



# Kingston Independent



Hello  
from CEO

Volunteering

Care Act

Gearing up  
Programme

Personal  
Budgets

Holiday Grants

SEND Brokerage  
service

Independent  
Supporter

Who is who?

Newsletter for Kingston Centre For Independent Living

Spring

2015 edition



# HELLO FROM THE CEO

By Lisa Ehlers

## Campaigning - Some Success!!

The first few months of 2015 have been very eventful for *Kingston Centre for Independent Living (KCIL)*. One of our key areas of focus over the past few months has been the campaign against the Council's proposed increase to charges for adults in receipt of social care and/or a personal budget.

In February, users of social care services in Kingston received letters regarding a consultation about increasing charges for social care users. Members were passionate about campaigning against Kingston Council's proposal to increase the charges for social care. These members wanted to make their viewpoint clear to Councillors who were making the decision to increase the charges from 75% to 100%. A group of delegates attended the full Council meeting on the 3rd March to raise their concerns about the proposal and the flaws that they saw within the consultation process.

A delegation also attended the Residents, Health and Care Committee on the 26th March to question whether the consultation had been extended in order to allow people the opportunity to comment on the impact the charging will have on their lives. On April 2nd, the proposal for charging was suspended due to errors made with the consultation process. **This means there will be no increase to charges this year.** We are now trying to work together with the Council to learn from these mistakes and to improve our involvement in any further consultations.

As part of our campaign, **KCIL** sent out hundreds of questionnaires to our members to find out how the increase in charges would impact on disabled people's lives. The response was very poor. If we are to have success next year, when the issue is highly likely to be raised again, we definitely need your input. We still plan to collate our findings in order show Councillors the difference an increase in charges would make.

To all those people who did respond to our survey, thank you. We plan to continue our campaign as long as necessary. Please get in touch to let us know how an increase in charges would impact on your life.

## Fundraising

Over the past few months there has also been a focus on maintaining **KCIL's** income for the next year. With continued cuts to the Council's budget it is essential that we diversify our income and find new ways to bring in money into the organisation.

In March we heard that the Self-Directed Support Service was successfully extended for another year by Adult Social Care. This is a great relief as it gives us time to try and put together the best possible bid for any future tendering process. We will also use this opportunity to improve our quality management systems and develop our work according to the changes in the Care Act and employment law.

Due to the introduction of Personal Health Budgets (PHBs), **KCIL** was able to secure funding to promote and implement PHBs in Kingston. We were successful in gaining funding from NHS England to promote PHBs through “Gearing Up” funding. This is short term funding to promote PHBs to underrepresented groups around Kingston and to work with the CCG to promote this new initiative for people who use health services. We also gained some funding from Kingston’s Clinical Commissioning Group to continue to support individuals who are taking up personal budgets.

We have also been extending our work with disabled children and their families. We were successful in a bid to Achieving for Children to provide a brokerage service for disabled children living in Kingston and Richmond over the next three years. More information is contained in the article by **Sophie Marshall**.



Lisa Ehlers

## Your input needed!

In January, **KCIL**’s Board and Staff met to draw up our strategic priorities for the next year. We would like your input into our values and the future direction of **KCIL**.

**Please answer the questions about values on the enclosed slip of paper and return it in the enclosed freepost envelope.**

# My time Volunteering at KCIL

By James Yule – Volunteer

I have been volunteering at **KCIL** for over 5 years. In that time people have come and gone, but there are still the stalwarts of the organisation; **Robert Reilly** (the Office administrator), **John Morris** (Self Directed Support Assistant) and myself of course!

During my time at **KCIL** I have been given a rich and varied workload, including working on the newsletter



James Yule

and mailing it out, database work for the support brokerage network, some **KCIL** website based work and the designing of leaflets.

Before coming to **KCIL** I worked for the Buddy Scheme at Kingston Volunteer Centre, where I picked up my knowledge of newsletter design, flyers and even bookmarks. This all stood me in good stead for my time at **KCIL**. In the future I hope to attend some relevant training for improving my role at **KCIL**.

