

Partnership Press

News & views about adult health & social services for: mental health, learning disability, substance misuse, HIV/AIDS, physical & sensory impairment and older people in Greater Nottingham.



Double Impact (by Sharon)

Double Impact (DI) is a service based in Nottingham. It is for people who have experienced problematic drug and/or alcohol use, providing support which includes access to personal development, housing, training, education and employment. The service is for stabilised/recovering drug and/or alcohol users.

Sharon regularly attends Double Impact. Here, she tells us about why she uses the service.

'Hi, my name is Sharon and I go to Double Impact. I have been going for many years now and I have watched it grow both with clients and premises. It is still very male dominated, but there are more and more women coming - which is good to see. DI is a drug and alcohol project, for people who are clean that day. There is an assessment to join and then you can use the service.

I particularly enjoy the women's meeting on Thursday afternoons at 1.30pm - 2.30pm, where we discuss a topic we have chosen as a group. I also join in and enjoy the art groups. I have learnt that I have skills I didn't know I

had - it's great to learn new things! Over the years I have been at college through DI and been on several courses, such as creative writing - we once had a writer to come and give us a talk. There are also computers we can use and we have key workers and there is nearly always someone to grab if we need to talk. DI also helps people with housing, education and living skills.

DI has also pointed me to the Drug Forum (run by the Drug & Alcohol Action Team) and I am aware of the Alcohol Service Users' Forum, but I don't go to that, as it coincides with my choir rehearsals.

All in all, I recommend DI to anyone who wants or needs help and somewhere to go when lonely - for a chat, smoke, cup of tea or coffee, and best of all to have a laugh.'

To contact Double Impact you can call the Head Office on: 0115 950 5453 or 0115 9567600 x315 or email: team@doubleimpact.org.uk You can find out more on DI's website: www.doubleimpact.org.uk

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'Taking our place in Nottingham' : A new day centre in Clifton



Clifton Day Centre

Before local government reorganisation, many adults with learning disabilities in the City attended day centres located in the County and vice versa. When the City and County became separate authorities, a 3-year agreement meant that there was no change to catchment areas and the respective authorities purchased the service for their residents. This agreement has now expired.

As the costs involved do not reflect the real cost of the service and in the light of the Day Service Modernisation agenda in 'Valuing People', discussions between the two authorities have led to the City and County deciding to provide separate services for their respective residents with effect from

April 2006.

As part of the longer term plan for smaller local bases in the City we have secured a base (adjacent to our Fairham Day Centre for Older People on the Fairham site) which will be home to some 30/35 service users from Clifton/Wilford. The base will have all facilities, including fully accessible toilet/changing facilities. Meetings with parents/carers have been very positive and we look forward to a successful partnership with parents and service users in the future. Service users will continue to take part in activities open to all City users, but will be located much nearer their home.

This is just part of the day service modernisation programme "Taking our Place in Nottingham" which will help us deliver person centred services across the City from local community bases.

Martin Jackaman, Day Service Modernisation Manager.

Gedling Resource Network for Older People's Services

The [Gedling Resource Network](#) brings together groups from across Gedling Borough who support or provide services to older people. The Resource Network is supported by Gedling CVS and meets quarterly to share information about issues affecting older people and promote local services and activities.

The last meeting of the Resource Network took place on Wednesday 24th February. Whilst the snow reduced attendance, those who braved the weather enjoyed hearing about the "[Keep Safe, Keep Well, Keep Off the Floor](#)" campaign – a local campaign to prevent older people from having falls and offering practical help in the event of a fall. The Network heard from staff involved in developing strategies for organisations to respond better to people falling: how a balanced diet can affect the likelihood of having a fall; how to get up off the floor and games we can play to keep people active and moving. Participants had

previously heard from the Fire Service, Police and Trading Standards about how to stay safe at home. All the speakers offered to talk to any group about "keeping safe, keeping well or keeping off the floor".

The Network is open to any group or service working with older people within the Borough. Events have been attended by a variety of projects, lunch clubs, social groups, carers' services, local church groups and housing services. Groups can bring their members with them, but must let us know in advance for catering. The next event is planned for July. The theme this time will link to housing issues. Details to be confirmed shortly.

For more information contact Laurence Quirk at Gedling CVS on 0115 854 6262.

Plans to develop a Nottingham City Older Persons' Forum



Extensive discussions have been taking place over the past 2 years between Nottingham City Council, Nottingham City Primary Care Trust, One City Partnership's Community Network, Help the Aged, Age Concern and other voluntary sector partners to develop a Nottingham City-wide Older Persons' Forum.

