

Em.bold.en Newsletter – November 2017 – Number 4

Welcome to the 4th edition of the Em.Bold.en newsletter. This is a regular update to let you know what we've been doing and what we have planned. The Embolden project was started to give a stronger voice to older families who have relatives with a learning disabilities to influence decision makers, hold them to account and improve services.

Coffee Conversations around the County

Following on from our Housing and Support event in June we held a series of smaller meetings around the county so we could engage with families face to face and feed back some of the information they have been asking for. As well as copies of our *Care Act guide* we have also produced a '**Planning for the Future Checklist**' for families. This helps families think about all the things they need to put in place in case of an emergency or when they are no longer able to support their relative.

Both the Care Act guide and the Checklist can be found on our website <https://www.oxfsn.org.uk> or contact us on Tel: 07891 734987 or email: info@oxfsn.org.uk if you would like a free copy.

<p>Planning for the Future Checklist for families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Would your family know what to do if you were suddenly unable to care for your son or daughter with learning disabilities? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you registered with Carers Oxfordshire so that they know you are a carer? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you registered with the Emergency Carers Scheme through Carers Oxfordshire? <input type="checkbox"/> Do you and your family know who to phone at Oxfordshire County Council in an emergency day or night? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you ever made a crisis care plan? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you created a person-centred plan with your relative and the wider family? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you got a file by the phone that would enable someone in an emergency to help your son or daughter, with information in about their needs/likes/dislikes/how to comfort them if they are distressed/unwell/medicated? <input type="checkbox"/> Do you know if your relative has had a formal assessment of their mental capacity (this covers the ability to make big decisions on where they want to live, and whether they can handle big decisions on money or on medical treatment)? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you made a will with a solicitor who is an expert in planning for the affairs of disabled people and can advise on planning the finances for your relative, including setting up a discretionary trust? <input type="checkbox"/> Does your executor know where to find the will? <input type="checkbox"/> Do they know where to find information on all your assets and information on pensions, gas, electric, phone and other suppliers and house insurance? <input type="checkbox"/> Are you or any other relatives appointed as a deputy via the Court of Protection for your son or daughter? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have you discussed your future plans with your non-disabled son or daughter or other family members or friends? Do you know for sure what they are willing and able to do to support your son or daughter? <input type="checkbox"/> Do you know where your son or daughter will live in the future? <input type="checkbox"/> Do you know what level of support is provided in your relative's personal budget? <input type="checkbox"/> Do you have a separate bank account for benefits for your son or daughter with a learning disability? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you got in one folder in a safe place, known to trusted family and friends, all the key documents for your relative: e.g. the latest benefits letters, national insurance number, and NHS number, their latest social care assessment and their care and support plan and bank account details? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you put together in writing your wishes for the future so that your family know what you would like to happen for your son or daughter? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you set up a Circle of Support for your relative so that they have someone to support them when you are no longer around? <input type="checkbox"/> Would you know where to get help to set up a Circle of Support for them? <input type="checkbox"/> Would you or your family know what to do to make sure things are working well for your relative and where to go if you have concerns? <p>For more information on these topics, and also to find out details of meetings and events we are holding to help you and your family please contact:</p> <p>Kathy Liddell, administrator for the Embolden project on: 07786 731634; or email: info@oxfsn.org.uk Or contact Gail Harvahan, Project Manager on 07891 734987</p>
--	---

For the future: Families have also asked for more clarity on *Personal Budgets* and *Direct Payments* and what they can be used for so we are currently working on putting together this information.

Day Services. We have been hearing from many families who have been impacted by the amalgamation of day services in the County. Transportation and the drop in the number of hours been offered seem to be the main issues. The centers are working on addressing these issues. All those using the services are also having reassessments. If you are finding that your family member's personal budget is changing as a result please do get in touch. Unless their needs have changed then the support they get should not be affected.

Influencing and challenging

Members of the Em.bold.en team are continuing to influence and challenge at the highest level in the county.

Gail continues to be a member of the Transforming Care Partnership Board. The project itself is coming to an end but Oxfordshire Health, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the County Council are committed to carrying Transforming Care Forward. Gail is also meeting with Kate Terroni (Director of Adult Social Care)

and Robyn Noonhan (Area Service Manager, Learning Disabilities) on a regular basis so is able to raise all the issues that you tell us about and making sure they are aware of the issues that concern you. Kathy is part of the co-production teams working with the County Council and Adult Social Care looking at Direct Payments and Moving into Adulthood. Personal Budgets and Direct Payments can be very confusing so we want to make it easier for families to know what they are and what they can be used for. Angeli is working with Adult Social Care to help them identify the number of older Family Carers in the County who are still supporting a relative with a learning disability and recognizing that they may also have other caring duties. We feel that the County Council are starting to recognize that older family carers need to be identified and supported through the information we are able to give them.

If you have any burning issues you want us to raise at these meetings please get in touch with Gail: Tel 07891 734987 or E-mail: Gail.Hanrahan@oxfsn.org.uk

WHAT'S NEXT?

We have two events planned for the New Year.

First Up is a **Health Event** which will cover issues raised by you including Emergency Care and Respite, Reasonable adjustments for Patient Experience when at hospital, carers assessments, learning disabilities and dementia etc. We will be joined by key people in each area to give you the latest information.



Date: 23rd February 2018

Location: Didcot Civic Centre

Time: 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

The next event will be an open event to all older families using day services – topics to be covered are still in the planning stage but we have had requests to cover such topics as Court of Protection, Fairer Charging and Direct payments. The event is free but booking is essential. **Please contact Kathy on Tel: 07786 731634 or Email: Kathy.liddell@oxfsn.org.uk to book a place.**



Date: 15th March 2018

Location: Social & Community Centre
Abbey Centre, Audlett Drive,
Abingdon OX14 3GD

Time: TBC

That's it for now. Wishing you all a merry xmas and a happy and healthy new year

Gail, Angeli and Kathy – OxFSN Embolden Team