

April 2014

Quarterly Political Summary

WELFARE AND BENEFITS

New cap on welfare spending

Chancellor Osborne has confirmed that a new cap on overall government spending on welfare benefits will apply from 2015. While some benefits, including job seekers allowance will be exempt from the spending cap most others, including disability benefits, will not. [Read more.](#) **Contact a Family**

NAO report criticises DWP's PIP planning

The National Audit Office (NAO) published a report in February on the operational performance of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) as it introduced Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The report seeks to highlight early issues which could affect the full roll out of PIP. [Read more.](#) **Disability Rights UK**

Disability benefit delays unacceptable, say MPs

Work and Pensions Committee says the length of time disabled people have to wait to find out if they are eligible for benefit is unacceptable. [Read more.](#) **Work and Pensions Committee**

Scotland: Families with disabled children hit by reduction in services

Services for families with disabled children in Scotland have been dramatically reduced due to budget cuts resulting in increased incidence of stress, anxiety and in some cases depression amongst parents, according to a new report. [Read more.](#) **Contact a Family**

EDUCATION

England: on 13th March the Children and Families Bill received royal assent.

The new law will introduce a number of changes including a move from special educational needs statements to education, health and care plans. Please note that the new law will not take effect until September 2014. [Read more.](#) **Contact a Family**

England: Frequently Asked Questions about the Children and Families Bill

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) have collated some of the most common questions about the SEN and disability reforms. [Read more.](#) **CDC**

England: the Government announces increase in funding for parent carer forums

In February 2014 the Government confirmed that parent carer forums can now bid for up to £15,000 for their parent carer participation grant. Parent Carer Forums have a key role to play in implementing the SEN reforms at a local level. [Read more.](#) **CDC**

England: in December 2013 the Government announced that all disabled children and young people without SEN will benefit from the Children and Families Bill

The Government tabled a series of amendments so that now all disabled children and young people will benefit from key elements of the reforms introduced by the Children and Families Bill. Please note, disabled children and young people without SEN will still not be offered Education, Health and Care Plans. [Read more.](#) **Every Disabled Child Matters**

Wales: Social Services and Well-being Bill

A new bill was published in January to introduce new measures relating to social care that will affect families with disabled children. [Read more.](#) **BBC News**

DISABILITY

London Overground has launched a new 'Turn Up and Go' service for disabled customers

'Turn up and Go' service means that disabled people needing assistance can simply arrive at stations and have staff help them without being asked to book in advance. The 'Turn up and Go' service is already in place on London Underground. [Read more.](#) **Disability Rights UK**

The countdown to the 2015 general election begins now and your help is needed to make a difference

Every Disabled Child Matters wants to make sure that whichever party forms the next Government after 2015, they do not ignore the needs of families with disabled children. You can be part of their campaign by telling them the real stories about your day to day lives. [Click here to complete a short online questionnaire.](#) **Every Disabled Child Matters**

HEALTH

England: first ever neurological dataset launched

The publication of the neurological dataset, which is available on the Health and Social Care Information Centre website is a huge first step in addressing the lack of information on neurological services. For the first time we will be able to shine a light on what is happening for people with neurological services in England and start to pinpoint where problems may exist and how these can be addressed. [Read more.](#) **The Neurological Alliance**

An alternative guide to the new NHS in England

A video- animation which gives a whistle-stop tour of where the NHS is now and how the new organisations work and fit together. [Find out more.](#) **The King's Fund**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is reviewing mental health crisis care in England.

As part of this they are asking people who have experienced a mental health crisis, or who have supported a friend or relative through one to share their experiences of the help, care and support they received. [Read more.](#) **CQC**

RESOURCES

New Facebook page for young advocates for paediatric stroke

A page to obtain ideas on how to educate and make a difference in the world, to bring awareness to your community about stroke in children and young adults or to simply connect with other people who had a stroke. [Find out more.](#) **Youth Advocates for Pediatric Stroke (YAPS)**

Which School?

An article about choosing a school for a child with additional needs. [Read more.](#) **SEN Magazine**

New illustrated guide on toilet training for children with autism and intellectual disabilities

Based on work by Dr Sue Bettison, Cerebra's guide looks at the effects of developmental delay on toilet training as well as the physical, behavioural and sensory issues. It gives practical guidance on deciding on and implementing an appropriate toilet training programme. [Read more.](#) **Cerebra**

Award winning book about brain injury

The Children's Trust has received a top award for a picture book explaining brain injury to children with the condition. Heads Up, Tim-Tron is the story of a little robot who learns to manage his disability after he has a bump on the head. [Find out more.](#) **The Children's Trust**