.

This time it says there is very good care and very bad care. It is not good for there to be such a big difference around the country.

You can find the press release on the CQC website: www.cqc.org.uk
click on 'news',
jump to press releases and click on 'more press releases'.

Care Quality Commission Report on Places of Safety

Under the Mental Health Act, anyone who is experiencing a mental health crisis in



a public place has the right to be taken to a health based 'place of safety'. For example, mental health unit or Accident and Emergency.

Earlier this year, the Care Quality Commission looked at what places of safety there are.

They found 4 areas that need to improve:

1. Too many places have problems with staff. This means they're making people wait a long time with the police. Or saying they cannot go there at all.
2. Too many places will not take young people; people who are drunk or people whose behaviour is difficult to deal with.
3. Too many services are not keeping a record of what their service does.

To find out more, go to:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/safer-place-be>

Next Information Bulletin

Please send any news or events by 10 January 2015.

If you need help to get any of the websites or information given in this bulletin, please contact the GMCDP office.

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