



# 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.

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## Relight My Fire! Person Centred Planning conference a roaring success

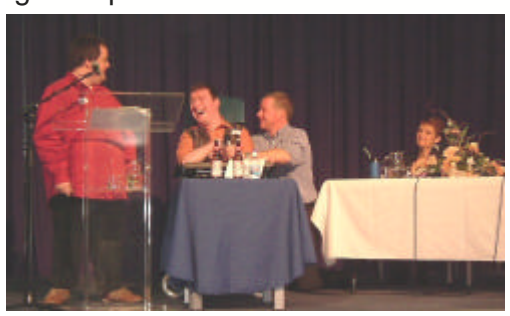
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**'Everyone who has a learning disability must have a voice that we can understand to enable us to respect & include them in every decision affecting their choices & independence'**

On 13th November a conference designed to raise the profile of Person Centred Planning (PCP) in the East Midlands & show how it makes a difference to a person's life took place at the Riverside Conference Centre in Derby. It also highlighted person centred approaches & training needed to make PCP work.

Dale Hartley and Eddie Moorecroft, self advocates, and Helen Mycock, Regional Valuing People Coordinator, opened the event, with over 150 guests packed into the hall.



Dale & Eddie opening the event

With three eminent speakers and a riveting performance from the First Choice Theatre Company from Newark, the day was full of up to date information and raised a wide range of issues.

The whole event was also captured in graphic form by Catriona Wilson, Person Centred Planning Coordinator

for the city of Nottingham & Carol Shelton, Person Centred Planning Coordinator for the city of Leicester, on a 10 metre long hoarding, depicting every aspect of the day in vivid colour.

It was announced that a dedicated website for Person Centred Planning in the East Midlands is being developed and will be available soon ([www.empcp.org](http://www.empcp.org)). Register now to receive newsletters and up to date information.

Guests came from six counties across the East Midlands and there were stalls from a variety of organisations from around the region.

Everyone who came to the conference made a commitment in writing to promote Person Centred Planning in their area, describing what action they will take & setting a date by which it will be implemented.

The event was organised by the Person Centred Planning Regional Group, consisting of self-advocates with a learning disability, social services staff & parent carers from all over the region. Support and funding from the Valuing People Implementation Team helped to make the conference a complete success.

For more information, contact the Partnership Development Team - phone: 0115 852 8025 - email: [pdt@redcross.org.uk](mailto:pdt@redcross.org.uk)

## New County Primary Care Trust arrangements



The NHS in Nottinghamshire entered a new era on 1st October with the establishment of Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust (tPCT).

Nottinghamshire County tPCT has taken over the functions and responsibility from six former PCTs - Ashfield, Broxtowe & Hucknall, Gedling, Mansfield District, Newark & Sherwood and Rushcliffe.

Controlling a budget of £839 million for 2007/08, the PCT is responsible for planning and paying for health care for a population of 649,173 across Nottinghamshire County, excluding Nottingham City and Bassetlaw.

The PCT is in charge of allocating money to local NHS trusts, such as Nottingham University Hospitals, to buy services for patients living in Nottinghamshire County. It also co-ordinates the planning and funding of NHS independent contractors across the county, including 105 GP practices, 84 dental practices, 121 pharmacies

and 71 opticians' practices, and is responsible for community NHS services across the county.

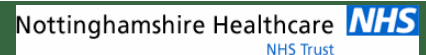
New PCT Chief Executive Wendy Saviour said, "The new Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT is committed to engaging with its local population to improve health and well-being. I am looking forward to building on the excellent work of staff and partners and developing further local services to meet the needs of the local population."

### To contact Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust, write to:

Nottinghamshire County tPCT  
Ransom Hall, Ransom Wood Business Park  
Southwell Road West  
Rainworth, Mansfield  
Nottinghamshire, NG21 0ER

or phone: 01623 414114

## Patients transform garden at the Wells Road Centre



A group of Nottinghamshire Healthcare patients recently put Alan Titchmarsh to shame – by transforming a garden at the Wells Road Centre from a jungle into a beautiful sanctuary.

