

Challenging Times



Challenging Disabled People's Right for Equality and Justice

SCIL is a campaign organisation, run and controlled by Disabled People. We have a number of services that enable Disabled People to have more 'Choice and Control'. These include: Advice and Information on Self Directed Support, Advocacy and Peer Mentoring programmes, Personal Development and Participation programmes.

Our Equality Programmes include Training and Consultancy, Consumer and Access Audits and Practice Learning Opportunities.

CAMPAIGNS AND CONSULTATION UPDATE

Disabled People, nationally, continue to face a barrage of cuts which will have major impact on our ability to live Independently; including the closure of the Independent Living fund by 2015, changes to Disability Living Allowance, and changes to Local Authority Charging.

Disability Living Allowance Consultation



The DWP has published its response to the consultation on planned reforms,

5,500 responses were received from individuals and Disabled Peoples organisations. The response confirms that the DWP wishes to cut DLA by 20% by 2015. The Government plan to replace (DLA) with a new Personal Independence Payment (PIP) by 2015. Further info DWP webpage.

Info: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/>

Disabled People Against the Cuts (DPAC)

<http://disabledpeopleprotest.wordpress.com/>

DPAC was formed in 2010 and exists for all who believe that Disabled People should have full Human and Civil Rights.



On 26th March 2011, Disabled People joined approximately 500,000 protestors on the anti-cuts march through central London. The figure was higher than originally



expected. The protest was peaceful and well-organised.

ATOS have just begun a £300 million contract by the Con-Dem Government to carry out Work Capability Assessments on people claiming Incapacity Benefit. Testing has already led to some people with severe medical conditions being declared fit for work.

Disability activists and Campaigners have called for a week of action against ATOS, beginning on 9th May 2011 at 2pm, with a picnic and party in Triton Square, home of ATOS head office.

1 Month Before Heartbreak

1 Month Before Heartbreak is an on line protest site for Disabled People who find attending protests difficult. The site was set up to protest against planned cuts and enables a sense of community through writing about the cuts and sharing personal stories. Info:

<http://onemonthbeforeheartbreak.blogspot.com/>

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CAMPAIGNS AND CONSULTATION UPDATE

Continued...

Independent Living Fund (ILF) Consultation Update

The ILF has announced closure by 2015, but has assured existing users that their funding will be protected until 2015. The Govt. has confirmed that a consultation will take place later in the year. Reforms may be necessary, but it is important to remember that without funding of this kind many Disabled People will not receive the support to participate and maintain Choice and Control over their lifestyle.



The Dilnot Commission will be presenting recommendations, about future funding of Social Care, to the Govt. in July. Robert Droy (SCIL) and ILF users met with Andrew Dilnot (Chair) and stressed the importance of adequately meeting the requirements of Disabled People with higher support needs, at no additional cost. Andrew

FORTHCOMING SCIL EVENTS...

Geoff Hilton-Barber is visiting Unity 12 on 18th May at 1.30 to talk about the charity he set up and runs in South Africa (www.horizonfarmtrust.org.za). The Jubilee Sailing Trust will also be speaking at this event. Refreshments provided. Info Teresa on 023 80 330982.

Go Ahead Parenting (GAP) a support network of Disabled People that have a parental responsibility or wish to start a family meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at The Harbour Centre, Totton. See attached flyer or contact Ami at SCIL on 023 80 330982.

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

Further information about SCIL is available on our website: www.southamptoncil.co.uk, you can read articles and comment on our blog: <http://southamptoncil.wordpress.com/> or even follow us on Twitter: @southamptoncil

If you are unable to access the internet and would like more information about anything in the bulletin please contact Berni Vincent on 02380202630 or berni@southamptoncil.co.uk.

Dilnot accepts that Disabled People may need funding differently to older people. Info: www.dilnotcommission.dh.gov.uk/

The role of your local MP

Your local MP is available to help you with any difficulties you may be experiencing with Local or Central Govt. and public agencies. Your MP is responsible for raising your concern in the House of Commons. Your problem can be raised in writing, by telephone or in person.

Contact details for your local MP can be found on <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/> which will also provide access to your MP's website. Details can also be found by contacting your local council or library.

Alan Whitehead (Southampton Test constituency) holds surgeries at Unity 12 on 3rd Friday of each month. For an appointment please contact his office on 023 8023 1942.