The intention is that the Forum will be developed, owned and run by older people who live in the City. It will be supported, particularly in its early development, by Nottingham City Council and Nottingham City Primary Care Trust (PCT).

The purpose of the forum is to:

- Provide an opportunity to celebrate and share the contribution older people bring to the life of the City.
- Harness the experience of older people from across the city to share their views, raise concerns, scrutinise policies and services and enable their voice to be heard in the planning and provision of services and facilities that affect older people in Nottingham city.

- Network and communicate through groups, open meetings, newsletters etc.
- Co-ordinate the views of local older people's organisations on issues of common concern to feed through to the City Council and PCT where they cannot be, or are not appropriate to be, resolved at a local level.
- Provide a recognised Forum for statutory agencies to engage with older people in the planning and delivery of their services

It is hoped the forum will be launched in autumn 2005 through an event at the Council House. Older people who are interested will be invited to join a Steering Committee to formally develop the Forum.

If you would like to know more, or would like to get involved, please contact Navid Anthony on 0115 9154220 or navid.anthony@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Caroline Jordan, Senior Nurse,
Nottingham City Primary Care Trust



Learning disability long stay resettlement



It's been an exciting period recently. In March we opened the first two bungalows for a total of 5 residents who are settling well into their new homes with skilled support. Our housing partners have worked hard to get the bungalows ready.

We are now in the process of opening the bungalows being leased from the City Council. These have undergone major refurbishment and in some cases enlargement, to meet the needs of the new residents. In the last week 3 bungalows have opened for 7 more people and another for 2 more people is opening today - allowing the final closure of Babbington House

at Highbury Hospital.

All of the staff have worked really hard to make the moves positive for the people making the change from being "patients" to being tenants and I would like to say a big "thank-you" to everyone in the team. After today we have 13 more people to resettle and for all but one we now know where and when they are moving. Most will now be in their new homes by the end of June with the last 2 to move at the end of August.

David Levell, Project Manager, Learning Disability
(27th May 2005)



A Week in the Life of...

Joy Rushton is a social worker and is part of the Nottingham Positive Care Team, a multi-disciplinary health/social services initiative for people who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

Here we find out what a week in Joy's working life is like.



Monday

I try to keep the first two hours clear in my diary in order to work through the weekend issues, answer e-mails and prepare for the week ahead. Then it's off on a couple of home visits, both fairly recently diagnosed and still attempting to come to terms with their illness. Fear of people finding out about their diagnosis adds to the anxiety and I am constantly asked about confidentiality. Giving people time to talk about their fears is important at any stage of this illness. Then it's the rest of the afternoon spent in the outpatients department. I begin by joining the pre-outpatients meeting where the medical and community staff update each other about the patients they will be seeing in clinic. Here, myself and my colleagues are available for patients to see about any issues that are affecting their lives. I see a woman who was close to death a couple of years ago, she is now achieving academically and is looking forward to starting a new career. She is still having problems with immigration and I need to go through correspondence with wording that makes my head spin, let alone someone whose first language isn't English. After some calls to the solicitor and immigration agencies, her fears are subsiding. I talk to another six people with a mixture of issues that include housing, benefits and children.



Tuesday

Every Tuesday morning I meet with doctors and health advisers who work with people living with HIV. It's a multi-disciplinary approach that works really well within our setting. We exchange relevant information and make referrals. As usual I came away with a long

list of people to contact. More home visits follow and then I meet a service user at the benefits office to act as their advocate during an interview. The office is open-plan and full of people and the benefits officer asks questions in a loud voice about the service user's medical condition. At this point I stop the interview and ask for a private office. We are shown into a small room and the interview continues in a more respectful manner.



Wednesday

It's 'Drop-In day', so I'm dashing into the supermarket with my trolley, shopping list in hand! The Drop-In is open once a week for service users to access the team in an informal setting. A main meal is provided at a small cost and refreshments are available all day. It is a private space where service users can meet and discuss issues without being judged. The team work together to prepare the venue and facilities. You never know what issues will be brought and which service users will be dropping in. Today we have a number of housing, immigration, medical and emotional problems to assist people with. After the meal is eaten I take part in a photo shoot. We are working with a couple of local film producers who have been commissioned to make an awareness film about HIV.



Thursday

This morning I am involved with interviewing applicants for Social Work degree courses at the University. My thoughts go back to when I was hoping to become a Social Worker and how nervous I was, so I always approach these situations with empathy and do my best to make the experience as stress-free as possible. My co-interviewer is an experienced practitioner who is skilled at putting people at their ease so I hope the applicants felt they were encouraged to show us their potential.



