

Joint Commissioning News

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The new Joint Commissioning Structure - Luba Hayes, Bridget Farrand & Amanda Schofield.

Expectations are high of the new Joint Commissioning Structure for the Nottingham Health Area. It is perceived to be an **opportunity** for Health, Social Services and Housing to plan and deliver services more effectively and improve the health of local communities. It is not simply a case of agencies working together more closely. The understanding is that **genuine joint commissioning has to be based on a joint assessment of need, joint agreement in strategies, joint planning and joint purchasing of services.** An important part is the commitment to involving users and carers in the process. It is taking time to establish meaningful

links but it is recognised that without the **user and carer** perspective joint commissioning is less likely to deliver positive benefits.

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new structure is in the early stages of development, feedback so far has been positive and progress is being made. Already, priorities agreed at national level in health, housing and social care have **reinforced** the need for an effective local joint commissioning structure.

The Joint Commissioning Groups are the key component

of the new structure; this is the level at which gaps in services are identified and new developments agreed and planned.

If you require any further information about the new Joint Commissioning structure you can contact: **Nottingham Health Authority - Luba Hayes on (0115) 912 3374. Nottingham City Council Social Services - Bridget Farrand on (0115) 915 7031. Nottingham City Housing Community Care Co-ordinator - Amanda Schofield (0115) 915 7412**

The contract officer for **Notts County Council Social Services, Sharon Creber** joins the authority on 2nd September.

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This newsletter was compiled by the Partnership Development Team with contributions from those working within the Joint Commissioning Structure.

HIV & AIDS – Sally Savage – Chairperson

This group first met on 6th May 1998 and decided that a **firmer knowledge base for the members** of the group was needed. To acquire this knowledge members from each agency represented in the group agreed to deliver a short presentation on current HIV/AIDS services and work is currently underway to **identify baseline expenditure** in HIV & AIDS services.

HIV & AIDS User and Carer Conference, will invite 60 delegates to participate in the event with smaller working groups throughout the day. Delegates will have the opportunity to participate in two of the working groups. **Richard Slack – Nottingham Health Authority** – will introduce and summarise the day. The **Keynote speaker is Jonathon Grimshaw – National AIDS Trust** Trustee.

The group decided that a **User and Carer Conference** would be an appropriate means of **enabling more involvement** from this client group. A task group has been established and the conference will take place on the **4th December at the QMC Post Graduate Centre**. The findings from the conference will be used to form part of a strategic document to direct the work of this group.

.. explore processes to involve the voluntary sector...

The aims of the conference are:-

- ⇒ **To seek views of users and carers** (service needs/weaknesses and gaps)
- ⇒ **To educate people involved in purchasing and commissioning**
- ⇒ **General Education** (current issues in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment)

The group aims to **explore processes to involve the voluntary sector** and proposes to use the User/Carer Conference and the resources of the Partnership Development Team.

The conference will also be used to canvass views on voluntary sector involvement in the Joint Commissioning structure.

Mental Health

This group is fairly **well established** and has met several times under the new Joint Commissioning Structure. At present the group is examining imaginative ways of **engaging users and the wider community**. They are also taking a closer look at specific issues such as **Black and Ethnic minorities** and the needs of **rural communities**.

from the statutory services and is chaired by **Jean Grant**. In the very near future **2 users and 2 carers** will also sit on this group coming from the **Nottingham Advocacy Group** and the newly formed **Carers' Council** respectively.

The group comprises the usual members

Plans for the Stakeholders Event **“Making Your Voice Heard”** taking place on **9th October** are being finalised as you read.

Substance Misuse – Lynne Wynstanley – Chair

Established in 1996/7 this group has recently undertaken a piece of “active” commissioning.

(young people’s) front line street service to **COMPASS** a voluntary sector provider.

Following the decision to **terminate** the APA (local street agency) contract, the Commissioners (Nott’m City SSD and Notts County SSD, Notts Probation services and Nott’m Health Authority) produced a service specification for a new street service and have successfully co-ordinated a tender process and **awarded** a contract (for a separate adult’s and

...a review of how users and carers are actively involved

The group is now **reviewing** all other contracts within this speciality and hopes to have a dedicated Joint Commissioning Officer working for the group over the next few months.

This group is also about to undertake a review of how users and carers are actively involved in the Joint Commissioning process.

All is going well so far – watch this space!

Physical & Sensory Impairment - Teresa Shaw - Chair

The JCG for Physical and Sensory Impairment aims to ensure that services for adults 18 – 64 with a physical and/or sensory impairment reflect the needs and views of users and carers, are commissioned in line with partner agencies' strategies, are clinically and cost effective and maximise the use of available resources.

This group met for the first time on 16 June, and examined the terms of reference for the group and its main roles and responsibilities.

