



# EVERYONE'S DISCOUNT



## Hitting Back!

As we have said many times in *Discovery* disabled people are likely to be among the most affected by government spending cuts, so it was great to see disabled people taking to the streets to protest. Approximately 8,000 disabled people, their families and friends marched through central London on 11 May in a demonstration called by The Hardest Hit campaign. Many travelled by coach and by train from as far a field as Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the south west to take part in what is being hailed the biggest gathering of disabled people in Britain ever.

## Comment

Welcome to the summer edition of *Discovery*. Here's hoping the lovely weather continues throughout the summer.

In this edition of we are delighted to feature an interview with a number of DISC Volunteers. DISC's Volunteering project has been very popular and successful and each of the volunteers interviewed have been of great service to DISC and slotted in very well with DISC staff.

It is really nice to be able to celebrate a success, we are aware that much of our coverage over the last two or three issues have had to deal with the impact of government policy and local cuts, so to be able to look at positive experiences is really great.

Sadly of course the issue of cuts is not going away, but it is good to see an awakening disability movement responding to the attacks on our benefits and services. The "Hardest Hit" demonstration featured on our cover was the biggest protest by disabled activists in a long time and the organisers see it as the beginning of a campaign that is likely to grow in size and anger.

Sadly there is much to be angry about. This month's Get Lucky column looks at the government's changes to incapacity benefit. It is hard not to view these changes as an outright onslaught on Disabled People, a cost cutting exercise disguised as a plan to help disabled people find work.

To add insult to injury a private company is being employed and is paid by results – i.e. the more people they drive off benefits the more they get paid. So the company makes profits out of real losses to disabled people. The stress and worry, let alone financial hardship this is likely to cause to many disabled people is truly frightening. Little wonder the reforms of the NHS are viewed with great suspicion by many.

## Contents

Editorial	2
Get Lucky	3
Changes that will cost	4
DISC News	5
Meeting, Learning, Helping	6&7
Access This Special	8&9
Access This	10
Bits & Bobs	11
Contact DISC	12

### Editorial board

Jill Aepli  
Emma Catlow  
Ryan Maynard  
Katrin McEntee  
Pat Stack

### Contact

Editorial  
DISC Peckwater Centre  
6 Peckwater Street  
London NW5 2TX  
phone **020 3317 5099**  
email **discovery@discnwl.org.uk**

### Distribution

Marcia Burton  
020 7387 0700

### Design

Ruth Pallesen-Mustikay  
rpm@netaxis.co.uk





# Moving questions

Our last few articles have been highlighting the sweeping changes that the new government planned to make to welfare benefits. One of their main proposals – the introduction of a new assessment for incapacity benefit (IB) and employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants was introduced on 28/03/2011. The new assessment has been brought in against a background of talk about reducing the “bloated welfare budget” and “targeting the most needy”.

Since 28/03/11 the new Work Capability Assessment (WCA) has started to be sent to existing IB claimants and current ESA claimants. The new WCA form will only increase the difficulties faced by claimants. Here we highlight a couple of the changes in the new form.

The previous forms question about “walking” is now a question about “moving”. It asks if you can move 50 or 200 metres before needing to stop “using any disability aids such as a manual wheelchair, crutches or walking stick”. Are claimants being asked to consider how far someone could travel whilst using a wheel chair even if they cannot walk? Benefits and Work – the information and campaigning organisation have obtained a copy of the Work Capability Assessment Handbook for health care professional (HCP) to use. These are the individuals who carry out the medical assessments. Regarding the question of “moving” they are told;

“In this activity, the HCP should consider whether a person could potentially use a wheelchair regardless of whether or

not they have ever used a wheelchair.”

Under the previous assessment there was a question about whether you could stand for half an hour. This has been removed and replaced by question on whether you can stand or sit in one place for one hour. The Handbook guidance states

“... the person does not have to stand or sit for the whole 30 or 60 minutes. They can alternate between the two. For example, a person may only be able to sit for 30 minutes, but then stand for 10 or 15 and then sit for another 30 minutes. In this case they would not attract points towards receiving the benefit as they are able to remain at the workplace for in excess of 60 minutes.”

Again this will affect many claimants who would have scored points under the old test.

Unfortunately many questions in the new form have been changed in a deliberate attempt make it harder to pass the assessment. Are these changes fair? Are there tens of thousand of IB claimants who can really work? Are IB claimants choosing to stay on benefits rather than work? Our experience from our clients is that they are desperate to get off benefits and into work and they do so as soon as they are well enough.