Friday

I'm going on a joint visit with our dietician to see a young mother. Sometimes people living with HIV need to supplement their regular diet as weight loss can be a problem. Then I visit a voluntary sector agency to discuss joint working with people who have HIV. As the numbers and diversity of people living in Nottingham with HIV continue to rise, the Team access possible areas of support for people across the care networks.

Time to go back to the office and attack the

paperwork, not forgetting to download relevant information from the Internet. HIV care and legislation are constantly being updated and I need to keep my practise as informed as possible. Phew! another week over so I'll put on my walking boots and get in a bit of practise for 'Walking for Life' on June 5th at Bestwood Park.

If you would like to contact Joy or the Positive Care Team, please call: 0115 924 9924 ext 43967.

Review of HIV/AIDS services

It has been agreed by service users and service providers that there will be a review of HIV/AIDS services. This will enable us to ensure that services reflect current trends and developments in relation to HIV/AIDS and inform our future planning. It may lead to a reconfiguration of resources to ensure that needs are being met effectively.

It is imperative that agencies work together closely to address issues of HIV/AIDS. The review will therefore incorporate health, social services, education and employment, housing, welfare rights and voluntary sector provision. Service users will be involved throughout.

A meeting was held in April to identify areas of priority. From this, two smaller groups have been established, one to address the needs of children and families affected by HIV/AIDS and the other to consider policy and planning issues.

Examples of what these may include are:

- Identifying and clarifying funding streams and accountability for services around HIV/AIDS

- Assessing the capacity of the voluntary sector to deliver services
- Agreeing on models of health and social care
- Looking at the feasibility of a 'one stop shop', a model that currently seems to be a popular choice amongst service users and providers
- Ensuring that the diversity of service users is reflected in planning and decision making

Both groups will meet for the first time in June and will begin to identify work plans and agree on time scales.

This review is an inclusive process, with contributions from different agencies and service users. If you are interested in being involved please contact:

Kate Whittaker, Policy Officer, Social Services,
14 Houndsgate, Nottingham, NG1 7BE.
Tel. 0115 9157031.
E-mail: kate.whittaker@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.



Dementia Advice & Support Service: **Supporting people with early stage dementia**

The **Dementia Advice and Support Service** is a specific service for those who have recently had a diagnosis, or are going through the diagnostic process. Many questions and concerns about the implications of this disabling illness arise at this time and clients find a systematic programme of emotional support very helpful.

Increasing numbers of people are being referred for diagnosis at an earlier point, when they are still able to enjoy a normal life and are aware of what is happening to them. As a result, people want to be better informed on a range of topics including availability of services, benefits, and financial and legal issues. In fact, like the rest of us, people with dementia want to stay in control of their lives. But without help, dementia will very quickly erode that sense of control.

Whilst the **Dementia Advice and Support Service** tries

to meet the needs of the whole family, the focus is on the person experiencing the illness and dedicated time is given to listening to their perspective and identifying their needs.

The **Dementia Advice and Support Service** is particularly keen to hear from General Practitioners with patients who would value this type of help. In this way, the service not only benefits the patients and families, but also provides specialist input at the point of primary care. Anyone can make a referral to this service.

For more information about this and other services at the Alzheimer's Society, please ring Julia Jefferson, **Dementia Advice and Support Service**, Alzheimer's Society, Nottingham Branch, 15 Broad Street, Nottingham.

Phone: 0115 840 3830

Fax: 0115 840 3856

Web: www.alzheimers.org.uk



Do you live or work in Rushcliffe?

Shaping Services for People with Long Term Conditions

4th July 2005, 12.00-4.00 pm at Rushcliffe Arena (fully accessible)

Rushcliffe Primary Care Trust are co-ordinating an event to look at how we can improve the lives of people living with a long-term condition.

AIMS OF THE DAY

- To agree the shape of services for people with long term conditions for the future
- To inform the development of a Rushcliffe Long Term Conditions Strategic Framework
- To prioritise the use of existing and new resources

The event will be attended by:

- people living with a long-term condition
- their carers
- voluntary groups who support people
- NHS and Social Services staff who also support people and their carers

To book at place at the event, please contact: Sherie Belfitt, Health Improvement & Planning, Rushcliffe PCT, Easthorpe House, Ruddington, Nottingham, NG11 6LQ

E-mail: sherie.belfitt@rushcliffe-pct.nhs.uk

Phone: 0115 8783075

If you would like any more details, please contact Penny Spice or Hayley Allison on 0115 878 3079 or 0115 878 3068.



