

Joint Commissioning News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 1999

CRG (Community Reference Group) Grants Fund

Inside this issue

The new CRG Grants Fund is aimed at furthering "the aims of the Community Reference Group and support the work of the Partnership Development Team by funding activities which are likely to **enhance the ability of service users, carers and voluntary groups to articulate their needs and influence service provision** through the Joint Commissioning System"

Awards will **not normally exceed £500** and grants are available for work covering all or part of the Nott'm Health District.

It is intended to cover activity which cannot readily be funded from existing budgets or funds:- normally but **not exclusively involving voluntary, user or carer groups as key participants.**

What kind of activities?

- * One-off or new
- * Supporting or developing current activities
- * Publicity and information/ awareness raising
- * Surveys, research and/or other methods of collecting people's views

For example

- * Training

- * Databases
- * Volunteer opportunities
- * Debate, consultation and information sharing events
- * Promotion of partnerships
- * Launch or short-term support for a service

The fund is managed by a **sub-group of the CRG** consisting of Jon North (NAVO), Carola Jones (Notts Rural Community Council) and Maggy Topley (Partnership Development Team).

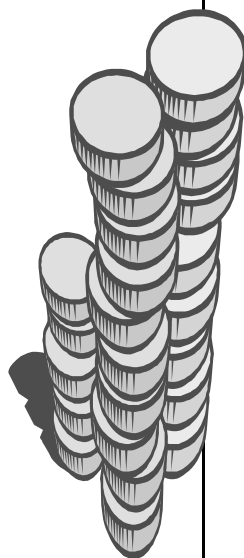
This is meant to be a simple grants process, but we **need to know how the money had been used to make a difference.**

When you accept your grant, **you agree to**

send us a short account of how it was used. Any outcome which means that service users, carers, local voluntary groups are better involved in services is relevant. Grants are intended **to encourage change and improvement** rather than fund 'more of the same'

For further details and application form contact Jon North at NAVO, 2 Wood St Mansfield, Notts NG18 1QA. Telephone 01623 651170 or email NAVOL@aol.com

"to enhance the ability of service users, carers, and voluntary groups to articulate their needs and influence service provision"



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Community Reference Group (CRG) Chair – Andrew Fry

Hello - I'm Andrew Fry, the **new Chair** of the CRG. I want to use the opportunity to introduce myself and to "plug" the work of the group.

I became Chair at the **Annual Meeting of the CRG** held at the Deaf Society. At the event we also had some good presentations concerning **toolkits for user involvement** and the **range of activities currently being acted upon by the JCGs** and supported by the Partnership Development Team.

The CRG provides a forum for discussions around the needs of users and carers and the process of commissioning services in the community. The group is assisted by the PDT who provide information and support on other commissioning matters

Currently the group is working on an **updated action plan and communication**

protocols. We're also promoting the replacement to simple small grants the '**CRG Grants Fund**' (see front page).

In my other life

I am Chief Executive of the Notts Hospice and also one of the voluntary sector representatives on the Joint Consultative Committee.

As some of you may already know there are **major changes** ahead for the Health Service at local level and the future linkage between Health and Social Services will entail a much **closer relationship both in planning and finance.** Whatever happens in terms of the structures of these two statutory organisations it is **important that**

the views of users and carers are at the forefront of future service planning and that the voluntary sector has a strong and positive role within that process.

I would therefore encourage **YOU** to contact us with your ideas, concerns or issues that you would like fed into the system. If you know members of the CRG don't hesitate to present them with your views.

Alternatively please write to me care of the **Partnership Development Team, British Red Cross - Notts Great Freeman Street, Nott'm, NG3 1FR, Telephone 0115 988 1710 Direct fax: 0115 9123441 or E-mail us at pdteamrx@proweb.co.uk**

"I would therefore encourage YOU to contact us with your ideas, concerns or issues that you would like fed into the system."

Older People Chair Caroline Jordan

The JCG for Older People has **extended its membership.** Shirley Smith, the **new Joint Commissioning Manager**, started work for the JCG at the end of May. In addition, representatives from the four NHS Trusts (Healthcare, Community, QMC and City Hospital)

joined the JCG. These additions will undoubtedly assist the group to meet the objectives of the work plan.

Work is now underway to **map current rehabilitation and recuperation services in Nottingham and identify areas of concern.** A workshop took place in early August to initiate the work on improving the content and process of multidisciplinary assessment. At the same time the JCG has been **exploring ways of including the views and experiences of older people and carers** in these service reviews. **Work is already underway in this respect with voluntary sector organisations carrying out interviews of older people who have experienced the assessment process.** Our thanks go to the Partnership Development Team and the voluntary sector organisations whose valuable assistance has made this possible. Other initiatives will follow.

The Joint investment Plan is to be updated to take into account **new initiatives such as the Carers' Strategy**, the development of local preventative strategies and Partnership in Action.

