



NEWSLETTER

Supporting People With Learning Difficulties



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By Emma Andrew
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We support people who have a learning disability or learning difficulty through one-to-one appointments, assisting in meetings and contacting organisations. Our approach is to run a person-centred service giving information, guidance and support. The Learning Difficulty Pathway has recently offered support with welfare benefits, grant applications and day-to-day finances at our weekly correspondence drop-in sessions. We also arrange monthly workshops and run a life admin course for people with ADHD.

MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

March was Free Wills Month (for people aged 55 and over) so we held a workshop on will writing.

We were joined by guest speaker Jeremy Wilson from the Solicitor's firm, Clarkson Wright and Jakes Ltd. Jeremy explained the importance of having a will in place and answered questions on probate, life insurance and making a will.



Our April workshop focused on the new rules regarding voter ID.

Voters in England now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations and we discussed the accepted forms of photo ID and how to apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate.



UPCOMING WORKSHOP

Deaf Awareness Workshop
Monday 13th May from 10am-12pm at the Bromley Scout Hut.

In aid of Deaf Awareness Week, we will be joined by guest speaker and NHS nurse, Michelle Little, who will discuss hearing loss and more.

Phone 020 8466 0790 or email emma.andrew@bromleywell.org.uk to book your place.

CORRESPONDENCE DROP-IN

Every Friday from 10am-12pm or 1-3pm at our Station Road Training Centre. Download the flyer [here](#).

Bromley Well Supporting people with Learning Difficulties

Correspondence Drop-ins

Do you need some help with reading and responding to letters? Attend our FREE drop-in on Fridays!

Pop into our office on Fridays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm or 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Please note: the drop-in is closed from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

You will find us at:
Bromley Mencap office, Station Road, Bromley North, BR1 3LP.

For more information and to book, please contact Bromley Well
FREEPHONE 0808 278 7898 EMAIL spa@bromleywell.org.uk

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In the News

LIAM FOX PUSHES FOR AMENDMENT ON LATE ABORTION FOR DOWN'S SYNDROME

Sir Liam Fox, the MP behind the [Down Syndrome Act 2022](#), has tabled an amendment to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill intended to specifically exclude a diagnosis of Down's syndrome as a reason for late abortion.

The former NHS Doctor and GP says he wants to address discriminatory practices associated with [Down's syndrome](#), which would introduce an upper gestational limit for abortions of fetuses with Down's syndrome equal to the upper gestational limit for most other abortions.

Current legislation generally restricts abortion after 24 weeks gestation unless the baby has a disability such as Down's syndrome or another congenital condition in which case abortion is legal up to birth. [Read more here.](#)

THE CARER POVERTY COALITION CALLS FOR FULL REVIEW OF CARER'S ALLOWANCE

The threshold for receiving Carer's Allowance has failed to keep pace with the National Living Wage for the fifth consecutive year so carers with part-time jobs will have to decrease their working hours. In April, the earnings threshold for claiming Carer's Allowance increased by 8.6% to £151 per week. However, the National Living Wage rose by 9.8% to £11.44 per hour.

Over the last five years, the number of hours carers have been able to work earning the National Living Wage, while also receiving Carer's Allowance, has shrunk from just under 15 hours a week in 2019 to just over 13 hours and 12 minutes.



The Carer Poverty Coalition has published a manifesto calling on all political parties to commit to a full review of Carer's Allowance and other means-tested benefits available to carers. [Read more here.](#)

WASTE OF LIVES, WASTE OF MONEY – WHERE'S THE PLAN?

Over 2000 people with a learning disability and autistic people are currently being held in mental health inpatient units – despite many of them not having a mental health condition – at a cost of around £534 million a year. According to an NHS report published last year, 41% of people with learning disability and/or autistic people should not even be locked in mental health hospitals, as their needs could be met in the community.

[Sign Mencap's petition](#) calling on the Government to make the right community support and housing an urgent priority, to prevent admission and to enable people to be discharged successfully.