The best thing about volunteering at **KCIL** has been the friendly staff, interesting work and the regular appearance of chocolate brownies. It has given me routine and I believe has improved my mental health significantly.

## A step forwards with KCIL

By Patrick Goodacre – Volunteer

I have been working voluntarily for **KCIL** since 2011. I am an independent living wheelchair user, having found **KCIL** to be incredibly useful. I have also been able to offer some of my skills in return. I have graduated in 3D design and 2D design in the past decade, soon followed by a road cycling accident, 6-month coma, and a



Patrick Goodacre

life-threatening 'Traumatic Acquired Brain Injury'.

I progressed successfully through hospitals and rehabilitation homes.

Currently, I manage to offer my design skills to **KCIL**, voluntarily creating flyers, posters, and by currently, designing these newsletters. Before I had to be concentrating my effort on these issues, I worked as a key part for **KCIL**'s 'KingstonActiononTransport' group.

I created a **KAT** blog, acting as an online resource for everyone (<http://KingstonActiononTransport.blogspot.co.uk>).

personal blogspot: <http://patrickgoodacre.blogspot.co.uk> .....



# The Care Act 2014 – What’s It All About?

By Malcolm Johnson

*Malcolm Johnson is an Associate at Blake Lapthorn Claims in London. He is a member of the Law Society’s Personal Panel and a Fellow of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers. Malcolm specialises in bringing claims on behalf of children and vulnerable people.*

In April 2015, the Care Act 2014 will come into force. The Guardian described the new law as “an historic piece of legislation” and “the first overhaul of social care statute in England for more than 60 years.” Very briefly it is intended to reform the law relating to care and support for adults and carers.

Whilst we have a comprehensive system for the support, care and protection of children, it was felt that the system for adults contained too many gaps, as well as being “opaque, complex and anachronistic.” Local authorities were concentrating on dealing with crises in their adult care systems, rather than prevention and early intervention. In the meantime as we all know, the care of vulnerable adults is an ever pressing issue for society. The Office for National Statistics predicts that by 2033 the number of people aged 85 or over will have nearly tripled. Doing nothing with the existing law was never an option.

What the new law tries to do, apart from making the adult care system easier to understand, is to encourage local authorities to centre their systems around the health and well-being of people and carers. It does this by setting out a universal “duty” right at the beginning of the Act.

**Section 1(1)** says that a local authority is obliged to promote an individual’s “well-being”. This includes thinking about issues such as personal dignity, protection from abuse and suitability of accommodation.

**Section 1(3)** gives the local authority more guidance on how to think. It says that whenever an authority performs a function under the Care Act, it has to have regard to a number of matters, including the individual’s “views, wishes, feeling and beliefs.”

**Section 2** is curiously worded. It says that the local authority has a duty to prevent “needs for care and support.” At first sight, this might appear to mean that the local authority is expected to dissuade people from asking for care. In fact the idea is for a local authority to take steps intended to prevent, reduce or delay care and support needs. In short, less mad gallops to the rescue with a flourish of trumpets and more proactive work in the community to avoid impending catastrophe!

**Section 3** encourages the local authority to work with the health services, a particular issue where elderly folk are discharged from hospital. **Section 4** requires the authority to establish a service for providing information and advice to carers and adults who require support. No problems there as the Royal Borough has its own ready-made service in **KCIL**.

The following sections talk about assessment of an adult’s needs for care and support (**section 9**) and those of the carer (**section 10**). An adult can refuse a needs assessment but the local authority can step in if that adult does not have



mental capacity or there is a risk of abuse or neglect.

**Section 14** allows the local authority to make a charge for providing care services but there is a cap which is set out in regulations, and which is adjusted each year to take account of inflation. A local authority is not allowed to charge a person more than it cost to provide or arrange the care and support.

Local authorities now have to produce a “care and support plan” specifying the needs of a person and a personal budget setting out how much the local authority and that person contribute to the cost of care. A “care account” keeps track of the amount that each person requires for care.