The priorities identified by this group include the following:- **Linking with service providers** to agree

..... needs analysis undertaken by a Research Officer ...

working arrangements - will be taken forward early in 1999.

Ensuring the views of service providers, users and carers are sought and representatives are involved in the work of the group. We aim

to link with other appropriate established groups. We intend inviting Maggy Topley and representatives of the deaf and blind societies and physical disabilities groups to the November meeting initially.

A Stakeholders Conference is planned for the spring.

EL(97)62 "Better services for vulnerable people" (Government Circular) To meet requirements of the above, we shall be developing a Joint Investment Plan. The first part of this will

be a needs analysis undertaken by a Research Officer, appointed to work for the Joint Commissioning Groups. In parallel a mapping exercise of current services will be undertaken by this group's members.

Gaps in Service Provision.

On completion of the above work, a strategy will be developed for the commissioning of services to meet the needs we have identified.

At the meeting on 3rd September we intend to finalise our workplan.

Members of the Community Reference Group – see page 4

- * Jan Myers – (Chair) – SELF HELP - Nottingham
- * Jon North – (Vice Chair) – NAVO
- * Julia Barker – Carers' Federation
- * Delroy Brown – Nott'm Black Initiative (JCC Rep)
- * Andrew Fry – Notts Hospice (JCE Rep)
- * Mel Hatto – Stapleford Volunteer Bureau
- * David Hughes - CVS Nottingham,
- * Carola Jones – Notts Rural Community Council
- * Rosemary Renouf – Mental Health Forum
- * Jane Sterck - CVS Rushcliffe (JCE Rep)
- * Chris Sweeney – Nott'm Community Health Council (CHC)
- * Adrian Taylor – British Red Cross Notts Branch
- * Richard Thomas – MENCAP (JCC Rep)
- * Jessie Woodhouse – CHC member (JCC Rep).

Older People

– Caroline Jordan – Chair

The Joint Commissioning Group for Older People is still **establishing its identity and working relationships.** The group has now met twice. Details of our work plan are currently being amended. Essentially the main work for this group will be responding to two parts of **EL(97)62 "Better Services for Vulnerable People"**. These are in relation to the **multi-disciplinary assessment needs** and the **recuperation and rehabilitation needs** of older people. The

work involved in this will be **valuable** towards the future development of a joint strategy for services for older people. There is clearly much work involved in this, and further resources are being sought to enable this to happen.

The group is also reviewing the need for specialists within the field of older people joining the group as **supplementary members** as well as the usual involvement of patients and users.

What's the Community Reference Group? - Jan Myers – Chair of CRG.

Many of you may be familiar with the **Voluntary Sector Reference Group**, which was a multi-agency group drawn from the voluntary sector. This group **worked together during the re-structuring of the Joint Commissioning process** and brought into fruition the Partnership Development Team, now run under the auspices of the Notts Red Cross. Well, the group **emerged** from this process in a new guise – the **Community Reference Group (CRG)**.

The aim of the CRG is to **improve the quality and effectiveness of health, social care, environmental and housing service planning**. The object, to achieve this by **encouraging best practice approaches involving users, carers and voluntary sector bodies** in all aspects of the joint commissioning process at all levels. The CRG currently has members from a range of voluntary sector, users and carers organisations with **enthusiasm and expertise in collaborative working at a strategic level**. Elections for membership to the CRG will run in tandem with the JCC representative elections, via an annual voluntary sector conference.

The CRG is in the process of **drawing together a development and action plan**, which will be available in October. If you would like to know about the CRG or receive a copy of the plan **contact Maggy or Laurence at the Partnership Development Team** or contact any of the members direct.

Learning Disabilities – Maggie Harty (Chair) & Wendy Lippmann

This group has been meeting for about 18 months with members from

the Health Authority, Nott'm Healthcare NHS trust, Social Services, Housing and a local GP. The group aims to plan and develop **high quality services for people with Learning Disabilities**.

So far we have achieved the following: a **better understanding** between agencies of different roles and priorities; **agreement** of principles for funding joint care packages for people with complex needs; a **review** of the 1994 interagency strategy document and finally we have begun to **recognise**

gaps in local services e.g. specialist day and residential services for people with autism.

We are presently working in several areas. These include assisting in the design of a **Supported Living Scheme** for people living in Highbury Hospital, who no longer need hospital care, but still need specialist support in their own homes. Wendy Lippmann is working on a **"stock take" of residential contracts** that includes 153 places funded by Health and Social services. We are funding an **Advocacy Group**

at the Home Farm Trust to enable users to share their views

of current services. We have participated in a **review of services for people moving on** from children's to adult services. We have commissioned a project to examine **user and carer involvement in service development** in Nott'm and other parts of England. This will provide ideas for strengthening links with the learning disabilities community. We have also **met with parents/carers** in Hucknall to start planning future housing support for adults with a learning disability.

