

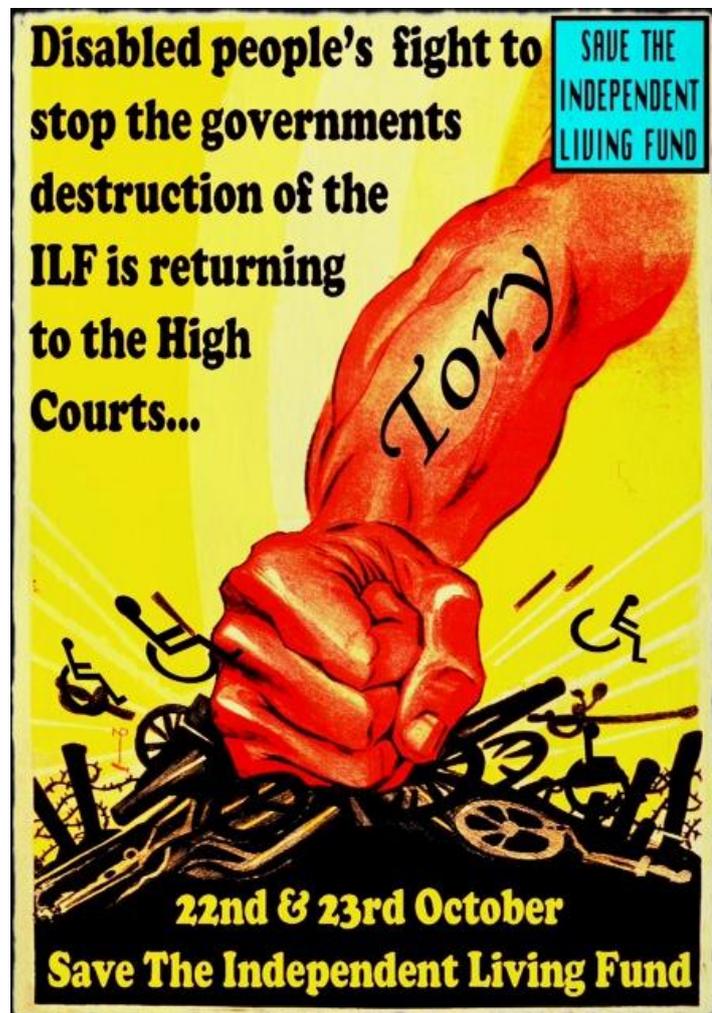
Information Bulletin October 2014

Don't Forget! Save the Independent Living Fund Campaign

We need to ask our MPs to keep the Independent Living Fund open.

There is a General Election next year. We need to tell the people who want to be MPs about this.

To find out more, contact GMCDP or go to the Save the ILF page on the GMCDP website: www.gmcdp.com/save-the-ilf



The Disabled People Against Cuts website tells you about this too: www.dpac.uk.net

Using the Court to Stop the Independent Living Fund Closing

Two disabled people are taking the Department of Work and Pensions to court. This is at the Royal Courts of Justice on 22 and 23 October.



Disabled People Against Cuts are asking people to be outside the Court from 12.30 on 22 October. This is to give support to the disabled people taking the Department of Work and Pensions to court.

To find out more, go to the Disabled People Against Cuts webpage: <http://ow.ly/Ckao8>

Worries About Changes if the Independent Living Fund Closes

Disability Rights UK has asked local authorities what they will do when the Independent Living Fund closes.

The government is giving local authorities the money it would have spent on the Independent Living Fund.

10 local authorities said they will only give the money to people who get money from the Independent Living Fund now. 10 said they would

use the money for social care. But they would not keep the money only for people who have Independent Living Fund money now.



There is more information on the Disability Rights UK webpage: <http://ow.ly/CmGz1>

New Short Film About the Independent Living Fund

Kate Belgrave has made a short film about the fight for the Independent Living Fund.

She has worked on this with False Economy, Ros Wynne Jones (of the Daily Mirror), Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) and Moore Leven Films.

To find out more and to see the film, go to the Disabled People Against Cuts webpage: <http://ow.ly/CkjCj>

'Everyday Disablism' Wants Your Experiences

This website is asking disabled people to tell them about any 'disabling encounters' they have.

The website asks: "... what happened? What sense were you able to make of what happened? What impact did it have on you going forward? The more

we talk about these things, the better prepared we'll be to understand and challenge them when they happen in future."



