



December 2018 newsletter



Hi friends of Get on Board

We just want to tell you a little bit about the things Get on Board has done since we really got the group going in the Autumn.

Read on to find out about

- Parliament Week
- International Day for People with Disabilities
- Interviews with the Open
- University

There is also information about how to Have Your Say about Northamptonshire County Council's plans for its budget and libraries.

Finally make sure you read the really important advice about Staying Safe at Christmas or when you have a party.

Most importantly we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year. From all at **Get on Board**



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Parliament Week



The Local Champions continue to do awareness sessions so people can learn more about Voting and Parliament. Sessions were held at each of the 3 Teamwork venues, Northamptonshire People First, the Gladstone Road Centre and Riverside.

It is a very special year as it is 100 years since women were first allowed to vote.

At the sessions people talked about how hard women had to fight to get the vote and why. People who went to the sessions also had a chance to pretend they were back in 1918 and argue about why women should be able to vote or not.



Thanks to Sabrina, John, Angela, Dawn, Anna, Paul and Mike for running the sessions.



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International Day for People with Disabilities

Northampton Borough Council ran an event on 3rd December to celebrate the International Day for People with Disabilities.

Get On Board had a stand and talked to lots of people about our work. We also told people about the Keep Safe Scheme.



There were lots of other stalls there where people could find out about support and leisure activities in Northampton,

We also had some great entertainment by Singing 4 Breathing choir, The Cube performance and a great solo performance by Drew from It's My Life.

The picture shows members of Get on Board at the event.



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Interviews with the Open University



In October and November local champions, Paula, John and Anna went to Milton Keynes to help the Open University interview people who want to do high level Social Work training. The champions were part of the interview panels. They asked some of the questions and got to say what they thought about the people and if they were good enough to do the training. The feedback was very positive and staff said things like:

- 'What was particularly striking and very heartening was how well the candidates themselves responded.'
- 'I found it to be a very valuable experience'
- 'Inclusion in the interview process immediately helped the candidates to relax and to feel more natural.'



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Information about how to Have Your Say about Northamptonshire County Council's plans for its budget and libraries

(please note that this part is done for Northamptonshire County Council. The information on their website is not in Easy Read so you might need to speak to a supporter, family or friend if you need help with reading).



The Council Budget

The Council is looking at the money it needs to run services from April next year. Where possible, it wants to make services better rather than stop them. It has published some ways of saving money and some ways of raising money and would like to hear what people think about them.



One of the things the Council needs to do is raise Council Tax to bring more money in to pay for services (by an extra 2.99% on what people pay already). For people who live in a Band D house or flat, this means they would pay an extra £35.20 next year (or 68p a week).

Other things the Council is thinking of doing include:

- Charging a top-up fee for people who would like community equipment that is more expensive than the standard equipment that



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the Council provides

- Changing the way it buys care services for adults with learning disabilities to get better results for people and better value for money
- Helping older people to live independently rather than going into care homes, if they are able to do so
- Developing more Supported Living Schemes for adults with learning disabilities so they can live independently in the community
- Change the homecare/day care providers for some older people so that it provides better value for money
- Improve the quality and effectiveness of reviews and reassessments for people with learning disabilities
- Offering more reablement and step down care for people being discharged from hospital so that they do not have to stay so long in hospital or go into residential care
- Using special equipment and training to reduce the need to have two home carers visiting people who need help in their own home, where it is safe to do so
- Make better use of residential homes for children in care so less children have to be placed outside of Northamptonshire
- Stopping some contracts in Children's Services that help:



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- families affected by domestic abuse
- families who receive special therapy to try to avoid a child being taken into care, and
- young people not in education, employment or training

- Making the Home to School transport service run better
- Lots of other ways that should save money that do not change things for customers

If you would like to have your say on the budget, you can:

fill out the questionnaire online, by clicking on [here](#)

email consult@northamptonshire.gov.uk

or write to
Consultation, Equalities and Accessibility
Team, Northamptonshire County Council,
One Angel Square, Angel Street,
Northampton, NN1 1ED.



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If you like or you need help, you can have a discussion in a group and send your feedback to the council.

The consultation **closes on Wednesday 23rd January 2019.**



Libraries

The Council is asking people to have their say about plans to change the library service. It has looked at libraries across Northamptonshire and thought about whether it should carry on running them or whether it should ask community groups to run them.

The Council thinks that:

- Some libraries won't change and will stay being run by the Council
- Some libraries will be Council libraries but run by community groups
- Some libraries won't be connected to the Council anymore and the Council hopes that community groups will run them





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instead.

- The Council hopes that no library will close.

If you would like to have your say on one of the libraries, you can have your say by:



filling out the online questionnaire by clicking [here](#) (you can say what you think about more than one library but you have to do a questionnaire for each one).



email consult@northamptonshire.gov.uk



or write to

Consultation, Equalities and Accessibility Team, Northamptonshire County Council, One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton, NN1 1ED.



There are also drop-in events being held in each library that might change, and you can see the when and where they are by clicking [here](#)