

Joint Commissioning News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 1998

Black & Ethnic Minorities Advisory Group (BEMAG)

Chair - Al Kestenbaum

BEMAG(!) was set up to assist the Joint Commissioning Process in **ensuring the needs and views of the African Caribbean, Asian and other ethnic minority users and carers are reflected in all appropriate planning activity.** The specific role is:

- * To **support and assist** Black and Ethnic Minority members of Joint Commissioning Groups (JCGs).
- * To **help** other statutory organisations **consult more effectively** with Black and Ethnic Minority users and carers (e.g. each JCG).
- * To work in **partnership with other key agencies** for the Black and Asian communities (e.g. African Caribbean & Asian Forum).
- * To **monitor progress** and ensure that the outcomes of consultation are integrated into the Joint Commissioning Process and **ACTED** upon.
- * To **identify and seek resources** for appropriate projects which promote partnership and a greater voice for service users and carers from other ethnic minorities.
- * To **undertake research and reviews** on the specific needs

and demands of the ethnic communities.

In order to successfully carry out this role, **BEMAG's membership** includes Nott'm Health Authority, Nott'm City and Notts County Social Services Departments,

representatives of three District Councils, the African Caribbean & Asian Forum and several relevant voluntary organisations.

BEMAG meets regularly and is currently holding a **series of Open Days** in the ethnic community

centres to publicise the **importance of people becoming involved in the Commissioning Process.** These events have been well attended and will hopefully lead to a wide network of interested service users and carers wishing to formally contribute.

We are also **identifying appropriate African Caribbean and Asian individuals** to become members of each JCG, to ensure a Black and Asian perspective in all discussions.

For further information contact:

Al Kestenbaum, Chair 0115 977 4016, Veronica Sterling, African Caribbean & Asian Forum 0115 969 1224 or Harjinder Nerwal, Nott'm Health Authority 0115 912 3344.

... identifying appropriate African Caribbean and Asian individuals to become members of each JCG, ...

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**The Partnership Development Team
is now on e-mail
E-mail address pdteamrx@proweb.co.uk**

Health Improvement Programmes and Health Action Zones

The Public Health department of Nottingham Health are about to **publish their first Draft of the Health Improvement Programme (HImP)** for the district. It is due out on the **December 17**.

HImP embodies the Governments aim of **building high quality services and strong communities**, through a local plan of action to improve health and modernise services. It will **bring together the local NHS, local Authorities and the Voluntary Sector, to tackle inequalities and develop faster, more convenient services of a consistently high standard.**

The **underlying aim is to improve health, tackling ill health prevention.** In the **Nottingham Health Area** the following areas have been chosen as **areas of concern and improvement:-**

- * **Accidents to children, elderly people and in the workplace**
- * **Coronary heart disease and strokes**
- * **Skin cancer**
- * **Chlamydia and teenage pregnancies**
- * **Stress at work, in schools and neighbourhoods**

The Public Health Department has **assigned staff to each of these key areas** available at Nott'm Health Authority on 0115 912 3344.

Voluntary organisations have a key role to play at all stages of the HImP, in identifying health needs and inequalities and innovative ways of tackling them, for example mediation services in neighbourhoods and sun hats and sun cream for children in play groups.

Working within the HImP are Health Action Zones. The **Nottingham Health Area** is one large Health Action Zone aiming to target areas of disadvantage and in doing so improve peoples health. It aims to **bring together Voluntary Agencies, local communities and public bodies to focus on issues of disadvantage with the emphasis in Nottingham on the Family.**

For further information on the **Draft HImP document contact Nott'm Health Authority 0115 912 3344.**

Primary Care Groups (PCGs)

Primary Care Groups are the new Government initiative whose purpose is **"to improve services to patients by organising the NHS on a more local basis, with services being developed in a way that can more directly meet the needs of local people"**.

They will **bring together GPs, Community Nurses, and others in the geographic area**, such as a social services representative, someone from the Health Authority and a lay member.

In the **Nottingham Health Area** there are **6 PCGs** servicing the following areas, **Broxtowe and Hucknall, City Central, City North & West, City South & East, Gedling and Rushcliffe.**

The **Partnership Development Team** has a current **list of the members** of each of the 6 PCGs should anyone like a copy.