The Act significantly reforms the way in which social care needs are assessed, paid and provided. It also provides a means of linking carers’ assessments with the assessment of those for whom they care.

**Section 42** talks about the protection of adults. It places a duty on the local authority to make enquiries, where it has “reasonable cause” to suspect that an adult in its area is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect. Abuse can be physical, emotional and specifically any kind of financial abuse such as being defrauded or being put under pressure to make payments. This is an Act written with real situations in mind.

Every local authority now has to have a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). These are in effect similar to the Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards set up by the Children Act 2004. A SAB can review the case of an adult and it will have on its board, the Chief Constable of the local area.

**Section 47** places a duty on a local authority to protect the property of an adult being cared for away from home and gives the local authority the power to enter the adult’s home for that purpose. Anyone who tries to stop the local authority getting in could be fined!

**Section 58** onwards deals with the situation where a child in receipt of care is likely to require care after they become an adult. The local authority has to assess the situation for both child and carer, just as it would for an adult. This section is designed to bridge the gap between children’s and adult’s services, where evidence shows that the transition can be extremely problematic.

The Act specifically includes “young carers” in other words, carers who are children but who may continue as carers in adulthood.

Finally under **Section 67**, local authorities are under a duty to enable certain people who have difficulty understanding and retaining information, to access advice from an independent advocate.

These points are just a selection of what is a long and detailed piece of legislation. Let us all hope that this Act does what it promises for vulnerable adults.

An easy to read version of the Act can be found on the government’s website at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/365345/Making\\_Sure\\_the\\_Care\\_Act\\_Works\\_EASY\\_READ.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/365345/Making_Sure_the_Care_Act_Works_EASY_READ.pdf)

# Gearing Up Programme

By Sophie Marshall

The *Kingston Centre for Independent Living* have launched the Gearing Up Programme, a service looking to support individuals in the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames to learn about and access Personal Health Budgets (PHBs).

PHBs are available to people who have health needs that meet the Continuing Care criteria and will allow them to use the money currently being spent on their care in ways that are more able to meet their specific needs.



If this is of interest to you please contact **Sophie Marshall** by telephoning **0208 481 1448** or email [sophie.marshall@kcil.org.uk](mailto:sophie.marshall@kcil.org.uk)

# A good story about Personal Budgets

My brother Julian has recently been awarded a Personal Budget. He has used this to pay for two Personal Assistants (PAs) who support him with daily tasks and when he goes out. I am delighted for Julian that he is receiving this money as it will give him the security of having a PA on a regular basis and that he will have opportunities to do things he used to do but became unable to do on his own.

He also has help from **KCIL** who have been very supportive to Julian in helping him to appoint a suitable PA.

As a consequence of all this Julian's quality of life is very good and will just get better.

Julian has said he is very happy at the moment as he has two lovely people to help him in the week and glad he hasn't got to worry about paying them himself. He says he has enjoyed having meals cooked for his supper especially toasted cheese sandwiches.



Becky and Julian

## Being a Personal Assistant – *BECKY'S STORY*

Since becoming a Personal Assistant (PA), I have found that there is a whole world of people that society is unaware of. People who just want someone to be there with them. It doesn't matter whether you have complex or simple needs, finding the right person makes all the difference.

I enjoy everything I do from personal care to outings ending in a cup of tea and cake.

Helping to solve every day problems and providing support goes a long way and leaves a warm glow when you receive heartfelt thanks.



# Holiday Grants

By Robert Reilly

Are you struggling to find the means to take a holiday this year? If so, **KCIL** may be able to help you with the costs of travel and accommodation.

**KCIL** administers the Holiday Grants fund on behalf of Kingston council. Qualifying people can get up to £200 to assist with the cost of taking a holiday.

To qualify you must be aged over 16 and resident in Kingston borough. You must have a long term and substantial illness or impairment that is likely to last twelve months or more, which severely affects daily life.

Just a few other points to note:

All applications are subject to the availability of funds.

Applications must reach **KCIL** at least 21 days before the start date of the holiday.

