

joint commissioning news

news for the Nottingham health & social care community

Edition 11

March 2001

www.partnership-development-team.org.uk/jcnews1.htm

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

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Do you work in the voluntary/community sector?

Do you know how the Primary Care Trusts will be operating from April 1st?

Do you know who is to manage your contract or grant from health?

Do you want to develop an ongoing dialogue with the new trusts?

You are **invited** to an open meeting at the British Red Cross Training Centre, Lenton, from 10.00am to 1.00pm on Friday 18th May 2001, including lunch

The Changes In The NHS And How They Affect Voluntary Organisations

The event will give the **opportunity** to find out some answers and pose other questions to representatives from the new Primary Care Trusts and other colleagues.

Adele Cresswell from Nottingham Health will be giving a presentation about the changes in the commissioning of services and the handover of responsibility for local services to the trusts.

Other speakers will include members of the Community Reference Group and the Partnership Development Team.

This is **YOUR** chance to meet the people involved in the newly developing healthcare scene and to consider how we, as a diverse and multi-faceted sector can develop a mature and professional relationship with our partners in that new environment.

Please contact Laurence Quirk or Sam Kitchen at the Partnership Development Team, on **0115 988 1710** or pdteamrx@proweb.co.uk to book your place now.

Available in Braille, large print, tape & on line
Contact Laurence on 0115 988 1710 for details

JOINT COMMISSIONING GROUP – HIV & AIDS

“HIV/AIDS is protected from some of the immediate changes in commissioning, as work in this area is a ‘specialised service’ ...”

This contribution will be the last that I have to write before fundamental organisational change to health services in Nottingham. The advent of Primary Care Trusts will fundamentally change the way we work in the future, and will I am sure, impact on a wide range of jointly commissioned development and activity. To a certain extent our work in HIV/AIDS is **protected** from some of the immediate changes in commissioning, as work in this area is a **'specialised service'** and as such the HIV/AIDS activity currently managed by the Health Authority will continue to be commissioned by the Health Authority rather than Primary Care Trusts for the near future.

Much effort is being put into developing the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy locally which offers a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary approach to issues of teenage sexual health in the widest sense. Our **good local work** around HIV/AIDS and the investment over the years in excellent services has an important part to play in the strategy.

Our User/Carer group is now meeting regularly. At our last meeting the group were keen to ensure active carer involvement, so please do not hesitate to call **Harjinder Nerwal [0115 9123344 ex 49271]** if you can help.

Ruth Cutler
Chair

Next time: news from the HIV & AIDS Provider Forum

JOINT COMMISSIONING GROUP – LEARNING DISABILITY

Since the last newsletter, the JCG for learning disabilities has been **trying to obtain funding** for a number of projects to support our “Positive Futures” Action Plan. We have **agreed** to give “Choice of where and how to live” a high priority, as many service users are telling us that they want to have their own homes with support to take part in their chosen activities. We are **hopeful** that we will be able to jointly fund a new team that will help people with learning disabilities to achieve this ambition. We will be able to tell you about this in the next newsletter.

We have put in a **bid for a Healthy Living Centre**, which is Lottery funding, for a whole new service that would help people to be involved in community and leisure activities and hopefully employment. If we were successful there would also be an information system to help people find out about a whole range of activities and services in Nottingham. We will know whether we have got through to round 2 of the bidding by July.

We are pleased to **announce** that 3 of the Primary Care Groups have given us some funding to help us find ways of **tackling bullying**. We are looking forward to making a difference in this important area in 2001.

Maggie Harty
Chair

“ ... ‘Choice of where and how to live’ is a high priority, as many users are telling us that they want to have their own homes with support to take part in their chosen activities.”

PALS INFORMATION

PALS – What are they? Where did they come from? & what will they do?

What are they?

PALS stands for "Patient Advocacy and Liaison Service". In a nutshell they are consumer service staff who will be based in each Trust, which includes:

- Queen's Medical Centre
- Nottingham City Hospital
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- Nottinghamshire Health Care Trust
- All four Primary Care Trusts in Nottingham.

It could be one person or a team of people who provide the PALS service and may be made up of paid staff and volunteer workers.

What will they do?

- Provide information to patients to help them access service easily, including how to make a complaint
- Act as a gateway for patients and others wishing to become involved in shaping the NHS
- Facilitate the resolution of patients' concerns quickly and efficiently
- Steer patients to external or specialist advocacy services

Where did they come from?

The NHS Plan. This is a document that outlines the government's vision and plans for future health services. Improved patient and public representation and support is at the heart of the NHS Plan's drive to build a modern service around the needs of the individual patient.

When will PALS be established?

Implementation will be phased starting with roughly 5 early pathfinders. All Acute Trusts will be expected to provide a PALS service by October 2001. All other trusts including Primary Care and Mental Health by April 2002.

I would like to know more, how can I be involved?