This policy seems to be driven by a need to save money rather than help claimants back into work. This will only lead to further distress and uncertainty for our clients at a time when so many other essential services are being cut or removed completely.

# Changes that will cost

All people who receive community care from Camden adult social care will be assessed to determine if they are eligible to pay a contribution towards the cost of their care. Following a consultation, Camden has recently made some changes to this policy

Camden's charging policy was introduced by the former Conservative/Lib Dem administration and despite opposition from Labour at the time has been maintained by the new Labour administration and even extended.

So that where Camden's charging policy used to be services based. This meant that people would be assessed to pay a charge towards some services such as home care but not others such as day centres etc.

Camden has decided that in future people's assessed contributions should be based on the total cost of their care and support rather than the type of services they receive. This means that from 4 July 2011, some people who received services that were not eligible for a charge might find that they are now required to make a contribution to their care. This change is most likely to affect people with learning disabilities or with mental health issues who use day services. There is a real concern that people may decide not to continue using these essential services as they can not afford to pay a financial contribution towards them.

Camden have also chosen to make other changes to their charging policy. They have decided that their financial assessment practices were more generous than required by the Department of Health and that this is no longer sustainable.

These changes include the following:

- ▼ **Camden will no longer take into account the cost of water rates when assessing a person's disposable income.**
- ▼ **Camden will only take into account relevant transport costs if they are greater than the amount someone receives for the mobility component of the disability living allowance (DLA).**
- ▼ **Camden will lower the level of savings that someone can have before they start to pay the full cost of their services from £30,750 to £23, 250.**

The changes have been implemented from 11 April 2011 so some people may find that their charge has vastly increased. This could mean that some may choose to cancel care that they are entitled to because they feel that they can not pay the increased charge. Many of the people who receive services from adult social care are on a very low income, and living exclusively on benefits and will find it extremely difficult to meet the additional expense of having to pay towards their care.

In line with guidance from the department of health, Camden will not charge for Reablement services (intensive care for a short term basis).

*If you have are concerned by changes to the amount you have been asked to pay to-*

## All at sea



DISCs Self Directed Support Service was very sad to say farewell to Ryan Maynard who has departed for the sea, sand and nightclubs of sunny Brighton. Ryan joined us in August 2008, and became an extremely dedicated and hardworking member of the team. He was very popular with service users, and a big personality in the office. As well as his hard-

working dedication to his clients Ryan was also responsible for the Bits & Bobs page of *Discovery*. As an adoring father to his two children Josh and Poppy, Ryan found the daily commute from Brighton deprived him of enough time with them. We will all really miss him and wish him the very best.

## Welcome aboard



Hi, my name is Mike Steel. I am the newest member of the DISC team I will be working as a Self Supported Support Service officer. I will be working at The Peckwater Centre, which will include providing information and support for service users who wish to use Direct Payments. Before I joined DISC I worked in student support, advice and guidance for

Central YMCA for over eight years. I also do part-time volunteering as a mentor. As well as art and design my other main interest is in music; collecting records, DJing and occasionally playing guitar. I also try to do bit of exercise in the gym, between pub-quizzes. I am very much looking forward to working at DISC and meeting you all.

## A voyage of discovery



Hi everyone, my name is Jamie Goddard and I am a social work student who has recently begun a work placement with DISC. I started on 18 April and will be here for 10 weeks. I am based at the Peckwater centre from Mondays to Wednesdays and will sometimes float between there and Phoenix road. All the staff have made me feel welcome and I have

enjoyed myself so far. My experience is mostly with children and I have spent the past five years working with children and young people up to the age of 19, which was why I asked for my placement to be with an organisation that works with adults, to broaden my knowledge and experience. I look forward to learning as much as I can from the staff at DISC as well as from any of you readers

## Website Launched!

We have now launched our new website. So to keep up to date with all DISC's news and services go to **www.discnwl.org.uk**

You can also keep in touch with us by becoming our friend on Facebook and following us on our twitter page, just search for Disability in Camden (DISC).

Find us on  
**Facebook**



[discnwl.org.uk](http://discnwl.org.uk)





*Krishna Manandhar found out about DISC's Employment and Volunteer service and started volunteering with us last summer*

**What do you do at DISC?**

I organise the office. I do filing and shredding of old documents to make it tidier and easier to find things. I've been kept very busy!