For further information on PCGs contact the **Consumer Relations Department at Nott'm Health Authority**, address and phone number on **page 7.**

HIV & AIDS, Chair – Sally Savage

This groups has now had a total of 4 meetings, **gradually increasing knowledge of HIV/AIDS services** through various presentations. Baseline expenditure for HIV/AIDS services has been identified , and this information will feed into the Joint Investment Plan.

We are currently **investigating the production of a Voluntary Sector Booklet**, two prototypes will be circulated at our next meeting

which is held on 11th January 1999.

The **User and Carer Consultation – “Forward to the Future”** has been postponed and will now take place on **26th February at the new Nottingham CVS Building**

“Forward to the Future”
26th Feb 1999

“Forward to the Future”

(a one day event to involve users and carers in the planning of HIV/AIDS services in Nottingham)
26th February 1999, 9.30 am – 4.30 p.m. at the new Nottingham CVS Building.

The purpose of the consultation is to:

- * **Obtain the views of users and carers on the strengths and weakness of current HIV/AIDS services;**
- * **Make these views known to people involved in purchasing and commissioning HIV/AIDS services from a range of agencies;**
- * **Inform the compiling of a strategic document which will steer the planning and development of future HIV/AIDS services;**
- * **Increase understanding of current issues relating specifically to HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention.**

There will be a number of user and carer consultation meetings prior to the event, enabling this client group to inform the agenda. If you would like to attend the event please contact **Ann Marie Gear** at Nott'm Health Authority, telephone 0115 912 3344 ext. 49271.

Substance Misuse, Chair – Lynne Wynstanley

Jennifer James has been appointed as the **Joint Commissioning Officer for Substance Misuse/HIV & AIDS**. Jennifer has had a wide experience with substance misuse services for many years, from managing services in North Notts to her recent work as Policy Officer for both County and more recently City Social Services. Jennifer will be leading much of the work for the Substance Misuse JCG.

*... Joint Commissioning Officer for
Substance Misuse /HIV & AIDS...*

Sally Jackson has arrived in Nottingham as the **new Service Manager for COMPASS** (Substance Misuse Street Service) Sally and her Staff are already **making contact with existing services** and still attempting to find suitable accommodation for the new Young People' Service and Adult Services.

Anyone with unoccupied premises please contact Sally at the temporary COMPASS office, telephone 0115 916 9517 or mobile 0788 799 7826.

Learning Disabilities
 – Maggie Harty (Chair) & Wendy Lippmann

Since September the Joint Commissioning Group has been **focusing its efforts on developing a new strategy for Learning Disability Services**. So far, we have held **four conferences for Service Users and Carers**, with a final one scheduled for 27th November. In addition, **members of this**

group and other staff are “shadowing” (i.e. spending a day with) **service users and interviewing carers**. We are also consulting with staff **through a questionnaire and a number of focus groups**.

An **exciting development** has been the introduction of **graphic**

facilitation – a way of recording people’s views pictorial form, as well as words. This **enables us to fully include service users in all discussions**.

The **consultation process will be continuing until January** after which the strategy will be drawn together.

Physical & Sensory Impairment
 Chair
 Theresa Shaw

This Group has met three times. A **Multi Agency Task Group has been convened** to focus on current issues regarding the provision of equipment. This Task Group agreed a level of service that a future equipment store should provide.

....a system for resolving funding issues in relation to complex care packages....

The January meeting will discuss a paper outlining a

system for resolving **funding issues in relation to complex care packages**.

Finally, a “Time Out” has been planned to **move forward with discussions regarding stakeholders conferences, consultation in general, and the production of a strategy for Physical and Sensory Impairment**.

Joint Housing Commissioning Group (JHCG) Chair – Sheila Hyde

The Joint Commissioning Group for Housing aims **“to ensure the integration of the housing agenda into community care”**.

The members of the Joint Housing Commissioning Group (JHCG) have **worked together before**, having been members of the Interagency Project Group which developed the **Nottinghamshire Housing and Community Care Strategy (1998 – 2002)**.

The Strategy has formed the basis of the work of the **JHCG** and the priorities

identified by the group have been drawn from the Strategy Action Plan. They are:

- the **analysis of needs** and provision to inform future planning.
- **joint training and reciprocal training** about services and key policies.
- **sheltered housing**, including imaginative ways of using resources available.
- **jointly developed and agreed confidentiality policies** (and information sharing protocols).