Disablism is when someone thinks less of a person because they are disabled.
Disablism is being unkind or nasty to a person because they are disabled.

You can find the website at:
<http://everydaydisablism.com>

Poor Access to UK Tourist Attractions

Vitalise has asked the 100 most liked places to visit (tourist attractions) about their physical access. This means if a wheelchair user or someone who finds walking difficult could go around the place.

Only 52 answered the questions. 63% are not fully wheelchair accessible. 25% do not have fully accessible paths to their door. 26% have information about access on their website.

To find out more, go to the BBC news webpage:
www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-28804914

An Idea to Cut Long-Distance Train Routes

The Private Eye magazine said the Department of Transport has a new idea. This is to have less long-distance train routes. For example, the East Midlands route Norwich to Liverpool would break at Nottingham.



This would not be good for disabled and older people. Because it would mean changing trains more.

The changes are to make it easier to manage the paperwork for the Department of Transport. They are not to make the trains better for passengers.

Thanks to Tony Baldwinson, GMCDP has a PDF copy of the article. Contact the office if you would like us to send it to you.

New Travel Guide

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has made a new passport-sized travel guide.

It tells you what support the law says there should be for disabled passengers.

It tells you what services travel companies, airports and airlines offer to disabled and mobility impaired passengers.

To download the booklet, plus another EHRC booklet about disabled people's rights when flying, go to the webpage:
<http://ow.ly/CkkBY>

You can also order standard print and other formats of the booklets on the EHRC webpage:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/order-publications>

Phone 0161 829 8100;

email correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com

or write to

Correspondence Unit, Arndale House, The Arndale Centre, Manchester M4 3AQ

Salford Forced to Keep Transport for Disabled People

Salford City Council has been trying to cut transport to day centres for disabled people.

A disabled man took the Council to Court to stop the cuts.

The Council said it would not cut the service until there has been a judicial review.

A judicial review is when a Judge looks at the problem and makes a decision.

To find out more, go to the Salford Star webpage:
<http://ow.ly/CmH6K>

Party Conference Season Disappointments

Disabled people have not done very well in the 2014 party conferences.

At the Labour Party Conference, Bernadette Horton said she and two other disabled people were moved from their reserved seats at the front of the hall. This was before Ed Miliband's speech.

Ms Horton said they were the seats Ed Miliband walked past after his speech. She said young people sat in their seats. Ed Miliband shook hands with the young people on his way past.

You can read the story on the web page: <http://ow.ly/CkmKk>)

At their conference, the Conservative Party said there will be more cuts to benefits for people of working age.



These cuts will affect a lot of disabled people and non-disabled people.

The Mirror newspaper has an article saying what Mary Laver thinks. She is a disabled life-long Conservative supporter. Mary is struggling to carry on supporting the party.

Webpage: <http://ow.ly/Cko48>

Guidance on New Lobbying Rules

Many organisations are planning campaigns in the months before the general election next year.

The new Lobbying Act has made things more difficult. There are new rules for campaigners not linked to a political party.

Some of the rules are about:

- The amount of money that can be spent on campaigns;
- who is meant by 'the general public';
- who is meant by people are part of an organisation.

The Electoral Commission has written about the Lobbying Act.

Elizabeth Chamberlain of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations has written a short version of the rules.

Elizabeth Chamberlain's short version is on the webpage: <http://ow.ly/Ckqhj>

Find the writing by the Electoral Commission on the webpage: <http://ow.ly/CkqlE>

National List of 'Disabled People's User Led Organisations'

The Office for Disability Issues is making a list of Disabled People's User Led Organisations.

The Office for Disability Issues says a Disabled People's User Led Organisation is:

- Run and controlled by disabled people;
- the management committee is at least 75% disabled people;
- have disabled people as staff and volunteers; and showing support for the Social Model of Disability.

You can find the list on the gov.uk webpage: <http://ow.ly/CkqxS>

New Health and Work Service Coming Soon

The Government says this new service will help disabled people and people with long term health conditions. The service will help people to stay in work, or find work.



When an employee is on sick leave for 4 weeks,
Their GP will tell the new service.

An occupational health worker will talk to the
person to find out why they are not going back to
work.

The employee will be given a return to work plan.
The plan will say where to get support and advice.
The plan will say how to return to work more
quickly.