"...voluntary sector carrying out interviews of older people who have experienced the assessment process..."

Learning Disabilities

Chair – Maggie Harty

"Positive Futures" -the new **Joint Action Plan** for People with Learning Disabilities 1999 - 2004 has now been **approved** by Nott'm Health Authority, Notts County Council Social Services Committee, Nott'm City Social Services Committee and Nott'm City Housing Committee. Other organisations have also expressed their support.

A **shorter, illustrated version of the Action Plan is now being printed** and copies will soon be ready for distribution. We are also working on producing an **audiocassette tape version of the Plan**. To promote ownership of the plan there will be a **special launch event** and programme of presentations during **week commencing 18 October 1999**.

We are also setting up working groups for each of the **8 Action Plan themes** as follows:- choice of where and how to live; supported employment; lifelong learning; staying healthy; friends, family and relationships; tackling bullying and being welcome in the community; getting out more; and transport

The **working groups will prioritise the action and find solutions**.

If you would like more information, a copy of the Plan or would like to be involved in the launch week please contact Janet Willins at the Nott'm Health Authority on direct line 0115 912 3368.

" "Positive Futures" - the new Joint Action Plan, illustrated version, audiocassette tape,..... special launch event,.... week commencing 18 October 1999."

HIV & AIDS

Chair
Ruth Cutler

User and carer involvement is an essential part of the Joint Commissioning Structure; this has therefore been a **high priority for the group**. Different mechanisms have been explored to include the wider HIV client group, and as a result a **questionnaire has been produced which will be conducted on a one to one to encourage an informal discussion with users and carers**. It will aim to identify services which are useful, in need of improvement or if there are any gaps. This will then lead on to a second consultation where we will present the results of the questionnaire, an update from the last event and giving the opportunity for discussion as before.

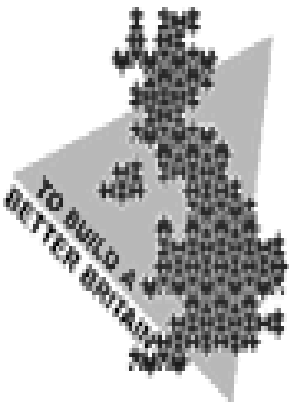
So if YOU would like to take part in the questionnaire or attend any forthcoming consultation events please contact us.

Work has been ongoing **reviewing** the current services provided for HIV and AIDS. Included in this work is the **identification of jointly funded schemes within the Voluntary Sector**, these schemes will be identified and members of the HIV/AIDS JCG will work together to ensure these services are **co-ordinated, equitable and cost effective**. The **most appropriate mechanism for voluntary sector organisations to express their views to the JCG would be via the Partnership Development Team**, as we are unable to facilitate all voluntary sector organisations.

The **Directory** of Services for People Living With and Affected by HIV will be with you soon.

"...a questionnaire has been produced which will be conducted as a one to one to encourage an informal discussion with users and carers."

**Substance Misuse
Chair
Lynne Winstanley**



**Tony
Herbert
Nott'm
Drug
Action
Team
Support
Manager**

"... a new provider for support services to carers and family members of drug users. The Carers' Federation"

Lynne Winstanley asked me to write a short piece from the JCG/Nott'm Drug Action Team perspective for you.

The most exciting news I bring is that at long last we have a **new provider for support services to carers and family members of drug users**. The **Carers Federation** have been awarded the contract for this service which will provide **telephone advice and support as well as the offer of 1-1 contact with a trained volunteer and access to a support group made up of those in the "same boat"**.

I know from my own work in the past within drug services that there is often a very deep and agonising sense of hopelessness, desperation and powerlessness involved when you watch someone you care for seem to deliberately keep pressing the self destruct button by continuing to use. I am sure that **towards the end of this year as the service gets up and running**, many people in this predicament will find those feelings alleviated somewhat by this initiative.

Other issues in the process of being addressed include the possible expansion of arrest referral schemes; a needs assessment for young drug users; development of a local alcohol strategy; a Hepatitis B immunisation programme targeting users and a re-structuring of the Drug Reference Groups within the Drug Action Team structure.

**CARERS –
Pat & Ann**

Our names are Pat and Ann and we have been involved in the JCG Task Group (**Substance Misuse**) on **user and carer involvement** for about a year.

We'd like to tell you briefly how we got here and the work we've been doing.

PAT: I have a son who is a long term heroin addict and I've been **working on a voluntary basis supporting families affected by serious drug addiction for several years**. I was asked if I would like to be involved with the newly formed group to which I agreed.

ANN: I have spent many years married to a problem drinker, trying to maintain a normal lifestyle for myself and my family in an increasingly worsening and chaotic situation. **I read about the Partnership Development Team in the Nott'm Self Help Team Newsletter and thought this is different!** - When I asked for more information I was invited to be involved.