What next.....

Attention Parents & Carers of the Learning Disabled !

What ideas do YOU have about future services

We want to listen to you

In October and November we hope to:- **Interview** parents/carers; **spend a day** with a learning disabled adult so that we can better understand the difficulties; hold **conferences** with parents, carers and service users to listen to your ideas about the services you would like to use or see in Nott'm.

Venues and dates to be advertised shortly. We hope to meet as many people as possible over the next few months. For additional information contact **Janet Willins at Nott'm Health on 0115 912 3368 Monday – Thursday**. *We would also like to hear from people with time to spare for an interview and/or would be happy for a member of the NHS or local authority to shadow your child for the day.*

Children & Families - Sally Savage - Chair

At the June meeting of the Joint Commissioning Executive (JCE), it was formally agreed to establish a group for Children and Families, so at present the group has not met. Its first meeting is due to take place on the **5th October**.

It is intended that the group will **bring together priorities** identified by the Child Plan Group within the County and City Council's Strategic Planning Group for Children and Families and identify priorities for **jointly commissioned work for the benefit of children and families** in the Nottingham conurbation. It is envisaged that the majority of work will be taken forward through

task groups which either already exist, for example the group currently considering child and adolescent mental health services and another group looking at joint assessment for children with disabilities, or which will be established. As such, this Group will have a **small core membership** of Health, Education, Social Services and Housing, with **additional people being co-opted** into task groups as appropriate.

The meeting in October will decide a mission statement, terms of reference for the group as well as discussing how to **secure appropriate user, carer and voluntary sector involvement**.

.. jointly commissioned work for the benefit of children and families..



The PDT is now in place based at the British Red Cross, Great Freeman St Nott'm. Its role is to **ensure that users, carers and voluntary organisations are fully integrated into the new Joint Commissioning Process** (the successor to joint planning)

These arrangements are in the very early stages of development but you can contact the team on **0115 988 1710** if you have issues to feed into the

process.

The team comprises Maggy Topley - Partnership Development Officer, Laurence Quirk - Information Support Worker and Jan Layton - Admin

Nottingham Health Action Group - Helen Thompson

Nottingham Health Action Group (NHAG) brings people together to look at health and sustainability issues. Members come from the Nott'm Health Authority, Councils in the area and the voluntary sector. It steers the **Health In Your Environment** strategy and funds projects through the **Health Initiatives Budget**.

A report about the work to date, is available on request from Helen Thompson.

Health In Your Environment (HIYE) Voluntary Sector Forum was set up to enable a wide range of

voluntary organisations interested in these issues to meet, discuss their views and feed into the Nottingham Health Action Group. The forum helps to **set strategy** for the whole of the process and comes up with ideas for specific projects. The next HIYE meeting will be on **Tuesday 3 November 1998** at Self Help - Nott'm starting at 9.30 am. **NHAG and HIYE** are currently planning a **series of seminars** about Food, Energy Efficiency, Asthma and Transport, and their relationship to Health and the Environment.

The aim of the seminars is

to bring people together with Health, Social and Environmental perspectives, to **share ideas for identifying solutions** to current issues in Nott'm Health Area.

If your organisation has a specific interest in any of these topics, or in contributing to the Health in Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum, again please contact Helen Thompson at the following address **NHAG, Nottingham Health Authority, 1 Standard Court, Park Row, Nottingham. NG1 6GN telephone 0115 912 3344 ext. 49419.**

Diary

Month Group	September	October	November	December
Mental Health Chair – Jean Grant Admin – Linda Hind	15th – meeting	9th – Stakeholders Event 14th – meeting	11th – meeting	14th – meeting
HIV & AIDS Chair – Sally Savage Admin – Anne-Marie Gear		3rd – Task group meeting user/carer conference	19th – meeting	4th – Stakeholders Event
Subs Misuse Chair – Lynne Wynstanley Admin – Linda Hind		7th – meeting	9th – meeting	
Children & Families Chair – Sally Savage Admin – Charlotte Hall		5th – meeting		
Physical & Sensory Impairment Chair – Teresa Shaw Admin – Ian Ellis	3rd – devising work plan		10th – preparation for the Stakeholders Event	
Learning Disabilities Chair – Maggie Harty Admin – Janet Willins	23rd – meeting	8th – Strategy Formulation meeting		2nd/3rd - Strategy Formulation meeting
Older People Chair – Caroline Jordan Admin – Clare Holland		13th – meeting		

The above persons can be contacted at Nottingham Health on **0115 912 3344** with the exception of Maggie Harty and Jean Grant who can be contacted at Nottingham City Social Services on **0115 915 5500**