JULY 2005		
Monday 4th	Learning Disability Carers' Forum	10.30am
Monday 4th	Rushcliffe PCT event: Shaping services for people with long term conditions	12-4pm
Wednesday 6th	Broxtowe & Hucknall PCT's Patient & Public Involvement group meeting	2-4pm
Friday 8th	Gedling Drug & Alcohol Reference Group (DARG) meeting	10am
Tuesday 12th	Gedling PCT's Patient & Public Involvement group meeting	12-2pm
Tuesday 19th	HIV/AIDS User/Carer Group meeting	12-2.30pm
Tuesday 19th	Action For Rural Care and Health meeting	2pm
Thursday 21st	Nottinghamshire County Learning Disability Partnership Board meeting	10am-12.30pm
AUGUST 2005		
Monday 1st	Learning Disability Carers' Forum	10.30am
Monday 1st	Nottingham City Learning Disability Partnership Board meeting	2-4pm
Friday 5th	Nottingham City PCT's Patient & Public Involvement group meeting	2pm
Thursday 18th	Nottingham City Drug & Alcohol Action Team Joint Commissioning Group meeting	9.30am
Thursday 18th	Alcohol Service Users' Forum (Voluntary Action Centre, Nottingham)	7-8.30pm
Tuesday 23rd	Gedling PCT's Older People's Group meeting	2pm
SEPT' 2005		
Friday 2nd	Nottinghamshire Blind Alliance meeting	10am
Monday 5th	Learning Disability Carers' Forum	10.30am
Tuesday 6th	Regional Carers' Network at the National Treatment Agency (NTA)	12.30-3pm
Tuesday 6th	Nottinghamshire Drug & Alcohol Action Team Joint Commissioning Group meeting	2pm
Wednesday 7th	Rushcliffe Drug & Alcohol Reference Group (DARG) meeting	2pm
Tuesday 13th	Learning Disability Voluntary Sector Network meeting	10-12pm
Thursday 15th	Regional Users' Network meeting at the National Treatment Agency (NTA)	12.30-3pm
Tuesday 20th	HIV/AIDS User/Carer Group meeting	12-2.30pm
Tuesday 20th	Carers' Council open meeting and Annual General Meeting	2-4pm
Thursday 22nd	Nottinghamshire County Learning Disability Partnership Board meeting	10am-12.30pm
Thursday 22nd	Rushcliffe PCT's Patient & Public Involvement Group meeting	2-4pm
Tuesday 27th	Dual Sensory Impairment reference group meeting	2pm

For further information on any of the events in the diary, please contact the Partnership Development Team.



Supporting People is a programme which funds and co-ordinates the delivery of housing-related support services. At a national level the programme is overseen by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and at a local level by a 'commissioning body' comprising senior representatives of the City Council, Nottingham City Primary Care Trust and the Probation Service.

The support services funded by Supporting People help vulnerable adults improve their quality of life by enabling them to live more independently in their community. Housing-related support may include enabling someone to set up and maintain a home or tenancy, develop domestic and life skills, manage money and make benefit claims, or gain access to other services. Service users may receive support in their own homes (this is called 'floating support') or

support may be delivered in specialist accommodation (e.g. in a hostel or in sheltered housing).

The **Nottingham City Supporting People Strategy 2005-10** has been developed over the last year. It explains the way in which housing-related support provision in Nottingham will be shaped over the next five years, detailing the local vision for the programme and setting out commissioning priorities and proposals. An Annual Plan for 2005-06 lists the actions which will take place during the first year of the strategy.

The full strategy document is very comprehensive but we intend to produce a shorter version of the strategy soon which will explain all the important facts clearly and act as a useful quick reference guide. In the meantime you can read the full strategy on our website: www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/supportingpeople

PDT: About Us

The Partnership Development Team (PDT) was set up in 1998 and is a specialist team within the Nottinghamshire branch of the British Red Cross. We are funded by the 4 Primary Care Trusts in Nottingham.

We work with adult 'vulnerable care groups.' These are: older people, learning disability, mental health, physical/sensory impairment, substance misuse and HIV/AIDS.

The team aims to involve service users, carers and the voluntary sector in health and social care planning. We are an independent and neutral resource.

For more information about any of the matters in this newsletter, please contact Emma Cullen or Maggy Topley at the Partnership Development Team. If you would like to know more about the team, don't hesitate to get in touch.

We can be contacted at: The British Red Cross, Great Freeman Street, Nottingham, NG3 1FR.

Tel: 0115 988 1710

Email: pdt@redcross.org.uk

Web: www.pdteam.org.uk



**partnership
development
team**