**What led you into volunteering?**

After my husband

passed away I wanted to do more things with my time outside of my usual job, and to give something to back to the community.

**What are the best things about volunteering at DISC?**

The best things have been meeting new

people and learning new things from the office.

**Would you recommend volunteering?**

Yes, because it is good to be doing something different, there are no targets to meet or pressure like in my normal job. Volunteering is good for getting different types of experience, even a couple of hours a week allows you to learn about other people and types of work.

DISC Volunteers... DISC Volunteers ... DISC Volunteers ...



*Ferdinand Adeyemi applied to volunteer with DISC after attending an open day at the Volunteer Centre Camden*

**What do you do at DISC?**

I volunteer at Phoenix Road on the advice line on Monday and Friday.

**What led you into volunteering?**

My mum has arthritis and she has received help from various organizations such as Hackney Citizen Advice Bureau and I felt that this was my way to help others. I went to

an open day at the Volunteer Centre Camden and there was information on opportunities at DISC, it looked interesting so I applied.

**What are the best things about volunteering at DISC?**

The best thing about working for DISC is helping people. Sometimes you are giving clients the right contact details of government

agencies or just simply taking down messages but it all counts as you are making a positive contribution. I also enjoy the training I received such as the deaf awareness training and last but not least, I like working with the friendly, diverse and witty staff at DISC.

**Would you recommend volunteering?**

I always recommend volunteering to friends and family as it's a practical way of helping the community, meeting new people, learning new skills and having fun.

# Access This Special

## Small is beautiful!

It is generally acknowledged that it is important that disabled people have choice and control over the services that they are provided with. People should be able to enjoy leisure activities like dance or arts classes and get help with things like managing their finances or looking after their garden as well as receiving personal care. However, at the moment most people's care plans don't include these types of activities normally because they are not available or are quite expensive.

To try to help create a bigger choice over services Camden Council and Voluntary Action Camden are supporting small providers to set up services in their communities.

Small services are popular because you meet the same people who know you well. For example, with a small care agency disabled people have the same carer nearly every day. Smaller providers are also normally better at responding to a person's changing needs or choices. However, small providers have found it difficult because usually the council works with bigger providers. This is now changing as disabled people want and expect more control over their own care and can also choose to have their own budgets to purchase the services they want (personalisation).

Sometimes carers and personal assistants want to set up services because they know the types of activities that disabled people want to do best- an example is below.

### EXAMPLE

Sarah, set up a weekly dance class and social group for people with learning disabilities that is really popular. Sarah used to be a personal assistant and she talked to the group about what they wanted to do. This meant that many of the class felt happier as they enjoyed the activities and got to meet friends each week. Although it cost some money to run the service it was cheaper than each person paying for their own personal assistant.

### 👉 I'd really like to hear from:

- Small providers already running services
- People thinking about setting up a new service
- People who want to know more about small providers

I can be contacted at **Richard. elphick@camden.gov.uk** or on **020 7294 8545**.

Opening doors to independent living - with the new Radar National Key Scheme smartphone app



Radar has released a smartphone app which brings the National Key Scheme Guide (NKS) to mobile devices. The app has been developed so that when disabled people, their families and friends are out

and about with their Key and Guide they can be confident that they can locate, unlock and access one of the almost 9,000 accessible toilet facilities in the UK.

The app features finding up-to-date details of National Key Scheme

# The voice of youth

Are you passionate about making a difference to the lives of young disabled people?

The Young People For Inclusion Group (YPFI) is a youth action project run by disabled young people who are passionate and committed to making their voices heard on the issues that matter to them.

If you are 13-25 years old and have a disability and are keen to challenge the way in which people with disabilities are treated and want to campaign for greater access, then the YPFI team needs you. We are looking for young people who live, work or study in Camden and are available to attend twice weekly meetings on Mondays 3.30-5pm and Thursdays 10.30am-12pm in Kentish Town.

There will be opportunities to volunteer at other times during the week at drop-ins, to attend events, deliver



courses and consult with a range of service providers and businesses in Camden.

Your role will include:

- Talking openly about the issues that affect you.
- Planning with the team and coming up with strategies to tackle issues that affect young people with disabilities.
- Running workshops and training sessions for people who want a greater understanding of inclusiveness.
- Consulting with other groups of disabled young people.
- Being part of the planning and management of the YPFI group.

- Providing advice and guidance to charities and local authorities wishing to include disabled people.
- Campaigning for greater awareness and change.
- Championing the work of the group.

