



July 2011 bulletin

Homeshare International Congress special issue: full report from congress below.

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NAAPS news

UK Conference 17th-18th October, Cardiff

The UK NAAPS conference will be held in Cardiff this year, starting with an optional structured networking session at 5pm on the 17th, followed by a buffet dinner which will include further networking opportunities. The main programme of the conference will begin on the 18th with registration at 9 - 9.30am. The conference will end mid-afternoon.

New posts at NAAPS

We have appointed our new Micro-enterprise Development Officer, who will support and develop our network of micro-enterprise (Small Community Service) members, starting in early August.

For reasons beyond our control, we have had to re-advertise our new Shared Lives carer-focused Communications and Engagement Officer. Interviews are taking place shortly.

Free members' legal advice helpline: 0845 543 2022

We have invested in the members' legal advice helpline to ensure that a more specialist team will answer your queries. Please let us know your feedback on the service.

New partnership with Tyze personal networks

NAAPS has received funding from the Gulbenkian Foundation to bring Tyze online personal networks to people who use its members' services UK-wide. Tyze (www.tyze.org), which draws on twenty years' experience of helping people to form and sustain supportive social networks, uses online technology to allow people who need support and their carers to invite people they know into a secure supportive network. Members of the network can easily share and collaborate on caring tasks, share a diary and important information, and collect anecdotes and photos which illustrate the person's life.

Homeshare schemes who are NAAPS members will be able to access training to help you make Tyze available to your service users. Not only will using Tyze help you to get more people involved in a service user's informal network of support, but it will also make it easier for invited family carers, advocates and care managers to keep in touch with that person's progress. Tyze can also help schemes to demonstrate 'soft' outcomes to funders and senior managers. We have a limited number of free Tyze networks during the 18 month project, which will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so members who are interested in being early adopters and who want to help at least five individuals to develop personal networks should contact Alex on alex@naaps.org.uk.

Raising awareness and influencing

The "world of micro-enterprises" and the role of NAAPS and Community Catalysts in supporting and developing micro-enterprise, is highlighted in the Department of Health's official social care bulletin for June, in a very positive article: <http://bit.ly/msfhqm>. The bulletin is sent to thousands of people in the sector and also mentions Shared Lives and Homeshare.

Alex was quoted in a *Community Care* article on personal assistants and employment law: <http://bit.ly/kRhFH5>. His latest *Community Care* column focused on Southern Cross and Winterbourne: <http://t.co/4L69353>, subjects also picked up in the blog: <http://alexfoxblog.wordpress.com>.

We are currently working with two journalists, one looking for case studies involving the use of Shared Lives to support parents with learning disabilities and the other looking for Homeshare case studies outside of London.

A new name for NAAPS

Thanks to those who have held local brand consultations to help us test potential new names and straplines for NAAPS. As you might expect, whilst there was consensus on the need to find a new name for NAAPS, there have been many different views on what the best new name would be. The NAAPS board will make a final decision on the chosen name at the beginning of August.

UK policy news

Replacing Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans

The government is overhauling the Discretionary Social Fund, which includes Budgeting Loans; Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants. It has published proposals to make it councils' responsibility to provide locally-based assistance to replace Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans (except for bridging crisis loans or "alignment payments" which are given to someone waiting receipt of the first instalment of a new wage or benefits payment). There will be new caps on Crisis Loan amounts and a reduced overall budget. The government says it will maintain a simplified and modernised national system of interest-free advances, accessed through the benefits system, which will replace Budgeting Loans.

Winter Fuel allowance and Cold Weather Payments will continue as they are.

England news

Mental Capacity Act and deprivation of liberty safeguards

We have been given a new factsheet of FAQs on the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards – available on request. You can join the 'Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards' Community of Practice: www.communities.idea.gov.uk where you can read and join in discussions about these issues. You can visit the Department of Health website at: <http://bit.ly/ikyqr1> or email: Rachel.Griffiths@scie.org.uk

Health and Social Care Bill 2011 - updated

The Health and Social Care Bill is the government's attempt to modernise the NHS 'so that it is built around patients, led by health professionals and focused on delivering world-class healthcare outcomes'. It aimed

to establish an independent NHS Board to allocate resources and provide commissioning guidance, with commissioning taken on by groups of GPs called consortia. Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities are to be abolished.

