

Newsletter

Disability groups call on MSPs to investigate human rights abuses caused by welfare reform

Open Mon-Fri 11-3pm

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Twelve major disability charities in Scotland, including the Health and Social Care Alliance, Sense Scotland, Inclusion Scotland, the Stroke Association and Glasgow Disability Alliance, have today written to MSPs to ask they investigate human rights abuses as a result of welfare reforms.

The letter to the Welfare Reform Committee states:

"We are gravely concerned that both the process and impact of welfare reform is violating specific human rights as set out in the various human rights treaties that the United Kingdom is party to, and of course that the Scottish Government is obligated to respect."

It goes on to identify a multitude of human rights abuses of disabled people that welfare reform is causing under the European Convention on Human Rights; including:

- Right to life
- Prohibition from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment
- Right to a fair hearing
- Right to respect for private and family life
- Right to an effective remedy

Professor Alan Miller, Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission in his evidence to the Welfare Reform Committee on 28 May said how concerned his organisation was about the impact of welfare reform:

"The Commission is concerned that a number of the measures will have a deleterious and retrogressive effect on the enjoyment of human rights."

The organisations who have signed the letter are:

- Tressa Burke, Chief Executive, Glasgow Disability Alliance
- David Buxton, Chief Executive, British Deaf Association
- Etienne d'Aboville, Chief Executive, Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living
- John Dalrymple, Director, Neighbourhood Networks
- Jim Elder-Woodward OBE, Convenor, Independent Living in Scotland Project
- Florence Garabedian, Chair, Self-Directed Support Scotland
- Susan Grasekamp, Manager, Scottish Disability Equality Forum
- Derek Kelter, Equalities Manager, Momentum Skills
- Andy Kerr, Chief Executive, Sense Scotland
- Elspeth Molony, Deputy Director, Stroke Association Scotland
- Bill Scott, Manager, Inclusion Scotland
- Ian Welsh, Chief Executive, Health and Social Care Alliance

Making Life Easier North Lanarkshire Council

This is an online internet based service which offers information, advice and a matching service. You can find out about products which might help you with every day activities.

Access this online service via www.northlan.gov.uk and type in makinglifeeasier in the search box.

The site gives:

- ~ information on equipment and advice to help you live in your home Independently
- ~ general health information, eg A to Z of health articles
- ~ link to assessments
- ~ possible help
- ~ product listing broken down into areas, ie kitchen, hall, etc

If you want more information about equipment and adaptations, please contact one of the disability information officers at : 01698 274460
www.northlan.gov.uk or email: makinglifeeasier@northlan.gov.uk

Integrated Equipment, Adaptation and Disability Information Service

A joint North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire Service

It provides equipment and adaptations and a disability information service which includes the making life easier service.

Equipment and adaptations across North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire are for NHS Lanarkshire equipment only.

The service receives approximately 600 requests a week and delivers around 80% of all equipment requests within seven working days.

The range of equipment and adaptations provided is very wide and includes items such as assistive technology, sensory impairment items, profiling beds, commodes, standard walking items, stair lifts, external rails and banisters, ramps and bathroom adaptations.

Requests come from Social Work or NHS Lanarkshire members of staff following assessment as well as from the "making life easier" service.

They also arrange service and repair of equipment and adaptations - which are carried out either by staff from the service or companies contracted by the council.

Contact the service on:

General enquiries: 01698 274460

Adaptation enquiries: 01698 274512 or 01698 274583



SAMS

St. Andrew's Multiple Sclerosis
Self Support Group

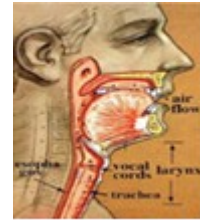
**Open to People with MS
and their Carers**

We meet on the
last Thursday of every Month
from **1.00pm to 3.00pm**
in the **Day Hospice**
(Tea / Coffee provided)

Contact: **01236 766951**
for further information

SpeakEasy Lanarkshire

Drop in Cancer Information Service
Every Wednesday
10AM—2PM



Where? 42 Campbell Street, Hamilton, ML3 6AS (across from Police station)

What is self-directed support?

1. Self-directed support is when **you** arrange some or all of your (or your child's) support instead of receiving services arranged by your local authority social work or housing department. It is for people who would like more flexibility, choice and control over their care so that they can live at home more independently.



2. If you choose to organise your own community care support package, you are in charge of the arrangements. This should allow you to organise your life the way you wish. You will get a sum of money to spend on the support you need instead of receiving council services. If you want, you can choose to organise some of your own support and also receive some council services.

3. Most people who use social work services can get self-directed support, sometimes called **direct payments**. The term self-directed support is used because it emphasises that you are in control.

4. You might need support :

- with personal things like having a bath, washing or getting dressed
- to live in your own house, like help with managing your money, cooking or cleaning the house
- to get out and about, so you can see friends, join in activities with other people, or go on a short break (respite) to go to work or college.