The five patients all access Nottinghamshire Healthcare's Community Forensic Occupational Therapy Service. Working alongside staff, they gave the garden a complete makeover – and it has now been officially reopened as a facility that everyone at the Wells Road Centre can enjoy.

The team spent two half-days per week working on the garden over a three month period. As well as all the

hard physical graft, they used their initiative to acquire materials to use in their makeover.

The efforts of the patients have certainly been appreciated by staff at the Wells Road Centre. James Pam, General Manager for Nottinghamshire Healthcare's Community Forensic Service, says: "I'd like to congratulate all the patients who have worked extremely hard on creating what is a very attractive and relaxing space."

For more information, contact Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust on 0115 993 4530

## Services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Nottingham city and conurbation

There has been a lot of development work taking place within the city relating to services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

There are several areas of work that Nottingham City Council will be progressing as a partnership throughout 2007-8.

These include:

- The provision of a floating support service addressing the housing-related needs of people living with HIV.
- The strengthening of the voluntary sector to complement the statutory services offering social and healthcare support to people living with HIV.

- A full assessment of the needs of children and families living with HIV in Nottingham.

**Service users have been integral to developments throughout this process and will continue to be involved on all key planning groups.**

If you are interested in finding out more about this work, please contact:

Kate Whittaker, Policy Officer,  
Nottingham City Council,  
Adult Services, Housing and Health,  
14 Houndsgate, Nottingham NG1 7BE



Phone: 0115 915 7031

Email: kate.whittaker@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

## Nottingham Blind Alliance to Re-launch!

### Who are we?

The Nottingham Blind Alliance (NBA) is a group of people who meet regularly to discuss a variety of issues that are related to people with a visual impairment.

The group is chaired by Mrs Wendy Wells, a representative of one of the many Self Help Groups for visually impaired people. The group members also include the voluntary sector, the Primary Care Trusts and both the City and County Teams for Visual Impairment.

### What do we do?

The group representatives:

- Raise issues that are current in either their groups or agencies.
- Gather information to feedback to their groups.
- Assist and advise each other and professionals.
- Act as consultants upon request.

The discussions/agendas are varied and informative and allow all members to participate.

### What have we achieved?

The group has been successful in the past in:

- Instigating the set up of the Eye Clinic Link service.
- Participating in Nottinghamshire County Social Services planning of Visual Impairment services.
- Acting as consultants to inform the County Team for Visual Impairment Review process.
- Acting as representatives in other forums.
- Influencing both voluntary and statutory service provision.
- Acting as a support network for the group members and other groups.
- Highlighting issues in the wider community.
- Advising NET about accessibility and seats on trams.
- And much more...

### What is the group's future?

Over past months the group membership has depleted, partly due to the cessation of some self help groups, leading to a reduction in membership and the existing group requiring a primary focus. Discussions with all concerned have led the group to now re-establish itself and review its aims and objectives.

The group has now decided that they will establish themselves as consultants and visual impairment advisors and will strive to maintain visual impairment parity on all important issues within Nottinghamshire.

**The re-launch of the new NBA will take place on February 23rd and will be held at Severns House, Middle Pavement, Nottingham, 10.00am - 12.00pm.**

The main agenda item will be a presentation from John Devenport, City Access Officer, with discussion/question time following this. There will then follow a "round robin" update from all attendees.

### **Future agendas will include:**

- Transport.
- Policy & Planning.
- Equality & Diversity.
- Awareness Raising.
- Any other important items that are brought to the group's attention.

**If reading this has whetted your appetite and you feel that you or your group could contribute to the new forward thinking NBA, please join us at Severns House in the New Year.**

For further information contact Sandra Willetts on 0115 9159060 who will offer information or transfer any comments or issues to the chair person.

## Learning Disability Voluntary Sector Network

### Involving the voluntary sector in learning disability service planning

When the Valuing People Learning Disability Partnership Boards were set up in 2001, provision was made for a network of voluntary organisations to meet regularly and have the opportunity to discuss the issues and decisions being raised at the Partnership Boards.