The YPFI team is committed to equal opportunities and would like to recruit a diverse team to build on its already dynamic work. We will provide expenses, induction, support and training and help your personal development whilst you volunteer.

**If this is the group for you then contact us now on [ypfi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ypfi@hotmail.co.uk) or SMS on 07939 877 745.**

accessible toilets; locating the nearest accessible toilet facility; searching by town, location, postcode or well-known place; getting directions by road or on foot to suit travel needs and requirements; and building the NKS community by users rating and reviewing

the facilities on offer.

The Radar NKS app costs £4.99 and is out now on the iPhone. Blackberry and Android version will be out soon.

The app is available from the app store or for further information, please visit [www.radar.org.uk](http://www.radar.org.uk) or

email [rpl@radar.org.uk](mailto:rpl@radar.org.uk)

Radar is the Royal Association for Disability Rights. We are a pan-disability organisation led by people with lived experience of disability or health conditions. Our vision is a just and equal society whose strength is human difference.

## Access This

### Crime of the Century

A dance theatre piece that deals with the issues of knife crime amongst young people. This show was a real hit at Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2009 and has since gone on to tour successfully in theatres around the UK and in numerous schools and educational organizations. Portraying a stark journey about the build up and repercussion of one fatal moment, Crime of the Century uses words, movement and projection, alongside a contemporary score of hip hop and dance music, to pack a frightening punch.

**22 - 24 June @ 6.30pm**

Age recommendation 11+

**ADMISSION FREE**

(Seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis)

**For more information contact:**

Chicken Shed Theatre on 020 8292 9222

### Primrose Hill Summer Fair

**Saturday 11 June**

**Chalcot Square Gardens**

**Time: 2 - 5 pm ; FREE ADMISSION**

Phone: 020 7586 8327

Email: [primrose\\_hill@btopenworld.com](mailto:primrose_hill@btopenworld.com)

[www.ambassadortickets.com/127/622/London/Ambassadors-Theatre/Stomp](http://www.ambassadortickets.com/127/622/London/Ambassadors-Theatre/Stomp)

30 strong samba bands, many other acts on stage, stalls, traditional sideshows, Punc and Judy, food, drink, auction etc.

## Stomp

This multi-award winning show has a universal language of rhythm, theatre, comedy and dance. Eight performers use everything from Zippo lighters, plastic bags, bin lids and even the kitchen sink to hammer out an explosively feel good rhythm.

\*\*\*\* "The rhythms and variations of pitch and volume achieved are miraculous." *Sunday Express*

Please check the website for performance times and prices.

**Ambassadors Theatre,  
West Street, WC2H 9ND**

**7 May - 6 July**

**Camden are** currently running their get active have fun campaign the aim being to get more people to take part in physical activity sessions across the borough. The list of activities is endless ranging from tai chi, yoga healthy hearts, seated exercise, gym, healthy bones, dance, swimming with specialist sessions and badminton. And if that wasn't enough of a choice to get your taste buds going there are also the fun free and outdoor gyms that you can use at various locations around the borough or if your new to exercise why not join us on one of our walks.

For more information and details register online or contact us on:

**[Camden.gov.uk/active health team](http://Camden.gov.uk/active-health-team) or  
contact the active health team on 020  
7974 1542**

## Open Air Theatre Regents park

**THE BEGGARS OPERA: SATURDAY 16 JULY @ 2.15PM**

Set deep in London's underworld, this comedy of highwaymen, hangmen and harlots offers an uncompromising exposure of moral and financial corruption.

for more information

**Tel: 0844 826 4242 or email [@boxoffice@openairtheatre.com](mailto:@boxoffice@openairtheatre.com)**

### *Ryan Air – Cheap & Nasty!*

Jo Heath, 57, who has MS was left on the runway at Luton Airport with her husband while other passengers boarded the plane. When her husband asked for help Ryanair staff refused, quoting health and safety rules. The plane's doors were closing and the engines being warmed up while she was still outside. In the end her husband had to carry her on while passengers watched.

Jo successfully sued Ryanair and won £1,750. "I'm not terribly impressed with the pay-out," Jo said. "but it's not a question of money. It's about standing up for people with disabilities so this doesn't happen to anyone else."

### *Out in the cold*

Currently less than 7 per cent of people with learning disabilities are in paid employment. The *Guardian* recently held a roundtable discussion to explore this bleak statistic and how employment is often not even considered as an option for children with learning disabilities.