There will be a telephone line and website for
employers, employees and GPs to use. This helpline
will give information.

To find out more, go to: <http://ow.ly/Ckr4I>

Someone has said what they think about the
service on the Disabled People Against Cuts
webpage: <http://ow.ly/CkrU7>

How to be Sure the Department of Work and Pensions has Your 'Fit Note'

Write your mobile phone number on the top right-
hand side of your 'Fit Note'.

The Department of Work and Pensions will send you
a text to say they have your fit-note and when you
will be paid.

It takes 7 days for post to get to the Department of Work and Pensions.

This information came from the Disability Rights UK website: www.disabilityrightsuk.org

New Website About Job-Seeker Sanctions

People who used to work for the Department of Work and Pensions have set up this website.

It gives advice on Jobseeker's Allowance sanctions.

Sanctions are when your benefits are cut because you have not done something the Jobcentre staff has asked you to do.

The people writing the website will:

- Look at your sanction to see if it is legal.
- If they can, they will come with you to a tribunal.
- Speak to the local Department of Work and Pensions office.
- If you wish, talk to your local MP.
- Give general benefits advice

They will not talk to anyone else about what you say.

To contact the team, use the contact form on their website:

<http://jobseekersanctionadvice.com>

Information About Making Benefit Claims

The Benefits and Work website gives helpful information for filling in application forms, and for assessments and appeals. These are for: Employment and Support Allowance, Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance.

Some of the information is free.

GMCDP has paid to be able to have all the information. GMCDP can send you any of the information electronically in PDF or printed out in standard print.

How to contact GMCDP is on the back page of this bulletin.

The Benefits and Work website is at:
www.benefitsandwork.co.uk

New Memorial to Disabled People Killed by the Nazis

There is a new memorial outside the Berlin Philharmonic Building. The blue glass wall is to remember the 300,000 disabled people killed in the Holocaust the Second World War.

To find out more, you can go to:
An article about the memorial is in the Jewish Times:

<http://ow.ly/Ckt25>

A BBC news article about the memorial at:

<http://ow.ly/Ckt5L>

To find out about the Holocaust and disabled people, go to the 2009 BBC Ouch web page:
<http://ow.ly/Ckt9c>

Euthanasia and Assisted Dying: Lessons from Belgium

This one-day international conference is on Saturday 1 November, from 9:30am–4:30pm, at St Mary's University, Twickenham.



The conference will look at doctors helping people to die ('physician assisted death') in Belgium. It will ask what we can learn from Belgium.

The conference is being run by the Anscombe Bioethics Centre.

The Anscombe Bioethics Centre is a member of Care Not Killing. Care Not Killing is against euthanasia.

Cost of the conference is £20 concessions, £45 full cost.

To find out more:
ring Gwen McCourt on 01865 610 212;
email admin@bioethics.org.uk or on the Anscombe Bioethics Centre webpage: <http://ow.ly/Ckuwy>

Survey about Bipolar Disorder

This online survey is to help decide what research needs to be done. The survey is the first asking for the views of people who have Bipolar Disorder.

To find out more, go to:
<http://www.lindalliance.org/Bipolar.asp>

SAFE – Salford Autism Friendly Environment

The goals of this new user-led group are:



- To make a support network, working with Salford City council and other groups.
- To get people with autism involved in the group.
- To help people with autism to be proud of themselves and their city.

- To help people see autism more positively.
- To help take away barriers people with autism face
- To stop autism being seen as bad (stigma).

Meetings will be at Eccles Town Hall on the 1st Thursday every month, from 12:00 – 3:00pm. There will be 'coffee and light bites' in the Training Room.

SAFE helps people with autism, and their families, find where they need to go for information.

Find out more about SAFE by:
phone on 0161 408 8040;
via email Salford.SAFE.2014@gmail.com
or on their webpage: <http://ow.ly/CkvF9>

National Women's Self Injury Helpline

This is a helpline for Women who harm themselves.

It is open on Wednesdays from 7-9pm and Thursdays from 3-5pm.

You can call for emotional support around self harm. You will not be judged.

Phone 0808 800 8088.

All volunteers are women.

Text and Email Support Service for Girls and Young Women up to 24, who Self-Injure

TESS is open Monday to Friday, 7pm-9pm

Text 0780 047 2908

or use the email contact form on the webpage:
www.selfinjurysupport.org.uk/tessform

TESS says: "If you don't know how to start talking, just text or email 'hello'."

