

Joint Commissioning News

a newsletter for Nottingham Health & Social Care Community

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2000



"CARERS AND DISABLED CHILDREN'S BILL" Julia Barker – Carers' Federation Nottingham & Notts. Ltd

I am writing this article in the form of an open letter to be copied and circulated as you feel appropriate to anyone with an interest in the new "**Carers and Disabled Children Bill**".

On Friday, 4 February MP Tom Pentry's Private Member's Bill had its second reading in the House of Commons. The Bill **covers both England and Wales** and has support from all major parties as well as the Government. The committee stage will follow 4 February, which is likely to be late February/early March where there will be an opportunity to make any amendments deemed necessary.

Baroness Jill Pitkeathley will take the Bill through the House of Lords. It is **hoped that regulations and guidance for the Act will be in draft and allow time for consultation**. The Bill is likely to be enacted July 2000 and will **come into force April 2001**.

What does the Bill contain?

- The Bill **enhances carers' rights to an assessment**. It will allow carers over the age of 16 to have an assessment made of their own needs even when the person they care for does not want to be assessed.
- For the first time, local authorities will be able to **provide carers**

with services in their own right.

- Local authorities will be given powers to **introduce voucher schemes for carers and disabled people** to have short term respite breaks. This will give them **more** freedom to choose when and where they take their break.
- Carers will be able to receive **direct payments** for their own services for the first time. This includes parent carers and carers over the age of 16.
- **Young disabled people** aged 16 and 17 will be able to receive direct payments for the first time.

Positives

- **Builds on** Carers (Recognition & Services) Act.
- Allows carers to **access** services/breaks in their own right.
- Allows carers to access direct payments/vouchers giving **flexibility and choice**
- Gives parent carers and young carers (over 16 years) access to **direct payment/voucher schemes**.
- Financial provision is included in the Bill.

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"CARERS AND DISABLED CHILDREN'S BILL"
Julia Barker – Carers' Federation Nottingham & Notts. Ltd

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Negatives

- Parent carers are **excluded** from Clauses 1 and 2 - this limits services.
- Access to other services are **limited** to Children's Act Provision.
- Carers still have to **ASK** for an assessment.
- Clause 2 is poorly worded, it leaves the door open to **indiscriminate** charging of carers.
- Carers will be **charged** for own services (Clause 7). (Are services offered to carers via Carers' Centre likely to be chargeable?).

Clause 1

- **Strengthens** Carers Act assessment duty, giving adult carers (over 16 years) who care for someone who is 18 years or over the right to be assessed, whether or not the user is assessed.

Clause 2

- Gives local authorities **new powers** to provide carers with services (excluding intimate care).

Clause 3

- Empowers local authorities to **provide vouchers for short term breaks** to either party.

Clause 4

- Places a **duty** on local authorities to **decide explicitly** to whom the service is being provided and under what legislation/act.

Clause 5

- Empowers local authorities to provide direct payments to carers **in lieu of services**.

Clause 6

- Empowers local authorities to provide **direct payments to young disabled people** aged 16 and 17, in order to purchase their own service.

Clause 7

- Empowers local authorities to **charge carers for services** provided to them.

Clause 9

- **Enables** Government to finance provisions arising from enactment of the Bill.

(Notes courtesy of Carers National Association)

If you would like **further information** or would like to receive a copy of the Bill, please contact the **Carers' Centre on Nottingham 985 1111**.

**Stop
Press !!**

**PROPOSAL FOR A NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
 SPECIALIST MENTAL HEALTH, LEARNING DISABILITY
 AND SECURE SERVICES NHS TRUST**

A Public Consultation will be held for three months, commencing **20 March 2000**, on the proposal to create a county-wide Specialist Mental Health, Learning Disability and Secure Services NHS Trust.

The Public Meeting in this area will be held at

**6.30 pm on Thursday 18 May at the YMCA
 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham**

when all interested people can ask questions and raise any concerns.

This merger is being **proposed** by the current Boards of Bassetlaw Hospital & Community Services Trust, Central Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust, Nottingham Healthcare Trust, Rampton Hospital Authority and Rotherham Priority Services Trust, believing it the best way to develop a safe, sound and modern service. The proposed start date for this new Trust is April 2001.

For **further information**, please contact: Katrina Phillips, Chief Officer of Nottingham Community Health Council Telephone: 0115 960 2206 or the Project Office on 01623 672321.



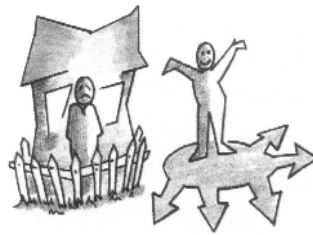
Learning Disabilities Chair – Maggie Harty

The Joint Commissioning Group for Learning Disabilities has **set up 8 working groups**, one on each of the themes identified in the "Positive Futures" action plan.

