

Joint Commissioning News

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JUNE 1999

"Caring about Carers" - A National Strategy

Julia Barker – Director Carers Federation.

In February this year the Government published "**Caring about Carers**" A National Strategy, which builds on the Carers (Recognition & Services) Act 1995 that entitled carers to an assessment of need in their own right.

The National Strategy stresses that carers want:

- The **wellbeing** of the person they care for.
- Freedom to have a life of their own.
- **Maintaining** their own health.
- Confidence in services.
- **A say in service provision.**

The Strategy has **3 key approaches** which are: Information for carers, Support for carers and Care for carers. It stresses that statutory services **must take an inclusive approach.** The Strategy is divided into several sections which are Breaks for Carers, Carers Health, Flexible Support Services, I.T., Training, Census 2001, Carers in Employment, Local Support for Carers, Housing, Benefits, Transport, Young Carers, Information for Carers, Information Health Care and Assessment.

The Strategy places many **specific requirements on statutory agencies that are of direct significance to the Joint Commissioning System.**

Some of the main requirements and future developments are:

- The Government will **legislate** to ensure authorities can **address carers' wishes and needs more directly.**
- **Planning** and provision of breaks for carers **must include** the local authority and health authority who will describe their proposals in Joint Investment Plans. **Carers and their organisations should be consulted on these plans.**
- Health and Social Services **must identify patients and service users who have a carer or who are carers** themselves by April 2000 (including GPs and Primary Care Teams).
- The Government stresses that local support services are **best run** and managed by the voluntary sector, particularly **when carers themselves are involved** in the management arrangements.

It's impossible to give a full picture of such an important document in a short article, but for **further information** contact **Julia Barker – Director, Carers' Federation Nott'm & Notts Ltd on 0115 985 1111** or write Unit 1, Karlsruhe Ho, Queens Bridge Rd, Nott'm, NG2 1NB.

The Strategy can be found on the internet www.doh.gov.uk/carers

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"The Strategy has 3 key approaches,.... It stresses that statutory services must take an inclusive approach."

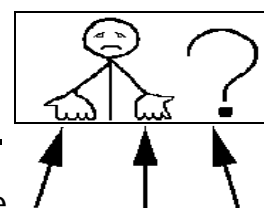
Learning Disabilities

– Maggie Harty (Chair) & Wendy Lippmann

The new learning disability strategy (plan) “**Positive Futures**” 1999-2004 is in draft form and now needs to be passed by various Committees in Social Services, the Health Authority, Housing Departments etc. This is quite a lengthy process but we are hoping the final document will be available in September. Our next task is to **identify work groups** to take the key priorities forward. Service users and carers have identified these priorities and we are **planning to continue to consult with and involve service users and carers** throughout the process.



The Home Farm Trust (HFT) Advocacy Project - Kathryn Chainey



A Report on the Service User Forum supported by the Joint Commissioning Group for Learning Disabilities.

Early last year the Joint Commissioning Group for Learning Disabilities approached the Home Farm Trust (HFT) Advocacy Project. Their mission was clear:

How do we enable people with learning disabilities to provide information on their experiences of services, and ideas about future services so that the JCG can actively use this information in their decision making?

Together a solution was found and in May 1998 the HFT Advocacy Project launched the **SERVICE USER FORUM**. Information was sent out to spread the word about this exciting new venture for Learning Disabilities Services. The plan was for the Advocacy Project to **facilitate and support** a meeting solely for service users. The aim would be to bring together a group of people from different areas of Nottingham, with experiences of services. It also hoped that some people who did not access any services would attend.

Away from professionals, jargon and long, tiring meetings the Forum would **create a friendly and relaxed atmosphere** where people feel able to talk openly about how they feel. Emphasis would be placed on **helping everyone to understand the topics for discussion** and support would be available to help everyone record their feelings and comments.

Over the year discussions addressed issues such as:

- ◆ people's experiences of services;
- ◆ issues of importance in each individual's life;
- ◆ what makes people happy and sad, and;
- ◆ what choices people can make in their lives.

No names were recorded against comments and the minutes of the meeting were circulated, not only amongst those attending, but also to the Joint Commissioning Group.

Over the year membership has fluctuated. In April this year the meetings were reviewed and it was agreed by all that it was a very important Forum and that the **topics discussed needed to reflect what the Joint Commissioning Group** were going to talk about each month. It was also important that people knew about the Forum and carried on attending.

As a result a plan is currently in place to encourage and support more people to attend. To end with a quote from one of the members:

“It's a meeting for us [service users] for the benefit of us [service users]”

So, if you would like more information or you know of anyone who is interested please contact **Kathryn on 0115 9581350**. For Service User Forum meeting dates see the diary on the last page.

