

# Joint Commissioning News

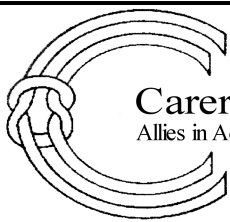
a newsletter for the Nottingham Health & Social Care Community

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**Carers' Council**  
Allies in Adult Mental Health

**Mental Health**  
Jean & Elsie  
(Carers on the Joint  
Commissioning Group)

We were pleased to see some new faces in the audience and a **strong contingent of carers** at the recent Stakeholders event. It was good to hear the views of users, carers, black and ethnic minority groups and the voluntary sector on their suggested improvements they would make to mental health services and to have the booklet "Making their voice heard".

In the morning Mark Sims of National Schizophrenia Fellowship in partnership with users and carers gave a presentation on the **new Support House** - a priority from the first Stakeholder Event. We heard about the **Specialist Deaf Services** and were pleased to see a Sign Language Interpreter enabling deaf service users to participate in the day's events. Helen Coombes (Social Services), assisted by Godfrey Cozens (Carers' Council), presented the **Care Programme Approach**.

Following lunch a number of facilitated workshops generated considerable information and David Levell spoke about the **National Service Framework and current national priorities**.

The day concluded with questions to the JCG members, a reading by Bill McDade of one of his powerful and passionate poems and we were sent on our way with music from "Strange Brew".

The **day's events were captured and illustrated by graphic artwork** as they happened. Overall it was a **very interesting and informative event** with strong carer involvement throughout, we thank all those involved in organising it and to everyone who took part.

**"It was a very interesting and informative event with strong carer involvement throughout, ..."**

Joint Commissioning News is available in Braille, large print & tape.  
Contact Laurence on 0115 988 1710 for further information.

## Mental Health, Chair – Lynne Winstanley

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mental Health Stakeholders Conference** held at the Nottingham Racecourse on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2000 was well attended by service users, carers, voluntary and statutory sector providers and commissioners.

The Conference provided **feedback** regarding investments and service developments in Mental Health services in the last 12 months, focusing on user & carer journeys through Mental Health services, **enabling** delegates to:

- **share** their experiences of services
- **highlight** the improvements needed to ensure “Services are for People and not People for Services”
- **highlight** good practice and the need to build on services that work well.

The views submitted by users, carers and voluntary organisations through a variety of mechanisms were summarised in a **presentation by the Partnership Development Team**.

The conference and pre-conference activities generated the following themes

- **dignity & respect** for patients.
- the **stigma & fear** that patients have of services.
- **access** to services.
- **communication** between the services and with users and carers.
- **information** about services being accessible and in appropriate imaginative formats.
- **education & training** for primary health care teams, professionals & the Voluntary Sector about mental health & mental health services.
- **therapeutic environments** and meaningful days.

Some service developments were also suggested which include the following:

- specialist advocacy **services for the deaf**
- a specialist multi-agency **early intervention team**
- the provision of **home treatments**.
- a team/panel that will **assess needs on the basis of vulnerability** not eligibility criteria, and will provide clients with short, medium & long term care packages.
- an **integrated system** for dealing with funding requests.

The issues and themes raised at the stakeholders conference informed a paper for the November JCG which discussed the need to develop a local strategy for improving mental health services. They will further inform the December JCG’s priorities setting meeting, when **priority areas** for improvement and/or investment in 2001/2 will be agreed.

The Stakeholders conference report will be available before Christmas.

**“ ... focusing on  
user and carer  
journeys through  
mental health  
services, ... ”**

If **you** have any ideas, issues or concerns about Joint Commissioning please contact the Chairs direct (see page 7 for complete listing of contact details) or write to

**The Partnership Development Team (PDT) ,**

**British Red Cross – Notts Branch,**

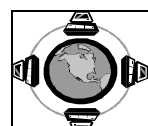
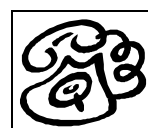
**Great Freeman St,**

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**E-mail [pdteamrx@proweb.co.uk](mailto:pdteamrx@proweb.co.uk)**

**Website [www.partnership-development-team.org.uk](http://www.partnership-development-team.org.uk)**



## Health Policy News - Karen Cross

Policy & Information Officer dealing with health issues, Rushcliffe CVS

**Championing** the public interest in health and providing input into health planning from staff and patients are the new aims of the Health Modernisation Council planned for the Nottingham Health Authority Area.

