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# CiLK's Bi-Monthly Bulletin

January 2012 – Second Edition

Hello, and welcome to CiLK's second Bi-Monthly Bulletin. Firstly we would like to wish all our readers, members and supporters a very Happy New Year. This edition contains information from Skills for Care, details on the new changes to the Blue Badge Scheme, benefits and details on the Digital Switchover, which we hope you will find interesting and informative.

## **Skills for Care – support for people who employ Personal Assistants (PA's)** [www.skillsforcare.org.uk](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk)

The Skills for Care website has a wealth of information for people who employ their own PA's. There are various documents covering different aspects of employing your own PA's. Documents include 'Inducting your Personal Assistants' which detail common induction standards, which can be used in the induction process. The 'Personal Assistant (PA) toolkit' lists helpful information from getting started to sorting out problems (this toolkit can also be found on CiLK's website).

## **Blue Badge Scheme Changes** (information from KCC)

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 the charges for applying for a Blue Badge will go up from £2 to £10. This is due to changes Kent County Council (KCC) needs to make with the design of the badge. Increasingly fraudsters are targeting Blue Badges. The aim of the new Blue Badge is to make it harder for fraudsters to copy. Individuals will only need to pay the £10 charge if their application is successful. To apply for a Blue Badge contact KCC on 01622 605020. To find out more about the changes visit the KCC website at [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

## **Latest on Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** (information from Benefits and Work Publishing Ltd)

A group of disabled campaigners have claimed that the results from the consultation that was carried out by the Government on proposals to replace DLA with PIP has been misrepresented. In an email received from Benefits and Work Publishing Ltd it is stated that 'For example, the 'Responsible reform' claims that:

"98 per cent of respondents objected to the qualifying period for benefits

being raised from 3 months to 6 months.”

However, the government document merely states that:

“Some organisations were in favour of our proposal to extend the Qualifying Period from three months to six months, before benefit would be paid . . . However, many organisations and some individuals were not in favour of this”

If it is true that there were 2% of organisations in favour versus 98% against then the use of the terms ‘some’ versus ‘many’ appears to be a very deliberate attempt to hide the virtually unanimous animosity to this proposal. A fairer picture would have been given by phrases such as ‘very few’ organisations were in favour whilst ‘an absolutely overwhelming majority’ were against.’

As far as CiLK knows the proposals are that people who currently receive DLA will be reassessed for PIP from 2013. If you would like more information on this then visit the Disability Alliance website at [www.disabilityalliance.org/dlatest.htm](http://www.disabilityalliance.org/dlatest.htm) for all the latest updates on DLA and PIP.

### **Digital Switchover** (information from Digital UK)

From 30 May 2012 Kent will be going digital. This means that all televisions will need to be able to receive channels digitally. There is help available for disabled and older people. For more information please visit the Digital UK website at [www.digitaluk.co.uk](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk) or call the help scheme free on 0800 40 85 900. Textphone users can call free on 0800 40 85 936 or you can email [info@helpscheme.co.uk](mailto:info@helpscheme.co.uk)

Where CiLK will be over the next few weeks:

26 January – Lydd Meeting Point, Hardy Hall, Skinner Road  
10am till 12 noon

31 January – Greatstone Meeting Point, St Peters Church Hall,  
Baldwin Road 10am till 12 noon

1 March – Kent MS Therapy Centre, Merton Lane (North),  
Canterbury 9.30am till 2.30pm

6 March – Tenterden Meeting Point, Trinity Baptist Church,  
Ashford Road 10am till 12 noon

14 March – Rolvenden Meeting Point, Village Hall, Maythem  
Road 10am till 12 noon

Please visit the CiLK website at [www.cilk.org.uk](http://www.cilk.org.uk) for regular updates on where CiLK will be

If you have something you would like included in the next bulletin then please contact the CiLK Office by Tuesday 6 March 2012.  
Telephone 01622 355777 or Email [donna@cilk.org.uk](mailto:donna@cilk.org.uk)