You can only make one application in any twelve months period.



For an application form telephone **Robert** on **020 8546 9603** or e-mail him at [Robert.reilly@kcil.org.uk](mailto:Robert.reilly@kcil.org.uk).

# SEND BROKERAGE SERVICE

By Sophie Marshall

**KCIL** have recently been awarded a three year Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) brokerage contract by Achieving for Children (AfC). Achieving for Children is the social enterprise company created by Kingston and Richmond councils to provide children's services across the two boroughs.

Children with statements are having these transferred over to Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The new plans aim to combine all education, health and care needs of the child into a single document.

With EHCPs, families are able to request a personal budget. This is an amount of money allocated by the National Health Service (NHS) or local authority to support a child or young person's complex education, health and social needs.

**KCIL** will be offering an independent brokerage service to families across Richmond and Kingston who are accessing the new personal budget for education, health and social care. The personal budget will enable young people and their families to alter how their current funding is allocated, with an aim to improve outcomes for the child. The budget can be spent on services, support or equipment if it

helps to meet the agreed outcomes of the Education Health and Social Care Plan.

Families will be offered three options as to how they can manage their budget, they can have; a notional budget (the family is able to create a support plan but the funds will be distributed by AfC), a third party managed budget (the distribution is managed by a third party) or a direct payment (the family will receive the funds directly and will distribute their own funding).

Assuming the plans are met with agreement by a multi-agency panel, a personal budget should allow families and young people to be experts of their condition and distribute their allocated funding in a way that is tailored to meet their individual needs.



Sophie Marshall

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If you are interested in the SEND brokerage service or have any questions telephone **Sophie Marshall** on **0208 481 1448** or email [sophie.marshall@kcil.org.uk](mailto:sophie.marshall@kcil.org.uk)

# INDEPENDENT SUPPORTER

By Jane Ferrier-May

The law has changed about how we take care of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) of young people. The greatest change is that the young person's is now the most important voice; everyone involved must listen. Parents will often need to be a voice for their child. I help get family voices heard.

As the Independent Supporter for Kingston, I do not work for the Local Authority but for local children and young people who have SEND. This is a new system, just moving into its second phase after six months and now becoming clearer. The more it happens, the more exciting it feels.

An Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) document puts all the information about the child (under 16) or young person (16-25) in one place. I support families with securing a Plan.

*Jane*



Jane Ferrier-May

## **I can help with:**

- Being assessed for a new Plan.
- Changing from a Statement of Special Educational Need to a Plan.
- Changing from a Learning Difficulty Assessment to a Plan.
- Recording your views.
- Meetings with professionals.
- Ensuring you get sensible outcomes.

## **If you want someone who:**

- Will refer you to specialist agencies when necessary.
- Is experienced in working with parents in stressful situations.
- Is experienced in working directly with children and young people with issues.
- Works only for you and not for the Local Authority.
- Is empathetic to your situation.

## **Here is how some families have experienced me:**

- Your perspective was very helpful; it put a different spin on it all. I changed some bits and I am now happy with the Plan (Parent).
- I am very happy with the way the meeting went and with the outcome of it; thank you for all your help through this; it has made it so much easier (Parent).
- It was really fun meeting you and talking to you about it and I think I'll get there (Young Person).
- I feel heard and listened to 10 out of 10 (Child).

You may want a little help or quite a lot. The earlier you contact me, the better.

You can contact me by telephoning **0208 481 1441** or **0208 546 9603** or e-mailing [jane.ferrier-may@kcil.org.uk](mailto:jane.ferrier-may@kcil.org.uk)



# Who is Who at KCIL?

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**John Morris:** Self-Directed Support Administrator  
Tel: 0208 481 1445

**Maureen Wing:** Self-Directed Support Outreach Worker  
Tel: 0208 481 1446

**Sophie Marshall:** SEND and Gearing Up Co-ordinator  
Tel: 0208 481 1448

**Joanna Aleksy:** Support Broker  
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**Jane Ferrier-May:** Independent Supporter

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