The Council is to be formed as part of the **changes** to the way health policy is directed and monitored in the area in response to the Government's NHS Plan. Its exact role and composition – including what the **voluntary sector's input** will be – is still being discussed. The NHS Plan, puts a firm emphasis on modernising health services and requires each health authority area to create a Health Modernisation Board. In addition, it has been decided to create the Modernisation Council in the Nottingham Health Authority area to replace the existing Health Partnership Forum.

The Board, which has **replaced** the Chief Executives' Forum and the Health Implementation Group (HIG), has already had its first meeting, with former HIG voluntary sector representative, Jane Sterck of Rushcliffe CVS, carrying her role over to the new committee. Its job is to bring together officers from the NHS and partners to **ensure** delivery of strategies, plans and performance targets.

The Council, meanwhile, will have the remit of **harnessing the views of patients, the public and frontline staff** to guide the health modernisation process, and also scrutinising services and developments. Its structure and exact role are being considered by a working group from the Modernisation Board and will be discussed further at the Board's December meeting.

**For further information contact Karen Cross on 0115 981 6988**

**“The Council, meanwhile, will have the remit of harnessing the views of patients, the public and frontline staff .. ”**

## HIV & AIDS

Chair  
Ruth Cutler

The last couple of months or so have been very busy. The HIV User Carer Task group is being **reformed** and I hope will prove to be really valuable in informing our work. The HIV **Providers Forum** is also being **redeveloped** and a newsletter will provide a complementary informal channel of communication for providers. At the last

JCG meeting members were very **concerned** to hear about the closure of Potter's House. This was **a very well regarded service** and Rod and Amorel provided exceptional support. The AIDS Control Act Report is received by the Health Authority at the end of November and provides up to date information on incidence in Nottingham, as well as brief reports on how funding is allocated. By the time this is printed World AIDS Day will have come and gone. This year providers have been **exceptional** in their creative and thoughtful plans to mark the day. Thanks to you all. I hope the Hardship Fund has been well supported by their annual street collection.

**“The HIV Providers Forum is being redeveloped .. ”**

## Health In Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum (HIYE), Chair – Richard Eddleston

HIYE Voluntary Sector Forum has been busy putting together a Healthy Living Centre bid. The funds are necessary to **further develop** the work that HIYE has already undertaken in linking issues of environment and health over the next five years.

HIYE is also **planning a conference** for the spring entitled 'What is a Healthy Community'. The idea is that we need to have a **clear vision** of the kind of community we want to live in and which we think will offer the best health to most people. If we do not have a clear vision of what we are aiming for and a clear vision of what does make for best practice, then we will tend to react to today's situation, rather than planning ahead in innovative ways. Representatives from the voluntary and community sector, the statutory sector and from local business will be invited to the conference. We **hope** the day will produce firm proposals for actual projects that can be taken forward.

“.. we need to have a clear vision of the kind of community we want to live in...”

## Substance Misuse, Chair - Lynne Winstanley

**The Nottingham Health Action Zone (HAZ) Substance Misuse Workstream.** The JCG would like to welcome Nicola Randall, the new HAZ Integration Officer. Nicola will be **establishing** user & carer focus groups and working closely with local providers. The Substance Misuse workstream has recently supported another 4 schemes and has ring fenced an additional £50,000 for drug prevention initiatives which will **focus** on the needs of "vulnerable or at risk" young people.

**Drug Action Team (DAT) Boundary Changes.** The Cabinet Office recently announced that all DATs would be **re-organised** to Local Authority boundaries with effect from 1st April 2001. This means the 2 Nottinghamshire DATs will change to the Local Authority geographical districts, ie. Nottingham DAT covering only the City of Nottingham and North Notts DAT covering Notts County Council boundary. The DAT support managers will ensure a **seamless transition** to the new arrangements – the new boundaries will **not** affect service provision to users and carers.

**Drug Action Team Template.** The Template is a document all DATs are required to complete on an annual basis, outlining what has been achieved and the resources spent in the previous financial year and the planned initiatives and spend for the coming financial year. A **sub-group** of the JCG has been formed to complete this huge task.

“Drug Reference Groups will be establishing user and carer forums, ...”

**Drug Reference Groups (DRGs).** The DRGs have become the **focus or working groups** for the JCG and they will carry out the detailed work required to ensure that the actions outlined in the DAT Template and National Targets are met. DRGs will be **establishing** user and carer forums where local people will be invited to discuss their issues.