Although more children with learning disabilities are now attending mainstream schools, when it

comes to work experience, they often end up doing menial jobs in the school while classmates are sent to local employers.

### *Music from the head*

Marini McNeilly, has made medical history by composing music



using the power of thought alone. The 57-year-old former language teacher was paralysed after a massive stroke, unable to speak or move due to a condition called 'locked-in syndrome'.

She was admitted to London's Royal Hospital for Neurodisability (RHN) and while there she helped researchers experimenting with musical composition. She was the first person with locked-in syndrome to trial a brain-computer music system, designed as another way of communicating with the world. Marina wore a cap lined with electrodes to detect brain wave patterns, which changed according to what she saw on a computer screen. Focussing on different images meant she could choose instruments

and change the way they sound. Within two hours she was the "paralysed woman able to conduct an orchestra", as one headline put it.

### *Get Well ... soon ... or else!!!*

Much of the debate around NHS reform centers on fears of 'Privatisation, and the fear that private health providers cherry pick what they will and will not cover.

These concerns appear to be borne out by a recent piece in *Guardian Money* which reported that private health insurers Bupa stops paying for the treatment of psychiatric disorders after two years – even though other illnesses are covered for much longer.

Bupa told *Money Guardian*: "As explained in our membership guide, Bupa does not pay for psychiatric treatment if you suffer from any psychiatric condition, or symptom of any psychiatric condition, over a period of two years or more. The two-year limit has always been part of the terms and conditions of our policies." Asked if the rule would apply to something like breast cancer, she told us: "That is completely different. This is very specifically for psychiatric treatment."

# CONTACTING

www.discnwl.org.uk



## ACCESS TO EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEERING

The Peckwater Centre, 6 Peckwater Street, London NW5 2TX

**Tel:** 020 3317 5072 **Fax:** 020 7530 6479

**Mobile:** 07532 460420 **Email:** projects@discnwl.org.uk

## ADVICE AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Based at 58 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1ES

**Advice Line:** 020 7387 1466. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am – 4pm

**Fax:** 020 7383 4775 **Email:** advice@discnwl.org.uk

## ADVOCACY SERVICE

The Peckwater Centre, 6 Peckwater Street, London NW5 2TX

**Tel:** 020 3317 5071 **Fax:** 020 7530 6479 **Email:** advocacy@discnwl.org.uk

## CAMDEN DEAF (BSL) USERS SUPPORT SERVICE

Based at 58 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1ES

**Tel/minicom:** 020 7255 9739 **Fax:** 020 7383 4775

**SMS:** 07930 699020 **Email:** advice@discnwl.org.uk

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Peckwater Centre, 6 Peckwater Street, London NW5 2TX

**General Management** → **Finance** → **New Projects**

**Tel/minicom:** 020 3317 5099 **Fax:** 020 7530 6479 **Email:** info@discnwl.org.uk

## SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT SERVICE

The Peckwater Centre, 6 Peckwater Street, London NW5 2TX

**Tel:** 020 3317 5070 **Fax:** 020 7424 9996 **Email:** sds@discnwl.org.uk

## DISCOVERY DISTRIBUTION

Based at 58 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1ES

**Tel:** 020 7387 0700 **Email:** discovery@discnwl.org.uk

## ISLINGTON DEAF (BSL) USERS SUPPORT SERVICE

Based at 23-26 St Albans Place (off Upper Street) N1 ONX

**Minicom:** 020 7527 3282 **Fax:** 020 7527 3279

**SMS:** 07919 047146



comment overmatter, page 2

All of this tells us that campaigns such as “Hardest Hit” are very badly needed and deserve our whole hearted support.

care charges overmatter, page 4

*wards your care or are simply worried about having a financial assessment please contact DISC’S advocacy service on: 0203 317 5071.*

disc news overmatter, page 5

that I hopefully may meet or speak to.

*Sarah Healey has been helping us since last year. She applied after seeing an advert at the Volunteer Centre Camden*

**What do you do at DISC?**

I help with mailouts – labelling and stuffing envelopes – and use the franking machine.

**What led you into volunteering?**

I wanted to work, so I thought that if I started off with voluntary work it may help me get paid employment.

**What are the best things about volunteering at DISC?**

Working with a great bunch of people.

**Would you recommend volunteering?**

Definitely. It is a great way of meeting people and gain experience to help look for paid work.