The group is also **keen**

to raise the profile of housing with the other, client based commissioning groups to ensure effective communication and maximise any opportunities to **extend the range of accommodation options for people with community care needs**.

These **client based JCGs have responsibilities to look at housing issues** in the development of their strategies. The **JHCG will monitor and assist them in this**.

Mental Health

Chair – Jean Grant

In addition to the regular authority meetings, a **stakeholders' conference facilitated by the Centre for Mental Health Development was attended by over 100 people**. A summary of the **report** from this conference is being **prepared for circulation**.

Based on **discussions at the conference and other conferences** during the last 6 months, we have **identified the following 8 priorities**:

- **Homelessness, people with dual diagnosis, complex needs and personality disorders.**
- **Quality and location of in-patient facilities**
- **First point of contact i.e. primary care and support groups.**
- **Review of services for Black and Asian clients.**
- **Day care, Employment and Leisure interface.**
- **Risk Management including services for mentally disordered offenders.**
- **Improved Care Management including improved carer involvement.**

The action to be taken with regard to these priorities will be **addressed in a draft strategy**. It is hoped to ask both existing groups and purposely convened meetings to **consult and refine the structure and contents** of this draft document. **Working groups will be established to prepare a detailed action plan for each priority case.**

There is a **sense of optimism** that the government is **to make additional financial resources available to process ideas for service improvements**. It is hoped to agree more detailed plans so that when funding becomes available, with the predictable short notice for bids to be submitted, we will already have started the **consultation process about the type of development we wish to support**. There is **commitment to make this a meaningful process** within the time constraints and a sense of learning as we go along. **Next year promises to be an eventful one for Mental Health Services.**

Older People

Chair – Caroline Jordan

This group has now met four times. The JCG members have agreed to **meet on a monthly basis due to workload** associated with the Government Circular "Better Services for Vulnerable People".

Jean Robinson has been appointed as the Joint Investment Plan Research Officer on a six month secondment and it is hoped that a **Joint Commissioning Manager for Older People** will be in post for **early 1999**.

An **initial meeting** took place with a number of **Voluntary Sector organisations** to **begin discussions on how this group can meaningfully engage with users and carers**.

A further meeting will take place in the New Year.

Children & Families

Chair – Sally Savage

The group met for the second time on 18th November. We **discussed ways of involving users and carers and representatives from BEMAG in the commissioning of services for children and families**, including the possibility of consulting with younger children directly.

A programme of work was considered which included putting forward a **bid to Joint Finance for the Health element of a learning disability service for children**. We are **aware that much work is already taking place in the area of children and families** (such as joint assessment for respite care and family support services) and we **recognise the importance of forging strong links with groups undertaking this work**.

News from the CRG Jon North – Vice - Chair of CRG.

The Community Reference Group's **first** annual conference and AGM will be on **Wednesday 19 May 1999**. Meanwhile we are **finalising our work programme, trying to promote better participation of users, carers and the voluntary sector in the Joint Commissioning Process**. The CRG work plan will be published in the next newsletter with more details of the conference.

We want to **forge closer links** with black and other ethnic minority groups and their forum, BEMAG. The CRG is also looking at **what role it can play in the development of the Health Improvement Programme (HImP), Health Action Zones (HAZ) and Primary Care Commissioning**. **Contact us via the Partnership Development Team or see the contact list on page 7** if you need more information about any of this.

Funding for small groups and projects

The **Partnership Development Team administers two small funds** from a pot of Joint Finance. Both aim to **provide groups/ organisations with a non-recurrent grant to support projects that fit with local health and social care strategies working in the Nottingham Health Area**.

The **Partnership Fund has a limit of £500 per applicant** and as its title suggests aims to **promote partnerships in the Nottingham Health Area**. Partnerships between voluntary, independent and statutory services have been funded in this way. Examples of contingencies that have successfully used this fund, includes

- * **Training** for and with voluntary groups
- * Establishment of Community care **databases/ information systems**
- * **Opportunities for debate and consultation**
- * Increased **volunteering opportunities**

The **Simple Small Grants Fund has a limit of £300 per group** and aims to **support groups engaged in Community Care activities**. Examples for which the fund has been used, includes,

- * **Production and distribution** of leaflets, directories and publicity
- * **Start up finance** for new and/or very small groups
- * **Purchasing small pieces of equipment**.
- * **Staging of events** or conferences.