The Government formed the NHS Future Forum to conduct a 'listening exercise' to see if changes were needed to the Bill, following widespread concern about the proposals. The forum's recommendations appear to have been adopted. GP consortia will be called 'clinical commissioning groups' and include a wider range of health professionals as well as lay members. Whilst there will still be more competition amongst health providers, partnership working and quality will also be promoted. More people with long term conditions will have personal health budgets, allowing them to purchase their own continuing care.

CQC

We meet regularly with CQC as part of our membership of various forums. If you have any issues about registration or inspection, please get in touch with John john@naaps.org.uk.

The consultation on the new CQC Excellence Award Scheme closes on 1st August. Please see <http://bit.ly/iQ4tjK> and send any views to john@naaps.org.uk

Personal budgets surveys published

A survey of councils found that third of all people eligible for social care support receive a personal budget. This is double last year's total and the move to personal budgets is picking up speed, although nearly all of the increase has been in personal budgets which are managed by councils or provider organisations, with no significant increase in cash direct payments. A fifth of personal budgets have a value of less than £1k per annum, but a quarter are for £10k or more; larger budgets are more likely to be taken as a Direct Payment. Half of the 338,000 recipients are over 65.

The survey also found that a significant minority of councils are lagging well behind, delivering personal budgets to less than a fifth of potentially eligible users.

A survey of the impact of personal budgets reported positive experiences, with 76% of personal budget holders saying there was a positive impact on being treated with dignity and respect and 75% saying the budget helped them stay as independent as they want to be. Those managing the budget themselves as a direct payment reported significantly more positive outcomes than people receiving council managed budgets. Personal budgets did not make a difference to getting and keeping a job (68% said no difference) or volunteering and helping in the community (77%). Many reported that the process of getting a personal budget was difficult. See survey at: www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk.

Choice and change: disabled adults' and older people's experiences of making choices about services and support summarises research into the experience of making choices in social care, the role information and support in helping making that a success and the expertise built up by long-term Direct Payment users: <http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/1997/>

Social care procurement law and good practice

Social Care Procurement - a briefing note on procurement, state aid and consultation matters relevant to the provision of social care services is published on www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk. This includes the rules for contracts below £150,000 per year (p16) and for contracts over £150,000 (p12) and advice on Framework Agreements (p18). It states that councils can draw up a list of recommended or approved providers of social care and advertise that list to Direct Payment holders, but cannot insist Direct Payment holders use providers from that list (p20). The application of State Aid rules to grant funding is explored and there is a useful section on councils' duties to consult with service users before making changes to service provision.

Scotland news

Standards of Care for Dementia have been unveiled to help people with dementia, their families and carers understand and assert their rights. They state that people with dementia should be treated with respect, their physical care environment should be personalised and their specific needs and preferences recognised and factored into their care package. The standards will be tested before being formally adopted.

A dementia skills framework, Promoting Excellence, will help ensure the standards are met by ensuring staff have the best professional qualifications, enhancing workforce capability and developing leadership within the dementia workforce.

Both are at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/Recent>

Wales News

We are delighted that Gwenda Thomas has accepted our invitation to be the keynote speaker at the NAAPS UK conference (see above). NAAPS have submitted two bids, to a charitable Trust and to the Welsh Government, for Wales Development posts.

Homeshare International Congress

Homeshare International (www.homeshare.org) hosted the 2011 Homeshare International congress which took place in Cologne, Germany. Alex Fox from NAAPS, Cathy Mandaza from Crossroads Care, Elizabeth Mills and colleagues from Homeshare International and John Galvin from Elderly Accommodation Council (EAC) which advertises Homeshare on its First Stop shop website, were all present, alongside colleagues from a number of European countries, Japan, Australia and the USA. There are remarkable similarities in the ethos, practices and challenges experienced by Homeshare schemes in countries around the globe.

Homeshare International has established a Homeshare Wikipedia page which colleagues from Homeshare around the world will be contributing to. It will be a place to gather links to research and useful information, so is well worth visiting. Please edit it or send your comments to Homeshare International if you have something to contribute.

HANZA in Australia takes a very similar approach to Homeshare in the UK, with services for both older people and younger disabled people. It aims to provide a professional screening matching and monitoring service for people with a disability wanting to find an appropriate person to share their accommodation. The scheme has been very successful, working within a personalised social care ethos, in helping younger disabled people to live in the household and community of their choice within a Homeshare arrangement, sometimes involving one or two disabled people sharing their house with a Homesharer. The scheme has found that assessment skills are key in understanding the very variable needs and wishes of younger disabled people, including:

- those who want to maintain their independence within their own home (often younger people with acquired brain injury or an early onset condition);
- households with a Householder and a family carer (sometimes an older parent);
- young people who want to move out of the family home or out of shared accommodation into a place of their own or where they have chosen their own housemates.