Contact: Katrina Phillips at Nottingham CHC on 0115 960 2206 for further information and to join the District Wide Patient Partnership 'Champions Network'
Contact: Bernadette Maughan at Nottingham Health Authority on 0115 912 3344.

Katrina Phillips, Chief Officer, Nottingham CHC

"PALS,... in a nutshell are consumer service staff who will be based in each Trust,... and, ... act as a gateway for patients and others wishing to become involved in shaping the NHS"

JOINT COMMISSIONING GROUP – MENTAL HEALTH

“One key development is the establishment of 3 Assertive Outreach Teams (commencing April),”

The **National Service Framework (NSF)** October 1999 is based on 7 standards and aims to improve quality in mental health care. The **NHS Plan** (July 2000) also gave Mental Health priority, and included £300m to “fast-forward” the NSF.

Our Local Implementation Team (LIT) includes key stakeholders including: Health, Social Services, Housing, Service Users, Carers, and Minorities. Workgroups from the LIT have addressed specific aspects of the NSF.

Our Stage 1. Plan (March 2000) was assessed as “Green/Amber” – joint best in the Region, and in Stage 2. (October 2000) 32 of 35 items were agreed as Green or Amber (i.e. the requirement reached by April 2001(**Green**) - or partially met (**Amber**)). One pleasing aspect was that our Service-User and Carer colleagues at the Regional assessment meeting articulated clearly the range of ways in which they were engaged with planning/monitoring services.

Our third annual Mental Health Stakeholders’ Conference “Making Your Voice Heard” (October 2000) was very successful. Substantial new investment (£1.2m) has been secured for Mental Health this year.

One key development is the **establishment** of 3 Assertive Outreach Teams (commencing April), to enable intensive support for service-users who might otherwise lose contact.

Another important process is the Review of Community Mental Health Team boundaries by Fynamore Consultants. This work to design services to address local needs, and issues from the Stakeholders’ Conference, will inform the planning for the next year of NSF implementation at the LIT Time-Out on 20th March.

David Levell, NSF (MH) Implementation Manager

JOINT COMMISSIONING GROUP – OLDER PEOPLE

In the continued absence of the long awaited National Service Framework for Older People we are putting together our joint investment plan for 2001/02.

In order to meet the milestones identified in the NHS Plan areas of future joint investment are likely to be further **enhancement** of intermediate care services, improved joint assessment processes, specialist services for elderly mentally ill and the development of an integrated equipment service.

Following the **publication** of the national Audit Commission’s report “The Way to Go Home” in June last year, the District Audit Office are about to begin a **detailed cross-cutting audit** of rehabilitation services in Nottingham. This will commence in February and last approximately four months. The aim of this audit is to help the Nottingham health and social care community review its approach to the planning, commissioning and provision of rehabilitation services for older people in preparation for response to the National Service Framework.

The JCG **commissioned** a programme of local focus groups across the district between August and October 2000, using natural groupings of older people, meeting with older people at lunch clubs and day centres. We are grateful to the Partnership Development Team for facilitating this programme and for compiling a report summarising the recurrent themes that resulted from the exercise.

Caroline Jordan, Chair

“ the District Audit Office are about to begin a detailed cross-cutting audit of rehabilitation services in Nottingham.”

Warm greetings to all once again from the DAT – MAN. It is some while since I've written this piece for the Newsletter. There are great changes afoot once more. One of the changes that I am most involved with is the **re-alignment** of all Drug Action Team boundaries from Health Authority areas to Local Authority areas from April 1 2001. This will mean in Nottinghamshire that we will **retain** two DATs, one on the City Council boundary and the other on the County "doughnut" surrounding. This will have an **administrative impact** within the statutory sector management tiers, will not be likely to affect service providers much – if any, and should not affect service users at all.

Training has been receiving great attention, because of a massive gap in experienced individuals to meet the increased numbers and needs of drug users. Primary Care Teams are offered training by the Regional Health Authorities, this will go ahead locally in April. Peoples College, alongside our Street Agency service providers Compass, have the first group of 'students' being trained in a three part drugs course which is also the first nationally accredited course of its type. Also we are in the process of **recruiting** a person to work at the co-ordination of training across the board from community awareness to assessment skills for workers other than drug workers. A great deal of excellent training is done locally which needs to be efficiently provided for maximum benefits to be realised.

I've run out of allotted words now and wanted to inform you of the **new National Treatment Agency** which will be in place as part of NICE (National Institute of Clinical Excellence) to perform in a similar way with treatment services as NICE is with other Health activities. In addition, the emergence of Pooled Budgets over the next two years will bring various smaller and non-mainstream pots of money into a single pot at the Central Government Dept. level leading to more single funded (and monitored) services. This is a structurally sound development building on the relative success of Joint Commissioning. They (down there) are catching up with us it seems.

Tony Herbert
Support Manager
Nottingham Drug Action Team

"Training ... receiving great attention because of a massive gap in experienced individuals to meet the increased numbers and needs of drug users."

