



THE PHOENIX

Campaign for Independent Living in Lewisham

June 2007

Campaign Supplement

Councillor Mark Morris has informed us of the following RNID campaign

The number of subtitles on programmes has increased dramatically in the last 15 years. This is thanks to pressure from viewers around the country and from organisations like the RNID. Now, over 86% of programmes on ITV1 and Channel 4 have subtitles, and over 95% on BBC1 and BBC2 have subtitles.

The number of channels available has grown dramatically. But digital channels such as ITV3 and ITV4 are subtitling less than 14% of their programmes. As people switch to digital TV, the 1.5 million people in the UK who need subtitles won't be able to follow these programmes.

We want better access to television programmes for deaf and hard of hearing people, and you can help! Please ask Michael Grade, Executive Chairman of ITV, to subtitle more programmes on all ITV channels.

Take action! [Email Michael Grade \(external link, opens new browser window\)](#) to support our campaign.

Save See Hear - Keep it Deaf led, Deaf issues for Deaf viewers – Rebecca Atkinson's Edited Appeal

"I don't know if you have noticed but the new series of *See Hear* has taken a bit of a turn for the worst. The recent programme about a Deaf beauty pageant had no in vision signing. Only subtitles and a hearing narrative voice over, like on hearing documentaries. There was no real BSL access. The magazine programme contained patronising items about hearing people who own deaf dogs and a hearing couple's heartbreak when they found out their son was deaf. Really regressive patronising stuff.

"*See Hear* has also been cut from 45 minutes a week to 30 minutes a week and will be moving from a Saturday slot to daytime on Wednesday in September. Also, despite Mark Thompson promising more money for Switch at the *See Hear* 25th party, this has not happened. The BBC is meant to be committed to diversity on screen but they are making cuts!

"We need to act now to protect *See Hear*. Please write in and complain. I know that all letters and emails are read by all staff and it will really make a difference. Say that you are disappointed that *See Hear* has been cut to 30 minutes and that deaf people (the core audience) will not be able to watch the programme when it goes out on Wednesday as most will be at work.

"It's really important that we all write in because management is not listening to the deaf who work there. But they will listen if viewers start to complain en masse. I know, because I have worked there in the past! We need to tell them that *See Hear* is a DEAF programme and should stay that way!

"Pass this on if you know anyone else who can write in - www.bbc.co.uk/feedback/."

Our Lives, Our Choices: Independent Living Campaign Launch

The campaign for the right to Independent Living is being launched on **Monday 18th June**. The campaign seeks radical reform of health and social care so that all disabled people of whatever age or impairment can take control of their own lives, families and friends of disabled people are not forced into poverty through lack of support and so that all of us can have the security of knowing that our independence will not be lost now or in the future. To this end the campaign is supporting Lord Ashley and Roger Berry MP's Independent Living Bill currently before Parliament. Our Lives, Our Choices is being facilitated by the National Centre for Independent Living and represents a broad cross-section of organisations including the National Pensioners Convention, Action for Advocacy, disabled people's organisations, charities working with disabled people and carers' organisations.

Lewisham's Review of Adult Social Care

Message from Denise Smith, Campaign for Independent Living in Lewisham (CILL)

Lewisham Council's review of adult social care is now under way and those of us who use services have received an information pack and consultation questionnaire. It is very grim reading. The options being pursued are changing the eligibility criteria and changing the charging framework for adult social care services. If you have not seen the documents you can get them from the Lewisham website at www.lewisham.gov.uk or by email at adultcare@lewisham.gov.uk or by calling their helpline number on 020 8314 7046.

The reality will be that some people will no longer be eligible for all or part of their services, charges will increase and many services (such as shopping and housework) will have to be arranged and paid for privately. As many disabled people and older people already struggle to survive on very low incomes they will not be able to afford to pay. It is all very well for Lewisham to argue that these proposals are about bringing the adult social care budget back into balance but what about vulnerable people.