Editorial – Maggy Topley, Partnership Development Officer

The Partnership Development Team is now 1 year old and the Joint Commissioning system is just slightly older. It seems that the last year has been spent “bedding-in” the new system and doing the **foundation work** necessary to support partnership working between the agencies and between them and users, carers and voluntary groups.

However, we are pleased to be able to include in this edition, **contributions from some of the service users and carers** who have been involved in the JCGs for Mental Health and Learning Disability. We hope to carry articles from people who have helped some of the other JCGs next time. The CRG conference on 17th June will give us a chance to celebrate everyone’s achievements so far and generate ideas for taking things even further next year.

Although “Partnership In Action” and other Government initiatives may cause **changes to the local structure for jointly planning and delivering services** (yet again!) engagement of users and carers is bound to be even more central to the process. So we would like to **thank everyone** for their hard work, patience and co-operation this year and for their continued efforts to help us next year.

Joint Housing Commissioning Group (JHCG) – Sheila Hyde

The JHCG has been approached by Notts Social Services to look at **some collaborative work** regarding the development of common procedures and performance indicators for Disabled Facilities Grants. Initial discussions have been around a procedure developed in Lincolnshire, and a time limited task group is being developed to take forward such procedures in the County.

The chair of the JHCG has produced a **Housing and Community Care information pack**. The aim of the pack is to enable members of the JHCG to attend other JCGs and groups outside

the Commissioning Structure, and make presentations to them regarding Housing’s role and responsibilities in Community Care.

At its inception, the JHCG made the decision to **co-opt user/carers involvement for specific pieces of work** it undertakes when appropriate, rather than having standing user/carers membership. At its next meeting on July 13th 1999, the JHCG will be **reviewing this decision**, as well as reviewing the work priorities it set itself last year and the work it is currently involved in.

Children & Families Chair – Vicky Bailey

The Children and Families Joint Commissioning Group **welcomed its new Chair** at the May meeting: Vicky Bailey, who is replacing Sally Savage as Acting Assistant Director (Programme 1).

The JCG are currently looking at **areas for joint working** through Partnership in Action. Possible areas include respite care and services for children with disabilities. A **district-wide review of children’s respite care** is being undertaken with a view to assessing need and allocating services accordingly.

Jean Robinson has begun work on a needs assessment for children and families on behalf of the JCG.

The JCG welcomed the funding through Joint Finance of WOTCH (Working to meet the Challenge), which offers **support to children with learning difficulties and challenging behaviour and their families**.

**Substance Misuse
Chair
Lynne Wynstanley**

1998/99 was a particularly busy year for the Substance Misuse JCG.

"...is proactively working on how it engages with its service users"

We **successfully** reviewed local services and jointly commissioned a new substance misuse street service for adults and young people.

1999/2000 brings us another busy year, with a national agenda on the importance of alcohol abuse for commissioners and **the need locally for more management/provision**. The JCG has **met with its providers** of substance misuse services at an all day event on 27th May 1999.

This event enabled the JCG members to share the 1998/2000 work programme, but more importantly hear the issues being raised by the provider representatives and also to discuss national guidance in a relaxed informative way.

The JCG for substance misuse is **proactively working on how it engages with service users and carers** and will focus on this area during the next few months.

**Physical & Sensory Impairment
Chair – Theresa Shaw**

The JCG is starting work on its **Joint Investment Plan (JIP)** and needs assessment. Jean Robinson (JIP Needs Assessment Officer), will be working on the **needs assessment** over the coming months, and with the advice and guidance of Maggy Topley at the Partnership Development Team, will be **involving User, Carer and Voluntary sector groups in that needs assessment process**.

"... additional monies to fund a consultancy firm to carry out a feasibility study of equipment services..."

The **Partnership Development Team** has provided the JCG with an initial mapping exercise of Physical & Sensory Impairment linked user, carer and voluntary sector organisations for the Hearing impaired, Visually impaired and Dual Sensory Impaired client groups. The mapping exercise for Physical Impairment groups is nearing completion.

The JCG has successfully bid for some additional monies to fund a consultancy firm to carry out a **feasibility study of equipment services** in the Nottingham Health Authority District. The employment of such a consultancy will occur over the next few months.

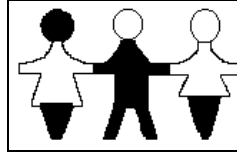
**Mental
Health
Chair
Jean Grant**

Work is progressing to develop the following:

- ◆ A counselling and advice service for **young African-Caribbean and Asian people** with Family First.
- ◆ The **service specification** for the crisis house and telephone helpline.
- ◆ Arrangements to **revivify Nott'm Advocacy Group (NAG) management** in consultation with the new committee chaired jointly by Nuala Hutchinson and Mervin Goring and to overcome their past difficulties.
- ◆ The Partnership Development Team are working in partnership with NAG to further develop service user involvement in mental health.
- ◆ The **joint strategy**, which should be out to consultation by the end of June.

