

eATA e-bulletin



In this issue

Chief Executive Update	Page 1
eATA Board Changes	Page 2
Contact eATA	Page 2
eATA announce new Residential Rehab - Working Group	Page 2
Changes to the Employment Support - Allowance	Page 3
CRB News	Page 3
Sydney's 'Shooting Gallery'	Page 4
eATA Services Reminder	Page 5
And Finally...	Page 6
Upcoming events	Page 6
Social Media	Page 6



Chief Executive Update

I would like to start by saying how delighted I am to be taking up the post of Interim Chief Executive at eATA, and to thank the staff, board and members of the organisation for making me welcome. My vision for eATA is of an organisation that recognises and celebrates the fact that there are many recovery pathways. As a consequence I want to build a membership base that truly represents the breadth, richness and diversity of provision that exists in the drug and alcohol sector.

Historically, eATA existed to serve the needs of the residential sector. Subsequently its remit has expanded to include all treatment providers. It is therefore important that, whilst eATA will seek to represent the needs and views of the sector as a whole, it does not lose touch with its roots. What I hope will make us distinct from other second tier organisations is an emphasis on supporting the building of capacity within the sector in the context of the Government's new recovery agenda. Whilst we will of course keep abreast of politics and matters of policy, our primary focus will be on the practical issues facing our members in delivering services, and the development of pragmatic solutions to address these.

The Government's shift towards localism means that, whilst there will be an ongoing dialogue with civil servants in Whitehall, we will increasingly be seeking to build links with local commissioners on behalf of our members. We will also be looking to play a full role in shaping the future direction of the drug sector partnership.

It is also important that we are visible to our membership and communicate effectively. I will be seeking to meet as many of our members as I can in the coming months, and we will be arranging a programme of regional and local events to provide an opportunity for members to network and discuss the issues of the day. (Continued Page 2)

Chief Executive Update (continued)

In closing, it has been an odd few weeks for the sector, with the tragic death of Amy Winehouse meaning that the papers have been full of addiction related coverage. Sadly, much of the debate, on social networking sites in particular, has indicated that we still have a long way to go in order to reduce stigma and raise understanding in relation to addiction in this country.

Whilst the cause of Amy's death is as yet unknown, speculation in the papers was very much that she succumbed to her long and well documented battle with addiction, reinforcing a negative message that relapse is inevitable. This overlooks the fact that there are multitude of effective services in the UK delivering many thousands of people into recovery every year.

My condolences are extended not just to the Winehouse family, but to all those other families who have suffered the loss of a loved one as a result of drug or alcohol dependence, and whose deaths, whilst equally tragic, go unreported and unnoticed.

eATA Board changes

We are sorry to announce the recent resignations of both Chip Somers (Focus 12) and Wendy Dawson (Ley Community) from the eATA board, and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the service that they have given to the organisation. We are delighted to announce the appointment of Karen Biggs (Phoenix Futures), and will be looking to make further appointments to strengthen the board in due course.

Contact eATA

Colin Wilkie Jones – colinwj@eata.org.uk

Katie Hill – katieh@eata.org.uk

Steve Broughton – steveb@eata.org.uk

Louise Walsh - louisew@eata.org.uk

eATA announce new Residential Rehab working group

eATA members who deliver Tier 4 provision have fed back to us that they would like the organisation to do more to respond to the particular challenges facing this part of the sector at the present time. In response to this, eATA are pleased to announce the formation of a working group to advise the Chief Executive on issues affecting residential rehab providers and to agree practical steps that can be taken to address these.

This working group will be separate and distinct from the Concordat of Recovery Providers that already exists. We have however agreed with the Concordat secretariat that we will collaborate in responding to common issues, and that they will be invited to attend eATA working group meetings as an observer.

eATA members who would be interested in forming part of this working group should contact our membership services officer Louise Walsh (louisew@eata.org.uk). Other tier 4 providers interested in participating in the group as new eATA members would also be welcome.