Participants may have a range of complex emotional, social and mental health needs alongside a disability, which means that the scheme can face some very complex challenges, including establishing eligibility criteria and a clearly defined role for the scheme and the Homesharer within the boundaries of good practice and regulation. HANZA has identified some key differences between the schemes for older and for younger people:

- older Householders are usually in an established household and community, often sharing their home for the first time, whereas younger Householders are establishing their first home;

- The involvement of families is important in both cases, but the dynamics can be very different, with families of younger Householders sometimes anxious about the risks they perceive in the young person's move;
- Older Householders often have progressive health conditions, whereas younger Householders may have stable but lifelong disabilities.

HANZA has developed an assessment approach based on three domains:

- The Homesharer's ability to share (physically, emotionally, spiritually).
- The Homesharer's readiness to share (capacity to understand and accept sharing; the suitability of accommodation).
- The Homesharer's suitability to share (their social skills and the appropriate level of external support to share with a Homesharer).

Ensemble Deux Generations, founded in 2006, is a very successful federation of seven new Homeshare programmes in Paris, with 200 matches between them and plans for five more programmes. E2D's success is based upon local branches run using a franchise model by homeworkers who are well embedded within a relatively small area. Both participants pay a small initial registration fee, then, once they are participating in a match, participants pay an annual 'membership' fee of €150 for the Householder and €350 for the Homesharer.

Kirby Dunn from Homeshare Vermont talked about the history and current state of Homeshare in the US. There are around 60 Homeshare programmes in the US but many only provide housing, for slightly reduced rents, with only around 30% following the model of exchanging housing for support or companionship which we would recognise in the UK. Homeshare Vermont have produced impressive outcome evidence using surveys of participants.

We will share circulated resources / links as we receive them.

Resources and external events

Research on cost benefit

Martin Knapp of LSE and Think Local, Act Personal have published a cost benefit evaluation of timebanking, befriending and community navigator schemes. It found that timebanking cost £450 per member per year, and made savings of £1300 per member per year. Befriending cost £80 per older person per year and saved £300. Community navigator schemes cost £480 and saved at least £900.

www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk

Building community connections and networks: Are we there yet?

This is a practical planning tool for statutory organisations and providers which sets out a vision for good work in building community connections and networks. It suggests questions areas and providers should ask about their performance in increasing people's networks and community connections, and suggests ways forwards.

The NESTA Co-production network is hosting regional events on co-production:

6pm-8pm, 28th July 2011 at Manchester Digital Development Agency, M1 6ED

<http://northwestcoprodnetwork.eventbrite.com/>

9.30am - 12.30pm at the University of Birmingham, 14th of July. Contact julia.slay@neweconomics.org and shahana.ramsden@govint.org

Evaluation guide: Does it work?

Think Local, Act Personal have published a practical evaluation guide for statutory and third sector organisations and providers which helps you to work out the kind of outcomes you might expect to see from your inputs and to choose and use the most relevant evaluation approach, involving local people in the process. <http://bit.ly/mQ6Zat>

Making Transition Work

Download the new FREE guide from CHANGE about supporting young people with learning disabilities to get on the ladder of work: <http://sn.im/-4r>

We Are Living Well But Dying Matters

CHANGE has made a video to encourage people with learning disabilities express their thoughts and questions about death and dying. <http://sn.im/-4w>

Free Open University courses

There are 600 free web based training courses available here: <http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/>

Learning Disability week

The focus for the week this year is Disability Hate Crime. The Safety Net project www.arcsafety.net has developed a number of free resources, such as the 'Friend or Fake?' easy read booklet, which can be used to discuss Hate and Mate Crime with people.

Contacts

One to one support for Homeshare organisations: Homeshare@naaps.org.uk or

Telephone: 07521 487 230

Dianne Parker, Members' administration: Dianne@naaps.org.uk or 01423858650.

Deborah Power, Business Manager: Deborah@naaps.org.uk

Alex Fox, CEO (policy issues): alex@naaps.org.uk

Our wholly-owned Community Interest Company, Community Catalysts, offers strategic advice on setting up, reviewing and developing Homeshare schemes: www.communitycatalysts.co.uk

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