TESS reply to all messages. They hope to text back within half an hour and to email within 24 hours during opening times. If the service is very busy and cannot reply the same day, you will be sent an auto message letting you know.

New Stroke Information / Support Group

Stroke Information is a new group set up by 4 people who have had a stroke. They give information and support to people who have had a stroke, their families and supporters.

The group is working with people in Greater Manchester.

To find out more, contact:

John by mobile on 07850 605 236 and

email John@strokeinformation.co.uk

or Nick by mobile on 07950 286417

and email Nick@strokeinformation.co.uk.

Or go to the website:
www.strokeinformation.co.uk

New Epilepsy Support Group in Stockport

A new group is starting in Stockport. It is to help people find information about epilepsy. It is to give people a chance to chat about epilepsy. The group is run by people who understand epilepsy.

The first meeting was on 30 September at Disability Stockport.

To find out more, phone 0161 480 7248; write Disability Stockport, 23 High Street, Stockport. SK1 1EG

Accentuate History of Place - A New Disability History Project

Accentuate History of Place is making a national picture of buildings linked with disabled people.

There will be local projects. These will record disabled people's lives from the middle ages to the late 20th century.

The project will show historic places. For example, older services for disabled people and the first houses and flats built for disabled people to live in.

Local people will be able to go to workshops looking at old writing and pictures linked with the buildings.

There will be a national exhibition and website.

To find out more, go to the Accentuate website www.accentuateuk.org click on projects then Accentuate Heritage.



Email info@accentuateuk.org
phone 01303 259777;
write to Accentuate, c/o Screen South, The Wedge,
75-81 Tontine street, Folkestone. CT20 1JR

National Disability Arts Collection and Archive

In July the National Disability Arts Collection and Archive said they nearly have enough money to start the Archive.

To watch what is happening in the future, go to:
<http://www.ndaca.org.uk>

The 'Accessible Britain Challenge'

The Accessible Britain Challenge started on 4 September. It is to make communities think about including disabled people more.

It is for local business and councils, voluntary/community organisations and disabled people's organisations.

You can find out more on the webpage:
www.gov.uk/accessiblebritain

You can email fulfilling.potential@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or write to: The Accessible Britain Challenge, Ground Floor, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA.

Anti-Bullying Week 2014

Anti-bullying week this year is about 'Let's stop bullying for all.'



The week is from 17 – 21 November.

Disability History Month are writing a resource for this week focussing on bullying of young disabled people. It will be on their website:
www.ukdisabilitymonth.com

To find out more about anti bullying week, go to:
www.antibullyingweek.co.uk

There is advice for parents of disabled children being bullied on the Bullying UK webpage:
<http://ow.ly/CkxFp>

Plus a helpline by email via the contact form on the website or phone 0808 800 2222.

DaDaFest International 2014 on its Way

From 8 November 2014 to 11 January 2015, the DaDaFest is in Liverpool. It is a celebration of Deaf and Disability Artists.

This year you can see:

- Art of the Lived Experiment exhibition at the Bluecoat
- a celebration of Unsung radical – Edward Rushton,
- a weekend of activities for young people
- performances from Laurence Clark, Staff Benda Bilili, Krip-Hop Nation, Sophie Partridge and many more.

To find out more, go to the website:

www.dadafest.co.uk

email info@dadafest.co.uk

phone_0151 707 1733

mobile 07436 536 200

write to DaDaFest, the Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3B.

Disability History Month 2014

This year Disability History Month is about:

'War and Impairment: The Social Consequences of Disablement'

To find out more, go to the Disability History Month website: www.dhm.org.uk

3 December - International Day of Disabled People

The United Nations has said this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities (its official title) is about: 'Sustainable development: the promise of technology'.

You can find the United Nations webpage at: <http://ow.ly/CmItw>

'Disabled Access Day' – 17 January 2015

This is a new idea. It is from a group of disabled people and their family/friends in Scotland. The website Euan's Guide is part of the group.

**DISABLED
ACCESS DAY**

17th January 2015

Euan's Guide shows what people think about the accessibility of places they have been to.

The idea is that all disabled people should go somewhere they have not been before on this date.

The website has ideas about how people and places can do something on this day.