Watch this space for further details.

**Nottingham
Advocacy
Group Limited**



**Nottingham
Patients' Council
Support Group**

Hello, we'd like to introduce ourselves. We're Gladys Bombeck and Colin Gell **service users on the Mental Health JCG**. Our role is to ensure people who are users have a voice in the new arrangements.

So how did we get there? We're both members of the **City-wide (Patients) Council** that was asked to provide members for the group. The City-wide Council meets once a month and is a way in which service users can be involved in commenting on current and new services.

We were both at the Stakeholders Conference last October and are keen to ensure that the views expressed on the day by users are at the **forefront** in the way services are commissioned.

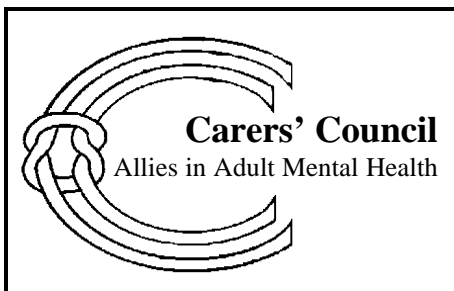
Since then a number of small groups have been set up to look at specific areas of interest, like Care Management and Primary Care, and each has had **service user involvement** and are due to report back very soon.

One of the main things that came out of the event was that people felt there should be help for people in crisis that was away from home but not in hospital. The City-wide Council have been

discussing the need for a 'Crisis House' for some time and are pleased that people at the event supported this. *We are especially pleased that the JCG has appointed a project team to examine the proposal for a Crisis House and telephone helpline.* This is just one way in which users have influenced the services we feel we need.

So far involvement in the JCG has been interesting and **we feel that we are valued members**. Sometimes being on a committee of managers and workers can be difficult for service users. Very often it's difficult to 'break-in' to a group of people who are doing things in a certain way. With the JCG by and large that's not been the case, maybe because the arrangement is new but we're developing a style of working together. We are both keen to ensure that we are doing a good job. It is impossible to 'represent' all service users but by continually going back to the City-wide Council and other user forums we can have an understanding of the type of services people would like provided.

If you would like to know more about our work please contact us on 0115 910 7300.



We would like to introduce ourselves through the pages of Joint Commissioning News **Jean Rust** and **Elsie James, carers on the Mental Health Joint Commissioning Group**. We were nominated by the "Carers' Council Allies for Adult Mental Health"; between us we have many years experience of caring for a family member with severe mental health problems.

At the first meeting we attended we were **made to feel welcome by all**, the ground rules were set and what was expected of us. We find it interesting attending the meetings and **feel we are contributing towards improving the mental health services**. We now have a Carers Agreement a final draft which is under discussion with the Nottingham Healthcare NHS Trust. We both attended the Stakeholders Conference. We have been **involved in working groups**; Early Intervention, Out of Hours Service and Improving the Management of Care.

Committee members of the Carers' Council now sit on Sector Team Management Forum meetings. We network through the Mental Health Forum, mental health organisations and carer groups.

The JCG have many issues and projects to discuss at forthcoming meetings, these are set against a timescale and projects prioritised and agreed. We are **happy to give a carer perspective to this work**.

Community Reference Group (CRG) Chair – Jan Myers

The CRG has been busying itself preparing for its annual general meeting. It is hoped that there will be some interest from voluntary and community groups in putting forward nominations to become part of the Group.

A sub-group has been meeting to plan the new terms of reference for the **CRG Grants Fund**. This is an amalgamation of the old Simple Small Grants Scheme and the Partnerships Fund. The Fund will provide money **to enhance the ability of service users, carers and voluntary groups to put their views forward and influence services provided through the Joint Commissioning system**, especially those activities which are not covered by existing funds and budgets e.g. training, partnership work. All applications will fit with local health and social care plans and awards will not

usually be for more than £500.

On June 25th, Jan Myers - current chair, will be attending a facilitated event organised by Nottingham Health Authority - ***Building Partnerships to Deliver the Whole Health Agenda***. Other participants will include key Voluntary Agencies, the Chief Executives of the Trusts, the Local Authorities, and the Chairs of the Primary Care Groups.

It will be the first of two events and the two main objectives of the day are:

- ♦ to **design a partnership structure** and process which will sustain the continuing development and implementation of the whole health agenda,
- ♦ to **begin planning** for the second partnership event to be held in September 1999 at which the priorities for the

health agenda can be determined and agreed.

It is an opportunity to **learn from recent experience** of developing the first year of the Health Improvement Programme and from the changes in joint commissioning and to contribute to future thinking.

If you have any particular comments, suggestions, ideas on any aspect of the health agenda, then please contact Jan Myers c/o Partnership Development Team or telephone 0115 911 1662.