We would also be interested in hearing views from members as to other key challenges currently facing the sector that would benefit from the formation of similar working groups – for example, payment by results, or the transfer of commissioning of treatment in prisons from MoJ to DH.

Employment Support Allowance Changes

Members' will be pleased to learn that the government has made changes to the law regarding eligibility clients in residential rehabilitation to claim ESA. As members will be aware eATA has been pushing hard for this loophole to be clarified and were pleased that it was included in the 2010 Drugs Strategy. The legislation has now been amended so that those accessing drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation will be automatically entitled to claim ESA for the duration of their stay in residential treatment. Colin Wilkie-Jones, Interim Chief Executive eATA said:

“This change is very positive and recognises that those in residential rehabilitation are not able to actively seek work. It will help reduce the stress for clients and enable them to focus on their recovery and should remove a considerable workload for eATA members. I would like to thank members who have been fighting on behalf of clients to ensure they are entitled removing the extensive appeals process clients and rehabs needed to go through previously.”

For more information on the changes please [click here](#). It should be noted however, that there is no definition in law as to what constitutes a residential rehab, instead it must take 'its natural meaning'. eATA, like the NTA, are of the view that this should lead DWP decision makers adopting the standard definition of Tier 4, which includes quasi-residential, but no guidance has been issued to this effect. This may lead to inconsistencies in decision making. Tier 4 providers experiencing any problems in this regard should let us now. katieh@eata.org.uk



Criminal Records Bureau

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) is being disbanded and merged with the CRB as one part of the CRB Regime Review. Because the ISA Vetting and Barring Scheme was set aside by the incoming Government last June it never went live at all. Therefore there is no impact on existing CRB processing from this merger.

Our advice at this stage concerning the CRB Regime Review is that it is still being resolved since Phase 1 recommendations were published as a green paper on February 11th by Sunita Mason in the Freedoms Bill. Debate has since followed with stakeholders and Phase 2 is to white paper and then it gains assent through Parliament - possibly this autumn for Royal approval to be added to the statutes. This will then, perhaps in 18 months time, be the CRB Regime Review replacing what was to be The ISA Vetting and Barring Scheme which was halted by the incoming Government last June.

Similarities with ISA Vetting and Barring exist, and as you know, that scheme evolved through three years of consultation.

For now the CEO of The CRB confirms business as normal, until the CRB Regime Review is on the statutes.

If you would like to utilise eATA's CRB processing services please contact Steve who processes CTB checks for members. steveb@eata.org.uk call 020 7820 8130

By Katie Hill

So it seemed whilst I was on my travels that I couldn't get enough of learning about the Australian Drug and Alcohol sector. During my last week in Sydney I was staying up the road from the only supervised injecting centre in the Southern Hemisphere, referred to by many as Sydney's 'shooting gallery'. For many people walking past, 66 Darlinghurst Road could almost pass as a private men's club – frosted glass, no signage and a rather serious looking security guard on the door. In reality it conceals a service that has divided many in the drug and alcohol sector. It has now been open since 2001 and is run by the Uniting Church under their banner Uniting Care, a Christian Non-Government organisation that provides a large number of health services in NSW. Funded from the Confiscated Proceeds of Illicit Activities Account it does not take away funding from the health budget for other addiction treatment services.

So what does it do? And how does it work? The Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) basically supervises episodes of drug injecting that would often take place in public and in inherently more dangerous conditions. The centre provides clean injecting equipment and areas for users to safely inject supervised by staff at all times. There is also a resuscitation room to handle any overdoses that may occur. They also operate a one-way system with users entering from the front and exiting at the back. Their website¹ argues their case for the centre, which I summarise below.

- No impact on crime in the King's Cross area of Sydney where it is located
- Nearly 75% of people registered with MSIC had not accessed any other local health service before and 40% never previously accessed any treatment for addiction
- Has one of the highest referral rates in the world amongst supervised injecting centres
- Half of the 8,500 referrals made have been for addiction treatment
- Rate of acceptance for referral is higher among the more frequent users
- Reduced the number of overdoses in the area and led to less needles discarded in the street gutters

So the argument from their perspective is pretty clear that in the same way a needle exchange offers treatment services an initial bite of the cherry the supervised injecting centre provides access to users who might not have ever walked into a treatment centre.