We both felt over the years we have been affected, that support for families and friends in these kinds of situations has been where it existed, **very difficult to access** for all sorts of reasons.

By working on the Task Group, we have been able to express our views and our needs and have been encouraged by the positive response we have received.

So far, we have attempted to **identify ways in which the views of both users and carers can be sought**, so that these can be incorporated into any future service planning. There is a **huge amount of unmet need in this area** compounded by the fact that substance dependency **often presents itself in a wide range of associated social issues**, such as the breakdown of family relationships, domestic violence and homelessness.

We have also looked at **different ways of exchanging and sharing information with all interested parties**. It has been extremely useful for both of us to feel that we are making a contribution to a whole new process, which we hope will ultimately benefit more people like ourselves.

"... a huge amount of unmet need in this area compounded by the fact that substance dependency often presents itself in a wide range of social issues,..."

Physical & Sensory Impairment Chair – Theresa Shaw

The key area of work for the JCG at present is the **needs assessment work for the Joint Investment Plan**. The first stage of the Needs Assessment has been completed and circulated to JCG members for comment. It includes **definitions of disability and impairment** and looks at the **demography** of the adult population in Nott'm Health District. The population has been broken down by Primary Care Group (PCG) and by City and County (within Nott'm Health Area). It also includes **detailed analysis of information from the 1991 census** such as the proportion of the adult population belonging to an **ethnic group** and other **social characteristics** such as **levels of limiting long term illness**.

Links between limiting long term illness, unemployment, deprivation and living alone have been explored.

"The first stage of the Needs Assessment has been completed... It includes definitions of disability and impairment...."

Stage 2 of the needs assessment will look at the **incidence and prevalence of disabling conditions** and the current use of resources in health, social services and housing and should be complete by the **end of October**. Following on from this the JCG will discuss the findings of the needs assessment in terms of identifying its priorities for the Joint Investment Plan

Mental Health Chair Lynne Winstanley

Areas of work being carried out for or by the Joint Commissioning Group for

Mental Health.

The JCG are pleased to report that work is progressing well on the following key areas: the **two new projects** funded by Joint Finance the **Out of Hours Crisis Response Service** and the **project to meet the needs of young black people, managed by Family First**. Work is also progressing collating the work of the 8 sub groups formed at the last Stakeholders' Event. A demographic needs assessment is also being done by Jean Robinson, Epidemiologist at the Health Authority.

The JCG will be producing an **Annual Report**, detailing the work plan for 1999/2000, and a Mental Health Strategy. The Strategy will be a 3-year rolling programme, which will be updated annually, informed by the Annual Plan and all local and national agendas; the Mental Health Strategy will hopefully be launched in the spring next year.

"Making Your Voice Heard"

The JCG will be hosting Nottingham's **second all day Stakeholders' Event on 15th October**. We hope the event will provide a unique opportunity for service users and carers to have a voice and be listened to by the JCG. The day will focus on the following:

- ♦ to **update** everyone on the work completed by the JCG during 1998/99
- ♦ to **detail** what service improvements have been able to be made
- ♦ to discuss and agree **how to incorporate the new national priorities**
- ♦ to plan the production of the **three year Mental Health Strategy**

Fond **farewell** and good luck to Mrs Jean Grant, the Chair of the JCG, who leaves to join her family in Bristol. The JCG extend a very warm welcome to their **new Chairperson**, Mrs Lynne Winstanley, Assistant Director of Commissioning, Nott'm Health Authority, who has been a prominent member since the group's inception.



If you have any ideas, issues or concerns about Joint Commissioning



please don't hesitate to either contact

*the Chairs direct (see page 7 for complete listing of contact details) or use the Partnership Development Team, British Red Cross – Notts, Great Freeman St, Nott'm NG3 1FR
Telephone 0115 988 1710 Direct Fax 0115 912 3441 or
e-mail pdteamrx@proweb.co.uk*

Health In Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum (HIYE) & Nott'm Health Action Group (NHAG) – Helen Thompson

Ann Goodwin, Public Health Professional is the **new Chair** of NHAG. NHAG's current plan includes **developing ideas** from the successful 'FEAT' and "Making the Links" seminars. NHAG continues to contribute to the HImP and has been **successful in becoming**

the lead multi-sector forum for the Affordable Warmth work-stream of the HAZ. This means NHAG developing Food, Energy Efficiency and Transport initiatives over the coming year, including contributing to a transport and health directory and energy efficiency in the home for people suffering from cold and/or damp related illnesses in the severest poverty.

The "Making the Links" seminar held in June, focused on working together to **integrate economic, environmental, health and social strategies.** A seminar report will be available shortly and the planning group will agree any follow up action. NHAG will also be working on the **follow up to the Asthma Seminar and updating the Local Agenda 21 Health strategy.** Working groups are being established for each topic and there is now a **permanent Public Health Development Officer** post assigned to work with NHAG. The Health Initiatives Budget continues as a tool to **encourage innovative work** in this area.

