



Carers And Parents of adults with learning disabilities in Enfield

CAPE NEWS – NOVEMBER 2020

I hope all CAPE members and their families are doing as well as they can, in these concerning times. The 'second wave' of the virus has occurred, as feared, and unfortunately the new lockdown, which commenced at the start of this month, has put many restrictions back in place. I am sure we are all hoping that these will have the desired effect, and that the current horrific number of Covid-19 infections, and resulting hospitalisations and deaths, will reduce. Any plans for CAPE to resume normal meetings have had to be put on hold, but we are considering setting up a Zoom CAPE meeting (see below).

CAPE members have continued to meet with Enfield officers and still attend various 'remote' meetings, such as the L.D. Focus Group, the Health Sub Group, the Transition Implementation Group, the L.D. Partnership Board, and the Charging Reference Group.

Zoom CAPE Meeting.

It is unlikely that we shall be able to re-start our normal CAPE meetings for quite some time, so we are considering setting up a CAPE meeting via Zoom, without a formal agenda, but just to say hello to each other, and check how everyone is getting on. We can also find out if there are any general issues which need to be raised with L.A. officers. I know that not everyone will be able to participate, but we should like to get some idea as to whether enough members would be interested, to make this worthwhile. Can I ask that you respond to Luan, at CAPE@e-d-a.org.uk, just to say 'yes' or 'no' to a Zoom meeting? We should probably set it up for a Monday morning at about 10.30 a.m., but you will be notified if this goes ahead.

Local Covid19 Swab Antigen Testing.

The Covid19 Swab testing is still available, even for those who do not have symptoms, and we are grateful to Enfield for providing this. Tests are available on Mondays at Park Avenue Disability Resource Centre. If you, your D.P. staff, or the person you care for would like a test, even if you have already had one, please ring Rosemary Mann, on 020 8360 1195 or email her at Rosemary.Mann@enfield.gov.uk. Please take advantage of this important facility, the test only takes a few seconds.

Day Services.

Day services have now been operating for high priority service users, for a while now. Strict testing and Covid-19 rules are being applied. The feedback is mostly very good, so I do hope that many CAPE members and their family members are benefiting from this. Unfortunately, plans to re-open day services more widely are still on hold. Hopefully, services users who are living at home with families will all have been offered some day services. Those in supported living or residential care will probably not be able to return to services for a while. We do not know when the next stage in the day services' re-opening process will be, but we shall obtain regular updates from the L.A. officers, at our meetings. Your day service provider should be keeping you informed of any progress.

Great news is that the Formont Sensory Therapy Pool is now available during the day, but only to private hires, at this time. Please think about using spare 'Personal Budget' to access this facility, it really is excellent. Check with 'duty' on 0208 379 5075, to confirm that they are happy for you to do this – Trevor Uys has already agreed this in principle, at the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board meeting. You will need to organize your own support. Phone Shard Madhewoo at the Formont, on 020 8363 6388, for more information.

Updated Covid-19 Guidance for Support Living Environments.

Some members have reported difficulties in visiting their family members who are in supported living. There also appears to be some confusion about which guidance applies to care homes and which applies to supported living. The latest government guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supported-living-services-during-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-supported-living>



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This is signposted, via the Covid-19 tab, on Enfield's own website, MyLife - <https://mylife.enfield.gov.uk/homepage> - so please remember to check there, if ever you need to find anything out.

Information and Advice Support from Enfield Connections.

Enfield Connections have enhanced their service to provide face-to-face advice sessions at local libraries. We are unsure if this service has been affected by the most recent lockdown. I have attached a leaflet giving information about Enfield Connections' current and new information and advice services. Please contact them, if you need to access their services.

Charging Issues.

Just a reminder that if you have any issues concerning your social care financial assessment, you should ring 020 8379 8177 to discuss these. Make sure that you ask them to send you a breakdown of how your family member's charge has been calculated, and please claim all their Disability Related Expenditure (DRE). Remember that you may be incurring additional costs (DRE) for your disabled family member, if they are unable to attend day services. If you are still unhappy, you should phone the Duty Desk at ILDS (020 8379 5075), or contact Enfield Connections (see above), Enfield Carers Centre, or Enfield Disability Action.

CAPE committee members participated in a webinar on Charging and DRE attended by advisors from a number of other London boroughs. It was very informative.

Enfield Carers Centre (ECC) A.G.M. and Carers Rights Day.

This will be held on November 26th., from 9.45 a.m. Hopefully you will already have been notified of this from ECC. It is being held via Zoom, so you will need to sign up to register. Professor Luke Clements, a recognised legal expert in the 2014 Care Act, and author of 'Community Care and the Law' will be speaking, so I strongly recommend that you try to hear his presentation. He will also be answering questions. To register, and to request a full agenda, phone ECC on 020 8366 3677.

Reasons to be Optimistic!

Amongst all the doom and gloom of the pandemic and lockdown, let us hope that the news about progress with developing the Covid-19 vaccine will continue to be positive. I suspect it will still be a while before it is rolled out generally but hopefully by this time next year, we shall all be in a much better place. Normally, we would be planning CAPE's annual party, and it just feels so sad that this will not now be happening. But let's all continue to support each other in whatever way we can, and I am sure this will all be just a bad memory, before too long. Luan, Wally, Jane, Bernadette and myself do send our very best wishes to you all, and your families.

Wendy Berry (Vice-Chair). Contacts - Tel: Luan, 0208 373 6249 email: CAPE@e-d-a.org.uk website: www.CAPE-LD.org