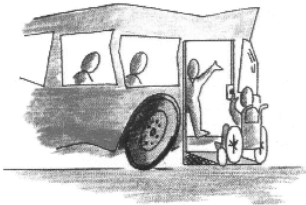
These groups will be **vital** to ensure we achieve the ambitious **targets service users and carers have set for us**. We are still **looking** for service user and carer representatives on some of the working groups, and would like to hear from anyone who might be interested.

If you feel strongly about **Transport** or **Getting out More** and could offer a couple of hours a month then please contact Janet Willins at Nottingham Health Authority on Nottingham 0115 9123368.

Travelling expenses can be paid for service users and carers attending the working groups.



"targets service users and carers have set for us."



Children & Families Chair – Vicky Bailey

Work to review the provision of **respite care** is ongoing. Nottingham and North Notts Health Authority, the City and County LEA and Social Services Department and the Voluntary sector have commissioned this work. The **audit of children** currently in receipt of respite care has been completed, and a **Partnership in Action** bid is in the process of being developed.

The **"WOTCH"** team (working to meet the challenge - a service for children with learning difficulties and severely challenging behaviour) is in the process of **being set up** and it is expected that the service will be established **May 2000**, based at the **Children's Centre**, City Hospital Campus.

"WOTCH,....being set up, established May 2000,.."



Future issues of **Joint Commissioning News**

will be available at our Web-site, watch this space for further information.

Older People Chair
Caroline Jordan

"To promote and maintain optimum independence by supporting older people in their own homes"

To support this large and complex objective **several areas** of work have been identified in the **Joint Investment Plan for Older People** around developing:

- ◆ Specialist integrated health and social care resources for older people with mental health problems
- ◆ Prevention and early intervention services
- ◆ Rehabilitation, recuperation and intermediate care services.

Assessment is the **gateway** to services for older people. From our consultation exercise we **identified** that many older people were confused about what an assessment

is, or should be, and concerned about **poor co-ordination between agencies** and the lack of attention paid to the needs of carers or the different needs of the black and ethnic minority groups. The JCG has **reviewed** the local assessment arrangements and developed a **proposal** for a better-targeted and co-ordinated multi-agency assessment process. This proposal is currently out for wide-ranging consultation and **your comments** are eagerly sought.

Work is also underway to **amalgamate** health and social intermediate and transitional rehabilitation services to offer a more co-ordinated **seamless** service through a single entry point, presenting a wider choice for users and maximising the opportunity for multidisciplinary multi-agency assessment. This sort of partnership working and collaboration makes sense and can only **benefit** the recipients of the services. The JCG

"...identified that many older people were confused about ... assessment, and concerned about poor co-ordination"

Physical & Sensory Impairment Chair – Theresa Shaw

The JCG for Physical & Sensory Impairment held a time-out in January 2000. This provided the ideal opportunity to **review** the work undertaken by the JCG in 1999/2000, and to develop a work programme for 2000/2001.

A **Sub Group** of the JCG has been established in order to work on developing the **Joint Investment Plan for Physical & Sensory Impairment**. The first task of this group will be to set up **focus groups** of Users & Carers in order to ascertain their views on the strengths and weaknesses of current services and requirements from future services. The results of this work will be reported in future editions.

"... focus groups of Users & Carers to ascertain their views ..."



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 contact **The Partnership Development Team,**

**British Red Cross – Notts,
Great Freeman St,
Nott'm NG3 1FR**

Telephone 0115 988 1710, Direct Fax 0115 912 3441, E-mail pdteamrx@proweb.co.uk



HIV & AIDS Chair Ruth Cutler

Unfortunately the last Joint Commissioning Group meeting which was scheduled for 19th January 2000 had to be cancelled. However, work has not stopped, **various voluntary organisations have been visited and services reviewed**, we are trying to ensure that the services we fund, address issues faced by people Affected by HIV and the prevention of infection. The **User and Carer questionnaires** have been returned, **thank you** for spending the time to complete and return these, analysis has now commenced and the **results will be with you shortly**.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, copies of the **Directory of Services for People living With and Affected By HIV Infection** are now available. You can get **YOUR** copy through the Drop-In, GU Medicine at City Hospital, The Health Shop and also your local library or **contact Ann Marie Gear at the Health Authority, Tel: 0115 9123344 Ext: 49271**.

"The User and Carer questionnaires, thank you, results will be with you shortly."

Mental Health Chair Lynne Winstanley

The Joint Commissioning Group - Mental Health has been heavily involved in the production of the **Joint Investment Plan** for Mental Health Services over the last four months.

The document will be used as the main **planning tool** for the next year and contains the priorities for investment during 2000/01.

The **priorities** were identified by local stakeholders at the October Stakeholder event and linked to the requirements detailed within the National Service Framework.

The Joint Commissioning Group - Mental Health will be preparing its work programme over the next few months. This will detail the required tasks and key deliverables for 2000/01.

David Levell, the **National Service Framework (NSF) Implementation Manager**, is currently **consulting** with a wide range of stakeholders as part of the consultation process and design phase of producing the local implementation plan.

A recent **visit**, from the Regional Office indicated that Nottingham was **able to demonstrate excellent partnership** working across organisational boundaries, involvement of service users and carers in service planning and commissioning, clear understanding of the Health District's Mental Health needs and priorities for investment.