**Joint work with North Notts Drug Action Team.** The JCG has held **two joint meetings** this year with the North Notts DAT and the North Notts JCG and have agreed the basic principles of future working arrangements in view of the DAT boundary changes. Regular meetings have been arranged to plan future joint working arrangements.

**Substance Misuse Provider Forum:** a 5th Provider Forum will be held on **8th December 2000**, where all local service providers meet with the JCG to share their work over the previous 6 months and to discuss and debate key Local and National issues.

## Physical & Sensory Impairment, Chair – Theresa Shaw

The JCG has been **focusing** on the development of the Joint Investment Plan for **Welfare to Work**. The views **collected** from the Service User focus groups have been incorporated into this plan and key themes have emerged, across all of the different client groups covered by this group.

Action Plans have been **jointly developed** with service users who are Blind, Physically Disabled, and Hard of Hearing, these will inform the work of the JCG during 2001-02. A project to **improve** the experience of Blind people when attending hospital as inpatients, has been developed out of the Blind Service User Focus Group. This is being led by a member of the focus group, working closely with the Queens Medical Centre and Nottingham City Hospital.

A **follow up** meeting with Deaf Service Users who attended an initial meeting with the JCG in June, will be held on 19 January 2001. Members of the JCG are working closely with Nottingham Deaf Society and the Federation of Deaf People to organise this. This will provide the opportunity to jointly agree the way forward with Deaf People.

A small focus group with people with a Dual Sensory Impairment was held in October. This **identified** the need for further focused work, particularly in relation to dependence upon carers.

**“Action plans have been jointly developed with service users ...”**

## Learning Disabilities, Chair – Maggie Harty

The JCG for learning disability held a **feedback conference** on 21st November called **“Positive Futures - What's happened so far”**.

Held at the Albert Hall, the conference aimed to tell key stakeholders about the progress made in meeting the targets set in Nottingham's "Positive Futures" action plan. The conference was chaired by **Maggie Harty**, chair of the JCG, together with **Julie Surgay** and **Pervez Khan** who attend Springwood Day Centre. Over a hundred people attended and around **a third** of the audience were people with learning disabilities. Opening speeches were made by John Taylor, chair of the Health Authority, Paul Snell, Director of Nottingham City Social Services and Jeff Featherstone, Commissioning Officer from Nottinghamshire Social Services.

The conference heard **presentations from the 10 working groups**. Some of the groups chose to feedback in original ways - e.g. the supported employment group staged "Who wants a job" based on the TV programme "Who wants to be a millionaire". The "Tackling Bullying" Group featured a production from the Evergreen performing arts group.

Workshops were held on each of the Positive Futures themes. This Group were delighted that people with learning disabilities played such an **active role** in running the conference. As well as chairing, service users were involved in reception and catering arrangements,

The Group is busy **finalising** a bid for finance for a "Healthy Living Centre" which if successful will fund some of the "Positive Futures" work. We **recognise** that significant investment is needed to make a real difference to the lives of people with learning disabilities in Nottingham.

**“Over 100 people attended and around a third of the audience were people with learning disabilities.”**



# Community Reference Group

At the first meeting after the Annual General meeting of the Community Reference Group the following **officers were elected**: Chairman Andrew Fry (Nottinghamshire Hospice), Vice

Chairman Jon North (NAVO). The core members of the group are: Claire Grainger (Hostels Liaison Group), Helen Myrie (Nottingham CVS), Roger Paulson, Barbara-Anne Walker (Self Help Nottingham) in addition to the members of the Partnership Development Team.

**".. establish an opportunity for those in the voluntary sector, ... to meet and discuss relevant issues."**

At our AGM we decided to **develop** an open meeting in advance of each of the Health Partnership Forum Meetings as a means of both supporting those representatives from the voluntary sector and of getting important issues onto the agenda. In view of the formation of the "Modernisation Council" this plan will change slightly, but the intention is to **establish an opportunity** for those in the voluntary sector who work with Nottingham Health or at the health

and social care interface to meet and discuss relevant issues. More on this when the dates for "Modernisation" meetings are known and the voluntary sector input has been determined.

**Andrew Fry (Chair)**

**Older People  
Chair  
Caroline Jordan**

Our **key** strategic objective to promote and maintain optimum independence of older people has been further supported by new **investment** in intermediate care services. Additional enhanced Community and Transitional Rehabilitation Services should be up and running during December in time to assist with the anticipated pressures on the health and welfare of older people

during the winter period.