With a number of voluntary organisations having overlap between City and County, who each have their own boards, it was decided to form just one organisation that would cover the whole of the County and would meet two monthly, ideally before the board meetings.

The Voluntary Sector Network provides a framework for local voluntary sector organisations which have a focus on adults with learning disabilities, to discuss points of mutual interest and concern.

There are a wide range of voluntary sector 'not for profit' organisations that provide valuable services for people with learning disabilities, particularly day time activities for those who do not wish to, or are unable to attend the statutory day centres.

There are significant numbers of people who, through personal choice that often includes an unwillingness to undergo formal assessment procedures, benefit greatly from alternative activity support groups.

The Network aims to elect and support voluntary sector representatives on the Nottinghamshire and

Nottingham City Learning Disability Partnership Boards. It helps representatives to express the broader views of the voluntary sector at the board meetings.

At its last meeting a number of themes were identified where there are considered to be gaps in current provision and where the voluntary sector might be able to help, if given the opportunity.

The Partnership Development Team and the Newark & Sherwood CVS provide valuable logistical support for the network and Ian Smellie and Jan Harding, who have been elected as voluntary sector reps for the City and County Learning Disability Boards respectively, strive to use opportunities at the board meetings to give a Voluntary Sector perspective on issues of current priority.

**The Network is keen to build up the membership of the group and attendance at meetings, which alternate between the South and North of the County. The next meeting will take place early in the new year.**

**We do ask that any groups that are not on the circulation list 'make themselves known' to Maggy Topley, Partnership Development Team (0115 852 8025) or Val Gardiner, Newark & Sherwood CVS (01636 613693) and come to our meetings.**

Ian Smellie - Nottingham Mencap

## Learning Disability Carers' Concerns

The Learning Disability Carers' Forums (north and south) recently held a joint meeting, to focus on 2 key themes that regularly crop up at our respective meetings and reflect widespread concern on the part of carers.

The first one, Personal Care, is to do with the lack of attention given to people's appearance and hygiene by staff in services. The second is the lack of clear Action Plans that say who is going to do what and by when, so that real change to services can be properly monitored.

A paper from that meeting has now been put to both Partnership Boards, for discussion. It was considered by the County Board on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and is going to the City Board on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

We want to see carers' concerns taken seriously and some practical steps taken to address them. An example of this is the Healthcare Trust's basic personal care "M.O.T." which we very much welcome and hope to see adopted throughout all services.

Maggy Topley - Partnership Development Team

## Person Centred Planning at Nottinghamshire County Council



Things continue to be busy in the world of Person Centred Planning (PCP). At Notts. County Council we have been busy spreading the word and re-motivating facilitators by highlighting person centred approaches and developing working practices to support plans.

Our aim is 'to help people have fulfilled lives', by supporting them to plan for their futures.

We ran workshops and a stall to tell young people about PCP at a Connexions event. Over 35 young people attended the workshop, dreaming about their best day ever. They produced some fantastic artwork to illustrate their aspirations.



We also ran workshops at the 'Ready for Work' event. We demonstrated how a plan can help people think about things that are important to them and share with others their aspirations and skills as they look at employment opportunities. In total we ran 10 workshops for a variety of professionals.



We also held a day event for people living with older carers. Working with Older Carers' Workers Lynne Aldred and Gill Selby, we talked about what PCPs are and how they can help. Everyone who attended has now been supported to ask someone in their life to help them make their plans, which are now under way.

For more information, contact:

Alison Jackson, Mike Deakin or Sarah Craggs,  
PCP training and development manager  
Adult Social Care & Health  
Nottinghamshire County Council  
Tel: 0115 982 3823

## Have you heard of the Carers' Advisory Group?

The Carers' Advisory Group is made up of voluntary sector workers, carers and interested individuals with a focus on carer issues. It acts as an advisory group to the NHS, Adult Social Care and Health (Social Services) and local authorities in North Notts.