The Joint Commissioning Group has asked the Nottingham Healthcare NHS Trust to perform an **audit and review** of its current services in line with the Government's requirement for Assertive Outreach Teams; these need to be available in all Health Districts. The Trust and Joint Commissioning Group will agree upon a service model once this audit has been undertaken.

If you would like **further information** regarding the NSF, please contact David Levell at Nottingham Health. A leaflet explaining the NSF will be available shortly for service users/ carers and voluntary sector colleagues.

" .. able to demonstrate excellent partnership working across organisational boundaries, ... "

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

HIYE is a voluntary sector forum which brings together groups involved in health, social and economic regeneration and environmental issues. The Forum has **contributed** valuable ideas and a voluntary and community perspective to the Nottingham Health Action Group. The Forum meets regularly on a two monthly basis which allows it to **feed into** the

two monthly cycle of NHAG meetings and to receive feedback from these. Much of the work has **addressed recent developments** around the New Health Agenda, including the development of the Health Improvement Programme and the Health Action Zones.

HIYE has been instrumental in setting up a number of **multi-disciplinary seminars** on the topics of "Food, Health and Environment", "Energy Efficiency, Health and Environment", "Asthma, Health and Environment", and "Transport, Health and Environment". Many recommendations were made from these and to pursue these

there are now **specific groups**, such as the **Food Initiatives Group, NHAG's HAZ Affordable Warmth Workstream, and the Transport and Health Initiatives Group.**

HIYE acts as a **'think tank'** in the formulation of policy, whilst feeding into local and national structures. HIYE also spreads **awareness** of good practice in sustainable development. One current aim is to set up a conference that will look at what we mean by a **healthy community**.

" .. there are now
specific groups, such
as the Food Initiatives
Group, ..."

Substance Misuse Chair Lynne Winstanley

The Group had a 'Time Out' day on Thursday 3rd February. This event **enabled members to work on three specific themes:**

- engaging with service users and carers
- young people
- alcohol

These three areas will be **major areas of work** for the Group over the next 12 months. We are keen to develop local services **in line with the requirements** of our local population's needs.

The Group will be using a menu of options. This will provide a **variety of methods** to assist us as we attempt to engage with service users and their carers.

The JCG is the official **lead** for the Health Action Zone's young people and substance misuse workstream. If **YOU** are working with young people who are using drugs or alcohol, we would like to hear from you.

The Group **meets** with local providers twice a year in an attempt to co-ordinate service planning and share national policy directives. If **YOU** would like to attend the provider forums please contact myself as the Chair.

The Group has also had its **first meeting** with the North Nottinghamshire Joint Commissioning Group. This was an important event as both Joint Commissioning Groups are keen to learn from each other and share best practice.

Over the next couple months the Joint Commissioning Group will be agreeing its work plan for 2000/01. The **main themes** of this will be discussed in the next issue of this newsletter.

" three
specific themes:
..... will be major
areas of work
...."

Community Reference Group (CRG) Chair – Andrew Fry

The Community Reference Group's role and function is constantly evolving since its inception. Within the new Health structures the role is defined in the Nottingham Health Authority's document "A New Partnership For Health" as:

- * to **co-ordinate strategy** and input into the new partnership arrangements
- * to provide a **mechanism** for those involved to brief and support each other and their respective constituencies
- * to **support** the Joint Commissioning Groups

The Chair of the CRG **met with the Chairs of the Joint Commissioning Groups** recently to discuss how the CRG could better support their work and provide a forum for the testing out of issues and developments. The CRG continues to provide that forum for the Partnership Development Team and to monitor its considerable workload. The work of the The Partnership Development Team is **highly valued** by all those agencies who use its services and its Mid-Project Report shows the **wealth of initiatives** in which it has been involved.

"to co-ordinate strategy and input into the new partnership arrangements"

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



DIARY

Date	Meeting	Start Time
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April

Tuesday 4th	Community Reference Group	2 pm
Tuesday 18th	Health In Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum	2 pm
Wednesday 19th	Mental Health JCG	1 pm
	HIV & AIDS JCG	2 pm

May

Tuesday 2nd	Community Reference Group	2 pm
Wednesday 3rd	Learning Disabilities JCG	1.30 pm
Thursday 11th	Older Persons JCG	1 pm
	Substance Misuse JCG	to be confirmed
Monday 15th	Physical & Sensory Impairment JCG	1.20 pm
Monday 22nd	Mental Health JCG	1 pm
Wednesday 24th	Learning Disabilities JCG	1.30 pm

June

Tuesday 6th	Community Reference Group	2 pm
Tuesday 20th	Health In Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum	2 pm
Thursday 22nd	Mental Health JCG	1 pm
Wednesday 28th	Learning Disabilities JCG	1.30 pm

July

Monday 3rd	Physical & Sensory Impairment JCG	1.30 pm
Tuesday 4th	Community Reference Group	2 pm
Thursday 6th	Substance Misuse JCG	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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