To find out more go to the Disabled Access Day website:

<http://disabledaccessday.com>

Disabled People and 3D Printing

Disability Rights UK is working with teachers and students from Salford and Dundee universities. The project is called 'In the Making'.

The project starts in January 2015. It will look at how disabled people can use the new 3D printing (fabrication) technology to make things. The items could be for themselves, as a business, and political activists.

The project will look at how much 3-D printing is used by disabled people now. Then mobile 3-D printing machines will be taken to disabled people around Greater Manchester. 3-D Digital printing experts and artists will support disabled people to make useful and creative 3-D items.

There will be an exhibition of what is made at Salford University Media City.

To find out more, go to the Disability Rights UK webpage: <http://ow.ly/CmISS>

GMCDP and 'Creating Our Future Histories'

GMCDP is part of this project by Manchester Metropolitan University.



We will be working with two young researchers to make an exhibition. It will celebrate GMCDP's history and look forward to GMCDP's future.

Emma and Ian, the researchers working with us, are very enthusiastic. They have already started looking at old GMCDP papers to make a list of what GMCDP has done. Emma and Ian hope to interview members of GMCDP.

The Creating Future Histories webpage is: www.futurehistories.mmu.ac.uk

We Need Your Stories!

To celebrate GMCDP's 30th anniversary next year, Martin Pagel is writing a book.

It will tell the story of GMCDP. It will show changes GMCDP has made in people's lives.



Martin is interested in how GMCDP has changed all areas of people's lives.



Please send us your story of how GMCDP has supported you to gain a better quality of life. In whatever way, large or small. You can ask for your name not to be in the book.

You can send us photos, stories, poems, or other ways that show what you would like to say.

We would like people who have been members, workers, trainers, trainees, partners, allies, friends, and even people who do not like GMCDP to share memories.

The book will show the difference to people, organisations, society and the world.

It is important that we hear from people who have been involved for 3 days, 3 months, 3 years or 30 years.

'Working With MS' Meeting in Tameside

On Wednesday 29 October, the group MS Tameside is holding a meeting. It will look at some of the

issues facing people living with MS. Elaine Astley, from Breakthrough UK, will be speaking about employment. The meeting is at Ashton Village Urban Resort Pamir Drive, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside OL7 0LY. It is from 7pm to 9.30pm.

To find out more, contact the Tameside and Glossop branch on 07876 155307 or at jeffsueedwards252@btinternet.com

Changes to Disabled Students' Allowance

There will be changes in the Disabled Students' Allowance. It means disabled students will not have some of the support they have had before.

These changes will happen in September 2016, academic year beginning in 2016.

Campaign for Fairer Pre-Payment Meters

Citizens' Advice has started a campaign. It is to ask energy companies to make pre-payment meters fairer.

These are meters that need a card to work. You have to put money on the card to get gas and electricity.

The campaign is saying that there are not many places to



buy or top-up the prepayment cards for the meters. And energy costs more using these meters.

The petition is at:
<http://ow.ly/CFf9R>

Who Benefits?

The Who Benefits? Campaign says that people on benefits are affected by the general public's attitude to benefit recipients.

The report says some people have been refused a rented house because they are on benefits.

The report says some people had difficulty getting a bank account because they are on benefits.

To find out more, go to:
<http://blog.whobenefits.org.uk>

Young Men's Group and Young Women's Group

GMCDP has meetings for young disabled people living in Manchester, aged 15 – 25 years. The meetings are once a month.

The young disabled women's group is on the first Saturday of each month.

The young disabled men's group is on the second Saturday of each month.

To find out more about the young women's group,
contact Maureen or Katie
by phone: 0161 636 7538 or email
mday@gmcdp.com and kcragg@gmcdp.com

To find out more about the young men's group,
contact Phil or Brett
by phone on 0161 636 7538 or email
psamphire@gmcdp.com and bsavage@gmcdp.com.

GMCDP will help to make the meetings accessible
for you.

**Don't forget to check the GMCDP website
for regularly updated news and
information!**

www.gmcdp.com/pages

Next Information Bulletin

Please send any news or events by 14 November
2014.

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

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP), Unit 4, Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Moss Side, Manchester. M16 7WD

Phone: 0161 636 7534

Mobile for texts: 07508 537561

Email: info@gmcdp.com

Website: www.gmcdp.com

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