The CRG Grants Fund is being administered by NAVO and application packs are available from NAVO, 2 Wood Street, Mansfield NG18 1QA, tel. 01623 651170

“sub-group meeting to plan new terms of reference for the CRG Grants fund”

HIV & AIDS

Chair
Ruth Cutler

Many people will know that Sally Savage was successful in becoming Chief Executive of City North & West Primary Care Group. Therefore she has had to **relinquish** her role of Chair of this group. Thanks to Sally for all her hard work over the last year or so and good luck to her in her new post.

I have **taken over as Chair**, in my new role as Senior Development Manager in Programme One. I do have knowledge of HIV/AIDS issues and services from a previous Health Authority post.

At the last meeting we welcomed BEMAG representatives. Their **input** will be immensely helpful.

Work will **continue on developing user/carers involvement** after a highly successful initial event on the 26th February at the Malt Cross. Issues raised were resource centres, support networks both formal and informal and hospital services.

A **directory** of services for people living and affected by HIV is nearing completion.

The group expressed an interest in spending some time **exploring health prevention issues at the next meeting**. This may well develop to be a key theme for future work.

“...continue on developing user/carers involvement...”

**Older People
Chair –
Caroline Jordan**

The JCG for Older People submitted a Joint Investment Plan and Rehabilitation and Recuperation Action Plan to the Regional Office in April. These documents reflect the JCG's awareness of the need to plan older people's services in the broadest sense, **making appropriate reference to other relevant initiatives and policies** such as the Health Improvement Programme, Primary Care Groups and the new Promoting Independence Grants from the Government.

Joint priorities include developing links with users and carers and developing the planning and development of care and support services with housing authorities.

The JCG **recognises that there are numerous projects and initiatives** in relation to older people which require to be drawn together. Further work on improving multi-disciplinary assessments will be done as this is the route for older people accessing the most appropriate services. The Rehabilitation and Recuperation service hopes to develop a coherent portfolio of rehabilitation and recuperation services.

A new Joint Commissioning Manager for Older People has recently been appointed. Her name is **Shirley Smith** and she will be based at Nottingham Health Authority and will be working across all agencies.

Contact details for Joint Commissioning

Joint Commissioning Group	Contact name	Address/Phone
Children & Families	Ruth Cutler	Nott'm Health Authority 1 Standard Court Park Row Nott'm, NG1 6GN Telephone 0115 912 3344
Substance Misuse	Lynne Wynstanley	
HIV & AIDS	Vicky Bailey	
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	Brandon Scott-Omenka	Nott'm City Social Services 14 Houndsgate Nott'm, NG1 7BE Telephone 0115 915 7046
Joint Housing Commissioning Group	Sheila Hyde	Rushcliffe Borough Housing Dept Civic Centre Pavillion Rd West Bridgford, Nott'm, NG2 5FE Telephone 0115 981 9911



DIARY



<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Start Time</i>
July		
Tuesday 6th	NPCSG at Duncan McMillan House	10.00 a.m.
	Community Reference Group	2.00 p.m.
Thursday 8th	Substance Misuse JCG	2.00 p.m.
Tuesday 13th	Housing JCG	1.30 p.m.
Wednesday 14th	HFT Service User Forum at the ICC	10.00 a.m.
Thursday 15th	Black & Ethnic Minorities Advisory Group	2.00 p.m.
Wednesday 28th	Learning Disability JCG	1.30 p.m.
August		
Tuesday 3rd	NPCSG at Duncan McMillan House	10.00 a.m.
	Community Reference Group	2.00 pm.
Monday 9th	HFT Service User Forum at the ICC	10.00 a.m.
Thursday 19th	Substance Misuse JCG	2.00 p.m.
Tuesday 24th	Mental Health JCG	2.00 p.m.
Wednesday 25th	Learning Disability JCG	1.30 p.m.
September		
Tuesday 7th	NPCSG at Duncan McMillan House	10.00 a.m.
	Physical & Sensory Impairment JCG	1.30 p.m.
	Community Reference Group Meeting	2.00 p.m.
Thursday 9th	Black & Ethnic Minorities Advisory Group	2.00 p.m.
Tuesday 14th	Housing JCG	1.30 p.m.
Friday 17th	Older Persons JCG	1.00 p.m.
Wednesday 22nd	Learning Disability JCG	1.00 p.m.
Wednesday 22nd	Mental Health JCG	2.00 p.m.
Thursday 30th	Substance Misuse JCG	2.00 p.m.
October		
Tuesday 5th	Community Reference Group Meeting	2.00 p.m.
	NPCSG at Duncan McMillan House	10.00 p.m.

On the reverse of this diary there is a list of contacts for Joint Commissioning Groups however if you cannot find the number you want please contact the Partnership Development Team 0115 988 1710.

Recycle – it!



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