The group meets every 3 months and also holds twice yearly sessions to give carers the opportunity to engage directly with service providers and receive information on a wide range of topics, such as Expert Patient Programmes for Carers, Carers' Support within GP practices, updates on Social Services policies for carers, Welfare Rights and Integrated Equipment Services.

In partnership with the Adult Social Care and Health Department at the County Council, the group has helped to organise 2 very successful Nottinghamshire wide conferences for carers and

people who work with carers. These events give carers an opportunity to receive information about a range of support available and to talk to service providers directly.

**As there is now a Nottinghamshire County Primary Care Trust, as well as the City and Bassetlaw, it might be a good idea to extend the Carers' Advisory Group to become county wide.**

If you agree, and are interested in joining the group as a carer or you work with carers, and you would like more information about this group and when it meets, please contact:

Val Gardiner at Newark and Sherwood CVS  
by phone: 01636 613693  
or by email: [vgardiner@nandscvs.org](mailto:vgardiner@nandscvs.org)

## Nottinghamshire Older People's Advisory Group & 50+ Forums

### There are now ten 50+ Forums across Nottinghamshire!

**If you are aged 50 - 100+ there is no problem in joining your local 50+ Forum so why not come along and take part. Local issues are discussed and action taken to improve services and opportunities for older people.**

Speakers are invited to meetings to talk about what's happening on specific issues in order for forum members to update themselves, ask questions and promote the needs of older people. Indeed in many circumstances forum members have been the 'champions' in improving service provision for older people. This is not undertaken in isolation however, and all forums prefer to work in partnership with service providers. This does require a lot of hard work, persuasion and commitment but the rewards can be very positive!

Most forums hold information/involvement days so local people can find out at first hand about their local services, ask questions and give feedback - after all it's a two way process!

Nearly all our forums also provide social activities which often encourages new members and gets people talking and interested, in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere.

However, each forum is different and sets its own priorities according to the needs of **their** local community.

#### Nottinghamshire Older People's Advisory Group

Representatives from each of the 50+ Forums come together to form Notts Older People's Advisory Group (OPAG).

Notts OPAG is part of Better Government for Older People which is a UK wide partnership between older people, central government, local authorities, public sector organisations and the voluntary and community sectors. BGOP works in partnership to change attitudes

and services in order to achieve an improved society for older people across the UK.

Notts OPAG sends representatives to both the East Midlands and UK OPAGS which has a direct link to central government departments.

Just to give you a flavour, here are some of the achievements and work undertaken:

- Raised the issue of transport through UK OPAG at a national level, which has contributed to the decision to provide free local transport for older people.
- Developed and contributed significantly to Nottinghamshire's "Opportunity Age", which is Nottinghamshire's county wide strategy for an ageing population, setting priorities for Local Authorities and their partners to work together to provide appropriate public services for older people.
- Worked with Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners to develop a Link-Age Plus programme of services. Link-Age Plus is a two year pilot Government initiative to provide information and access to a range of both opportunities and services that are joined up across agencies. This will provide a comprehensive and easily accessible range of services for older people in Nottinghamshire.

#### If you would like to know more about Notts OPAG or 50+ Forums in your local area please contact:

Lynne Cutts  
Notts OPAG Secretariat  
Notts. County Council  
County Hall  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham NG2 7QP  
Tel: 0115 977 3234  
lynne.cutts@nottscc.gov.uk

OR

Joan Taylor  
Chair Notts OPAG  
88 Mansfield Road  
Selston  
Nottinghamshire  
NG16 6ER  
joan@selab.co.uk

## PDT Website Update

The new Partnership Development Team (PDT) website is still under construction and will be completed in the new year.

The new site will include up to date information about how to get involved in local service planning. There will be a section dedicated to each care group we serve, a news section, useful links and an events diary.

A new online discussion forum will allow those who wish to get involved, but cannot attend forums or discussion groups, to give their points of view and become a part of

the lively community of service-users & carers who are playing their part in changing the way services are planned and developed.