In addition, a **time-limited project** is being undertaken to utilise ten nursing home beds in the independent sector to accommodate older people who are temporarily immobilised and dependent as a result of limb fractures. Currently, these groups of older people are cared for on busy acute orthopaedic wards for many weeks. A key worker from the Community Rehabilitation Team will manage the recuperative care at the nursing home, subsequent rehabilitation and return to optimum independence of this group of older people. The main **aim of this pilot** will be to release acute hospital beds, and to offer more appropriate recuperative care for older people in a more homely comfortable environment. Further use of this model of intermediate recuperative care for older people could be considered depending on the evaluation of this project.

In anticipation of the imminent publication of the National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People **discussions are underway** across the health and social care community to develop an infrastructure that will be able to deliver the required improvements to services. Next year's Joint Investment Plan is likely to evolve to become the NSF Joint Implementation Plan.

**"The main aim of this pilot will be to release acute hospital beds, and to offer more appropriate recuperative care for older people in a more homely comfortable environment."**

## Voluntary Sector Forums

The following districts have local voluntary sector forums, where you can find out about local plans and share your views. Whilst not exclusively health & social care related, you may find there's much more that your group could get involved in at a local level. For further information about meetings and events use the contact details below:

Ashfield including Hucknall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Ashfield Links Forum (ALF); - David Gidling on 01623 555 551 or LINKS@netcomuk.co.uk Next Meeting: 10th January 2001</li> <li>* Hucknall Local Area Forum, John Wilkinson 0115 952 9303</li> </ul>
Broxtowe Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Broxtowe Voluntary Sector Forum (BVSF); - Mel Hatto – Stapleford Volunteer Bureau, 0115 949 1175 or staplefordvb@talk21.com.</li> <li>* Next meeting: 8th February 2001</li> </ul>
Gedling Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Gedling Voluntary Action Network (GVAN) contact: Pam Clipsham – Gedling CVS, 0115 926 6750</li> <li>* Next meeting: March.</li> <li>* Special Event: 19th January 2001 – Volunteering, Contact Pam for more information</li> <li>* Also Gedling Borough Council &amp; PCG are hosting a training event called "EMPROVE" open to all who visit people at home on 29th January. Aim to pilot a family focused referral system for residents in Gedling, to increase advice and practical support in order to reduce accidents, improve warmth and enhance security measures in the home. Contact Tracy Gaskill on 0115 840 3780 for further information</li> </ul>

## Contact Details for Joint Commissioning Groups

Joint Commissioning Group	Chair	Address/Phone
Substance Misuse	Lynne Winstanley	Nott'm Health Authority 1 Standard Court Park Row Nott'm, NG1 6GN Telephone 0115 912 3344
HIV & AIDS	Ruth Cutler	
Physical & Sensory Impairment	Theresa Shaw	
Older People	Caroline Jordan	
Mental Health	Lynne Winstanley	
Black & Ethnic Minorities Advisory Group (BEMAG)	Harjinder Nerwal	
Learning Disability	Maggie Harty	Nott'm City Social Services Denewood Centre, Denewood Crescent Bilborough, Nott'm, NG8 3DH Telephone 0115 915 5500

Date	Meeting	Start Time
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<b>January</b>		
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Friday 12th	Older Persons JCG	1 pm
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Wednesday 17th	HIV & AIDS JCG	2 pm
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Friday 19th	Substance Misuse JCG (Countywide)	1.30 pm
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Tuesday 23rd	Physical & Sensory Impairment JCG	1 pm
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Wednesday 24th	Learning Disabilities JCG	1.30 pm
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Monday 29th	Mental Health JCG	1 pm
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<b>February</b>		
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Thursday 8th	Broxtowe Voluntary Sector Forum (see page 7 for contact details)	1.30 pm
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Wednesday 14th	Health In Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum	2 pm
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Monday 28th	Learning Disabilities JCG	1.30 pm
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<b>March</b>		
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Wednesday 9th	Older Persons JCG	1 pm
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Wednesday 28th	Learning Disabilities JCG	1.30 pm
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Tuesday 9th	Older Persons JCG	To be confirmed
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**See page 7 for full contact details for each group**

**Recycle – it!**



*The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Partnership Development Team or their managing agent. Printed on elemental chlorine free pulps from a sustainable source.*

**DIARY**