We have a number of **key documents to assist applicants in their bid** through enabling them to investigate current health and social care strategies.

We particularly welcome applications from **un-staffed, informal groups and those representing marginalised and/or minority sections of the community**.

Please note that we **do not** pay grants into personal bank accounts.

For further information and details about the application process contact

**The Partnership
Development Team,**
British Red Cross,
Great Freeman St,
Nott'm, NG3 1FR,
Telephone 0115 988 1710
Direct Fax 0115 912 3441
email pdteamrx@proweb.co.uk



Community Reference Group Contact list

Contact name	Organisation	Telephone Number
Jan Myers – Chair	SELF HELP Nott'm	0115 911 1662
Jon North – Vice– Chair	NAVO	01623 651 170
Adrian Taylor	British Red Cross	0115 988 1710
Julia Barker	Carers' Federation	0115 985 1111
Katrina Phillips	Community Health Council	0115 960 2206
Jessie Woodhouse	Community Health Council	0115 960 2206
David Hughes	CVS Nott'm	0115 934 8400
Jane Sterck	CVS Rushcliffe	0115 981 6988
Richard Thomas	MENCAP	0115 956 1130
Rosemary Renouf	Mental Health Forum (Vol. sector)	0115 928 1502
Maria Ward	Nott'm Black Initiative	0115 948 0481
Andrew Fry	Notts Hospice	0115 960 6265
Carola Jones	Notts Rural Community Council	01636 815 267
Maggy Topley	Partnership Development Team	0115 988 1710
Met Hatto	Stapleford Volunteer Bureau	0115 949 1175

Contact details for Joint Commissioning

Joint Commissioning Group	Contact name	Address/Phone
Children & Families	Sally Savage	Nott'm Health Authority 1 Standard Court Park Row Nott'm, NG1 6GN Telephone 0115 912 3344
Substance Misuse	Lynne Wynstanley	
HIV & AIDS	Sally Savage	
Physical & Sensory Impairment	Theresa Shaw	
Older People	Caroline Jordan	
Learning Disability	Maggie Harty	Nott'm City Social Services Denewood Centre, Denewood Crescent Bilborough Nott'm, NG8 3DH Telephone 0115 915 5500
Mental Health	Jean Grant	
Black & Ethnic Minorities Advisory Group	Al Kestenbaum	Notts County Social Services County Hall West Bridgford Nott'm, NG2 7AB Telephone 0115 977 4016
Joint Housing Commissioning Group	Sheila Hyde	Broxtowe Borough Housing Department Broadgate House, Humber Rd Beeston Nott'm, NG9 9EF Telephone 0115 917 7777

Diary

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Start Time</i>
January		
Tuesday 5th	Community Reference Group meeting	2 pm
Thursday 7th	Older People JCG meeting	12 noon
Monday 11th	HIV & AIDS JCG meeting	12 noon
	Joint Commissioning Executive meeting	1.30 pm
Thursday 14th	Physical & Sensory Impairment JCG meeting	9 am
Friday 15th	Learning Disability JCG meeting	9 am
Monday 18th	Mental Health JCG meeting	2.30 pm
Thursday 21st	Substance Misuse JCG meeting	2 pm
Wednesday 27th	Learning Disability JCG meeting	1.30 pm
February		
Tuesday 2nd	Community Reference Group meeting	2 pm
Monday 8th	Joint Consultative Committee meeting	2 pm
Tuesday 9th	Older People JCG meeting	12.30 pm
Wednesday 24th	Learning Disability JCG meeting	1.30 pm
Friday 26th	HIV & AIDS User & Carer consultation Day	9.30 am
March		
Tuesday 2nd	Community Reference Group meeting	2pm
Monday 8th	Joint Commissioning Executive meeting	1.30 pm
Tuesday 9th	Physical & Sensory Impairment JCG meeting	1.30 pm
Wednesday 24th	Learning Disability JCG meeting	1.30 pm
April		
Tuesday 13th	Community Reference Group meeting	2 pm
Wednesday 28th	Learning Disability JCG meeting	1.30 pm

On the reverse of this diary we have produced a list of contact numbers and addresses for the Joint Commissioning Groups & the Community Reference Group. If you cannot find the number you want please contact the Partnership Development Team 0115 988 1710