JOINT COMMISSIONING GROUPS ON THE WEB

"New web pages for joint commissioning groups"

Have you visited the **Partnership Development Team** web site recently? Well you may spot a few changes. We are producing new pages for each Joint Commissioning Group and the care group they cover.

These pages will provide information on the current Joint Commissioning Group activities. First to join the site will be Learning Disabilities. Their pages will have links to "Positive Futures" (you can download for free) and the 8 themes/work groups that are taking the Action Plan forward. Links from here also lead to the Carers' Forum – a forum for parents/carers of adults aged 16+ with a learning disability.

Check out the what's new section updated each month to see our progress. Web address page 7

voluntary sector forums

These local forums provide opportunities to exchange information, promote activities, learn about local plans and share views. All discuss health & social care, some have a wider remit exploring other local initiatives and opportunities. For further

Ashfield including Hucknall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Ashfield Links Forum (ALF); - David Gilding on 01623 555 551 or LINKS@netcomuk.co.uk■ Meetings held monthly - next Meeting: 4th April 2001,
Broxtowe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Broxtowe Voluntary Sector Forum (BVSF); - Mel Hatto – Stapleford Volunteer Bureau, 0115 949 1175 or staplefordvb@talk21.com.■ Next meeting: 24th May 2001. Further meeting planned for September
Gedling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Gedling Voluntary Action Network (GVAN) contact: Pam Clipsham – Gedling CVS, 0115 926 6750■ Next meeting:
Rushcliffe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rushcliffe Exchange; - Rushcliffe CVS on 0115 981 8988 or admin@rucvs.demon.co.uk

NEW BODIES TO REPRESENT PATIENTS' INTERESTS

Two new bodies representing patients' interests are to be developed in each NHS trust in the Nottingham health authority area.

Patient Advocacy Liaison Services (PALS) and Patients' Forums are being **introduced** here and across the country in response to the Government's NHS Plan, proposing that Community Health Councils (CHCs) are abolished and replaced with PALS and Patients' Forums.

PALS will be a team of staff employed by **each trust**, providing patients and families with information.

Patients' Forums, meanwhile, will be **statutory** bodies linked to trusts, but independent of them. Half their members are expected to be drawn from the voluntary sector and half from respondents to the trust's annual patients' survey. They will provide input from patients into how trusts are run and will have powers to inspect any of the trust's services at any time. One member of the forum will sit on the trust's board.

They are likely to be running in the Queen's Medical Centre and Nottingham City Hospital by September 2001. The new Primary Care Trusts, meanwhile, must have PALS in place by April 2002.

Patients' Forums are on hold until the Health & Social Care Bill has gone through parliament.

Karen Cross
Policy and Information Officer (Health Issues)
Rushcliffe CVS

"... input from patients into how trusts are run and will have powers to inspect any of the trust's services, ..."

If **you** have any ideas, issues or concerns about Joint Commissioning please contact the Chairs direct or write to

The Partnership Development Team (PDT) ,

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Great Freeman St,

Nott'm NG3 1FR

Telephone **0115 988 1710**, Direct Fax **0115 912 3441**, (office hours)

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contact details

Lynne Winstanley	Substance Misuse	Nott'm Health Authority 1 Standard Court Park Row Nott'm, NG1 6GN Tel: 0115 912 3344
Ruth Cutler	HIV & AIDS	
Theresa Shaw	Physical & Sensory Impairment	
Caroline Jordan	Older People	
Lynne Winstanley	Mental Health	
Harjinder Nerwal	Black & Ethnic Minorities Advisory Group (BEMAG)	
Maggie Harty	Learning Disability	Nott'm City Council Social Services Dept Denewood Centre, Denewood Crescent Bilborough, Nott'm, NG8 3DH Tel: 0115 915 5500
Andrew Fry	Community Reference Group	write c/o The Partnership Development Team (as above) Tel: 0115 910 1008

diary

date meeting start time

april

Tuesday 17th **Health In Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum** **2 pm**
Monday 23rd Mental Health JCG 1 pm
Wednesday 25th Learning Disabilities JCG 1.30 pm

may

Wednesday 2nd HIV & AIDS JCG 11 am
Thursday 10th Substance Misuse JCG 2 pm
Friday 11th Older Persons JCG 1 pm
Friday 18th **Community Reference Group event (see front page)** **morning**
Wednesday 23rd Learning Disabilities JCG 1 pm
Tuesday 29th Mental Health JCG 1 pm

june

Tuesday 19th **Substance Misuse Provider Forum (Open to all Providers)** **All day**
Thursday 21st **Health In Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum** **2 pm**
Monday 25th Mental Health JCG 1 pm
Wednesday 27th Learning Disabilities JCG 1.30 pm

july

Thursday 12th Substance Misuse JCG 2 pm
Friday 13th Older Persons JCG 1 pm
Monday 23rd Mental Health 1 pm
Wednesday 23rd Learning Disabilities JCG 1.30 pm

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