For more Information please call me on 01698 275710 and I can print and sent a helpful users guide, Alternatively go to the www.SDEF.org.uk and search for 'Directing your own support'.



Practical Assistance for Everyday Living

Things are busying up at the Forum. Recently we successfully applied to Awards for All for some funds to help people with a physical disability in North Lanarkshire.

We have called it '**Practical assistance for everyday living**'

Our aim is to help people take control with a little support from a volunteer to carry out everyday living, things such as

- ✓ Help with benefit forms
 - ✓ Form filling
 - ✓ Signposting
- ✓ Attending health appointments
- ✓ Attending appointments in relation to Housing & Social Work
- ✓ Confidential service

Recently we accompanied a service user view a property within a sheltered housing complex, this gave them some moral support. This was enough for them to feel confident to ask questions and take their time in making decisions. We also attended follow up meeting to support them in the process.

If you feel you would benefit from this resource OR if you would like to volunteer with us to help others so if you are interested please call Lorraine on 01698 275710.

I would like to stress that this is NOT an advocacy service and we do NOT provide transport.

Lanarkshire Music Festival



Come along and enjoy a full weekend of LIVE MUSIC from Lanarkshire bands and musicians, old and new. Experience a variety of music spanning a whole range of genres! There is something to suit everyone's musical taste. Age: 5 years+

Costs will vary depending on event, please contact the box office on 01698 403 120

Advanced booking is required

Thu, 01 August 2013 - Sun, 04 August 2013
Various times and venues across Lanarkshire

Scotland's Festival of History



Chatelherault Country Park turns back the clock 2000 years on August 17th and 18th, 10am-4.30pm when the Grand Avenue becomes a time travellers dream. Take a trip back in time with live re-enactments from the Vikings to World War II as history comes to life in this spectacular setting.

Experience battle scenes, archery - including the Silver Arrow tournament, weapon and falconry displays, jesters, jugglers and so much more!!

You will also get the chance to roam about the stalls offering historic crafts, a large historic trading market, modern crafts as well as gift stalls and a food market.

Tickets are bought on arrival :

Adult: £8

Concession (OAPs): £6

Child (Under 16): £1

Family (2 Adults and up to 4 Children): £17

Two-Day Family Tickets: £25

FREE PARKING AVAIL.

Campaigners celebrate another climbdown on PIPs

The Westminster Government has on Monday (17th June) announced a further climb-down on the new Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

The DWP has given 'notice of a further consultation on the mobility component of PIP' following a sustained campaign by disabled people and disability charities.

The news comes as an embarrassment for the Government as the benefit was only introduced nationwide last Monday (10th June). Campaigners believe the process followed by the Government in consulting on the mobility component of the new benefit, which replaces Disability Living Allowance (DLA), was fundamentally flawed. They had started a Judicial Review of the process as a result.

The row arises from the introduction of new criteria in the assessment for the benefit after the final consultation ended late in 2012. A person was eligible for the highest rate of the mobility component of the previous benefit, DLA, if they were deemed 'unable or virtually unable to walk'. This was usually taken to mean they could not walk more than around 50 metres.

Under PIP, this figure was reduced to 20m. The UK Government estimates that the change will result in 48,000 less disabled Scots receiving the high rate of the mobility component by May 2018 than would have been the case under DLA.

Richard Hamer, Director of External Affairs at Capability Scotland said:

'Limiting the benefit to only those who could walk 20m or less was a draconian measure which should have properly consulted on. Capability Scotland and many others warned the DWP of this but they chose to ignore it. We're glad to see them finally listening and taking the action they could and should have done much earlier.'

(19th June 2013 taken from Capability Scotland website)



Volunteering

Becoming a volunteer can be personally rewarding and can help you to 'give something back' to your community. Volunteers can choose from thousands of different opportunities. As a volunteer, you will not only be giving your time to help charities and community groups improve lives, but volunteering can also provide you with many benefits including:

- > **increased self confidence**
- > **meeting new people**
- > **try something new**
- > **increased job and career prospects**
- > **learn new skills**

will give you a flavour of what we do : www.nldforum.org.uk

Or contact : **Lorraine Elliott, North Lanarkshire Disability Forum, 41/42 Civic Square, Motherwell, ML1 1TP**

Or telephone : **01698 275710** for an informal chat.

Lanarkshire Helplines:

Mental Health

North Lanarkshire Mental Health Information – 0800 073 0918

Lanarkshire Links - 01698 265232 or 265254

Deaf and Hearing Impaired

Lanarkshire Deaf Club – 01698 275710 lanarkshdeafclub@btconnect.com

Blind and Sight Impaired

RNIB -0131 311 8500 (Edinburgh Head office)

Children and young people with disabilities

Partners in Play – 01698 230130

Carers

North Lanarkshire Carers Together – 01698 404055

Elderly

Voice of Experience – 01236 758855

Disabled Access Information

North Lanarkshire Disability Access Panel can be contacted through North Lanarkshire Disability Forum on 01698 275710.