CILL understands that social care cannot be a black hole into which ever increasing amounts of money are thrown and earlier this year we declined to support the local campaign to pressure Mayor Steve Bullock to raise council tax beyond his election pledge simply to maintain the present level of services. We welcomed a review but we pressed for and understood that services users would be involved in the review not merely consulted once decisions had been made. We wanted a review that looked at saving money not by restricting criteria and raising charges that's the easy option but at a much more fundamental level – **DOES THE MONEY SPENT REPRESENT VALUE FOR**

MONEY, WHAT IS THE SERVICE ACHIEVING IN TERMS OF QUALITY OF LIFE, COULD THE SERVICE BE DELIVERED MORE CHEAPLY AND AT BETTER QUALITY IN ANOTHER WAY.

As service users we all know where money is being wasted and we all have experiences that could have shaped a better quality and more cost effective way for social care to be delivered in Lewisham. Instead we get drastic measures that will reduce quality of life but why worry Lewisham will have sorted their budget. Well CILL is worried and angry.

Last week I told you about a meeting we were managing:

INDEPENDENT LIVING IS UNDER THREAT! HAVE YOUR SAY

**Come to a meeting at The Civic Suite, Catford SE6
On Tuesday 12 June 2007
5.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.**

This is a great opportunity for disabled people to come together and speak up about the issues that matter to them. Our chance to get our voice heard and to put our concerns on the strategic agenda.

CILL will now be launching a campaign against the changes at that meeting.

There has never been a more important time to have your say.

- I would urge anyone who uses services:
- Not to complete the questionnaire until they really understand what the issues are.
- To go to the meetings arranged by Lewisham and to see their advocates.
- To come to the meeting on 12 June and have your say
- **Join our campaign either individually or ask your organisations to join us**

I hope to see you at the meeting but if you cannot get there and you would like your views to be heard or if you want to join the campaign then email campaign@fsmail.net or write to us at CILL, 5 Silverdale House, Silverdale, London SE26 4SD

Mencap's campaign to stop bullying

Mencap will launch its campaign to stop bullying in Learning Disability Week 17-24 June 2007. The campaign will highlight the fact that most children and young people with a learning disability are bullied and that this has a devastating effect on their lives. The campaign will call for children and young people, adults and the Government to take action to stop disablist bullying – when children and young people are bullied because of their disability.

What can you do?

- From 18 June 2007 you can make a sticker on our new website to tell people bullying should stop. Please visit us campaigns@menicap.org.uk from 18 June 2007 to sign-up to stop bullying!
- Tell others about Mencap's campaign. You can order campaign leaflets by contacting the campaigns team by telephone on 020 7696 6952 or by email campaigns@menicap.org.uk
- Tell us about any good projects in your area that are helping to stop bullying among children and young people with a learning disability. Tel 020 7696 6952 or email campaigns@menicap.org.uk
- If you are a child or a young person with a learning disability and would like to speak to a counsellor in confidence, you can call Childline on 0800 1111.

What can I do to improve the Mental Health Bill?

A Government Bill to amend the 1983 Mental Health Act is currently going through Parliament. Mind believes that it will force thousands of people into treatment that will not help them get better nor will it provide essential safeguards and rights. Mind is working as part of the Mental Health Alliance, with the Black and Minority Ethnic Mental Health Network, MPs and members of the House of Lords to improve it.

Mind's campaigning and lobbying on the 2002 and 2004 draft Mental Health Bills worked.

- You can help us change the 2006 Mental Health Bill for the better by:
- working with the media. If you have been affected by any of the issues related to the Bill (for example, lack of community services when you've left hospital, sectioning, forced treatment, good experiences of advocacy) and would be willing to speak to journalists, please email details of your story to press@mind.org.uk , or call 020 8522 1743
- contacting d.stone@mind.org.uk to join our email lobbying campaign
- [asking your MP to support Early Day Motion 75](#)

"Independent Living is not a service, it is freedom; it is liberation; it is equality for disabled people"