We are hoping to have the site finished early in the new year and we will let you know as soon as it is up and running.

In the meantime, the current site will remain active until work on the new site is complete.

Ed Starr - Partnership Development Team



# Events Diary



<b>December</b>		
Friday 15th	Alcohol Service Users' Forum at Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre	10am - 2pm
Monday 18th	Nottingham Elders' Forum Management Committee meeting	1.30pm
Tuesday 19th	Nottingham Voluntary Homelessness Forum at Mechanics Institute, North Sherwood Street	2pm
Thursday 21st	Nottinghamshire County Learning Disability Partnership Board meeting	10am
<b>January</b>		
Monday 8th	Learning Disability Parent Carers' Forum at the British Red Cross, Phoenix Park	10.30am - 12.30pm
Tuesday 9th	Rushcliffe Drug & Alcohol Reference Group (DARG) meeting	2pm - 4pm
Wednesday 17th	Action for Rural Care & Health (ARCH) meeting at Ollerton Town Hall	2pm - 4pm
Thursday 25th	HIV/AIDS User/Carer Group meeting	12.30pm
Wednesday 31st	Nottingham City PCT's Patient Experience group meeting	1pm - 3pm
<b>February</b>		
Monday 5th	Learning Disability Parent Carers' Forum (possible joint meeting with North Notts. Carers' Forum)	10.30am-12.30pm
Friday 9th	Alcohol Service Users' Forum at Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre	10am - 2pm
Friday 23rd	Nottingham Blind Alliance (NBA) meeting at Severns House, Middle Pavement	10am - 12pm
<b>March</b>		
Monday 5th	Learning Disability Parent Carers' Forum at the British Red Cross, Phoenix Park	10.30am-12.30pm
Tuesday 6th	Nottinghamshire County Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) Joint Commissioning Group meeting	2pm
Friday 9th	Alcohol Service Users' Forum at Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre	10am - 2pm
Wednesday 28th	Nottingham City PCT's Patient Experience group meeting	1pm - 3pm
Thursday 29th	HIV/AIDS User/Carer Group meeting	12.30pm

## Unwind Your Mind Events a Success

### Mental health awareness weeks events in Rushcliffe

As you may know, it was World Mental Health Day on October 10th, with a variety of events taking place across Nottinghamshire during the regional Mental Health Awareness Weeks. In Rushcliffe, the user forum 'Speak your Mind', in partnership with the Library Service, held two wellbeing events at West Bridgford library.

The events were designed to give the community ideas and inspiration to maintain their emotional health and wellbeing. Activities at the two events included taster complementary therapy sessions, healthy food and drink and exhibitions of local services.



Both events were well supported by the community, with 500 people passing through the library doors during the event on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and 145 on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. The library has also reported a large increase in the number of holistic health and positive thinking titles borrowed following the events.

Feedback suggests that people would like to see regular wellbeing events in their area.

For more information, contact Marie Wade, Strategic Gateway Worker, Rushcliffe, on 0115 956 0308 or email [marie.wade@rushcliffe-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:marie.wade@rushcliffe-pct.nhs.uk)



## PDT—About Us

**The Partnership Development Team (PDT)** is a specialist resource for service user, carer and voluntary sector involvement in local health and social care service planning.

We are funded by the Primary Care Trusts in Greater Nottingham and work with vulnerable adults from the following 6 areas:

- Mental Health
- Learning Disability
- Older People
- Substance Misuse
- HIV/AIDS
- Physical and/or sensory impairment



The team comprises:

**Maggy Topley** - Partnership Development Officer  
**Ed Starr** - Information Support Officer  
**Sam Kitchen** - Admin Assistant

We can be contacted at:

**The British Red Cross,**  
**Colliers Way,**  
**Phoenix Park,**  
**Nottingham.**  
**NG8 6AT**

**Phone: 0115 852 8000**

**Email: [pdt@redcross.org.uk](mailto:pdt@redcross.org.uk)**