HIYE held their **first annual meeting** in June with the Community Reference Group (partnership work in action!). Richard Eddleston was formally accepted as HIYE's representative to NHAG (congratulations Richard!). Hockerton Housing Project gave a great presentation of their **sustainable housing** project based near Southwell. This project is a very good example of **super efficient housing which is better for the local environment and the residents' health.** Although we can't all live there, many ideas could be adapted in our own homes, e.g. using conservatories to maximise the sun's heat to warm the house, composting household waste, using insulation to prevent heat loss.

For further information contact **Helen Thompson, Public Health Development Officer at Nott'm Health Authority Telephone 0115 912 3344 ext. 49419.**



Children & Families Chair – Vicky Bailey

The Joint Commissioning Group is continuing to consider **possible areas of work for Partnership in Action, with respite care being the most suitable at this stage.** A smaller group is in the process of mapping and auditing current provision across the agencies.

Funding has been secured from joint finance for "**Working To meet The CHallenge**" (WOTCH), a scheme aimed at meeting the needs of **children with learning difficulties and challenging behaviour, and their families.** A Project Manager is currently being recruited to set up this scheme.

The Joint Commissioning Group **welcomed the opportunity** to be part of a consultation exercise on Nott'm City Council's inclusive education policy. A joint meeting with the JCG for learning disabilities has also been planned for November; this will provide an opportunity to explore common issues.

"... (WOTCH) a scheme aimed at meeting the needs of children with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour and their families."

Joint Housing Commissioning Group (JHCG) - Chair – Sheila Hyde

Further to the production of the Housing and Community Care Information Pack, the **JCG for Older Persons has expressed an interest in discussing housing's contribution to community care** particularly around older persons and sheltered housing. Members of the JHCG will be attending a **future meeting** of the JCG Older Persons to enable this discussion to take place.

The results of the **"Warden hospital admission/discharge monitoring"** that has been carried out by wardens in each borough from January to June of this year are currently being collated by the JHCG. The results of this monitoring will be discussed at both the City Hospital and Queen's



Medical Centre Community Care Monitoring Groups.

The September meeting of the JHCG will be a "Time Out". The JHCG will **discuss the themes** common to it in the Health Improvement Programme and Health Action Zone, agree on the themes/tasks it wishes to tackle during the next year, the action required to achieve those tasks, the expected outcome of achieving those tasks, and the deadlines for achieving those tasks. The JHCG will also **debate its membership** again.

Contact details for Joint Commissioning Groups

Joint Commissioning Group	Contact name	Address/Phone
Children & Families	Vicky Bailey	Nott'm Health Authority 1 Standard Court Park Row Nott'm, NG1 6GN Telephone 0115 912 3344
Substance Misuse	Lynne Winstanley	
HIV & AIDS	Ruth Cutler	
Physical & Sensory Impairment	Theresa Shaw	
Older People	Caroline Jordan	
Mental Health	Lynne Winstanley	
Learning Disability	Maggie Harty	Nott'm City Social Services Denewood Centre, Denewood Crescent Bilborough Nott'm, NG8 3DH Telephone 0115 915 5500
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>
October		
Monday 4th	JCG – Children & Families	10.30 am
Tuesday 5th	Community Reference Group	2 p.m.
Thursday 6th	Health In Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum	2.30 p.m.
From 8th – 15th	Mental Health Awareness Week	Various
Friday 15th	Mental Health Stakeholders Event	To be confirmed
Wednesday 20th	JCG – HIV & AIDS	2 p.m.
From 15th – 22nd	Launch week for Learning Disability Joint Action Plan “Positive Futures”	Various
Wednesday 27th	JCG – Learning Disability	1.30 p.m.
November		
Tuesday 2nd	Community Reference Group	2 p.m.
Thursday 4th	BEMAG	To be confirmed
Tuesday 9th	JCG – Physical & Sensory Impairment	1.30 p.m.
Thursday 11th	JCG – Substance Misuse	1.30 p.m.
Tuesday 16th	Joint Housing Commissioning Group	1.30 p.m.
Friday 19th	JCG – Older Persons	1.30 p.m.
Monday 22nd	JCG – Mental Health	2 p.m.
Wednesday 24th	JCG – Learning Disability and Children & Families joint meeting	1.30 p.m.
December		
Wednesday 1st	World AIDS Day	Various
Tuesday 7th	Community Reference Group	2 p.m.
Tuesday 14th	JCG – Mental Health	1 p.m.
Wednesday 22nd	JCG – Learning Disability	1.30 p.m.
January		
Thursday 6th	BEMAG	To be confirmed
Friday 21st	JCG – Older Persons	To be confirmed

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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