Of course not everyone agrees that the MSIC has been a success. Whilst I was in Sydney I was fortunate enough to drink in the parliamentary bar and got chatting to various people about the shooting gallery. The feeling amongst some was that prevention was being neglected at the expense of the MSIC and money could be better spent elsewhere preventing those people from getting into drugs in the first place. Easier said than done you might say but prevention does play an important role. The then Prime Minister John Howard was also opposed to the concept and it wasn't until recently, after operating for ten years on a trial basis, that the centre was allowed to operate on a permanent basis. To highlight one such opposing view, Lucy Sullivan¹ writing after 6 years of operation argues that the fall in overdoses was not as a result of the centre but more linked to the heroin drought at the time. This largely mirrored what I heard in my conversations with opponents – it wasn't that the centre had made the situation worse it was more than it was not making any particular difference either and therefore was it worth the money.

It is for you to decide whether you believe this type of provision works and it maybe helpful to look to the other 89 supervised injecting centres in the world (mostly Europe) for further indications of how effective it is and what its role in the new recovery agenda it has.

<http://www.sydneymsic.com/what-we-do>

http://www.daca.org.au/issues/injecting_rooms/articles/html/Kings_cross_injecting_room_fails.html

eATA Services Reminder

Members, are you making most of all opportunities and services available through eATA?



TREATING ADDICTIONS
TRANSFORMING LIVES

- The eATA **Accreditation** scheme is a fantastic opportunity to drive up standards and promote and distinguish **quality** psycho social treatment, download leaflet [ACCREDITATION](#)
- **Promote** your service - keep us updated on any issues / news stories you would like us to follow up/ promote, or submit job vacancies /events and your news on eATA website /twitter
- Contribute your story for our **new publication series 'the Difference'** sent to DAAT and Commissioners (& other relevant contacts) - next editions theme is Employment and employability
- Addiction Today Page – submit your proposals for inclusion our page in AT. Contact: website@eata.org.uk
- Meet one of the eATA team? Please do get in touch to schedule a meeting, as it is our aim to meet as many members as possible.
- Take part in our **salary survey** (results recently published for July 2011 - survey and sent to respondents only) plus periodic ad hoc member surveys.
- **Consultations and Policy Briefings** get involved and aware with the wider political discourse and developments.
- **e-bulletins** – Make sure you and your colleagues are included into eATA e-communications, submit your staffs new starters email addresses website@eata.org.uk
- Discounted **events and Member meetings**.
- [Hire Board Room](#) / meeting space at our office in Vauxhall, London.
- [Online CRB Processing](#) – members discount on our CRB service

Comments and suggestions welcome on how we can best support you, please contact: louisew@eata.org.uk

eATA e-bulletin

And finally...

Upcoming events

To see the myriad of relevant events scheduled over the coming month's eATA has listed them in the events section of our website along with links for further info: <http://www.eata.org.uk/events/>

- UK Recovery Federation conference – 9th September Cardiff
- UK Recovery Walk – 10 September Cardiff
- Addiction Debate “The Future Of Harm Reduction And Drug Prevention In The UK” – 21 September, Glasgow 6-8pm
- Addiction Debate “The Future Of Harm Reduction And Drug Prevention In The UK” – 22 September, Edinburgh 6-8pm
- Recovery Academy Conference “Recovery growth and transformation” – 27 September Edinburgh
- Sheffield Alcohol Support “Recovery in the Community Conference” – 6 October Sheffield
- SMMGP conference “recovery: how to make the system work for you” – 13 October Birmingham
- DrugScope conference “rising to the challenge” – 2 November London

If you think we have missed any appropriate events please let us know or alternatively if you have an event listing you would like advertised please let us know and we will be glad to discuss the options for advertising. Contact louisew@eata.org.uk

Social Media

Follow eATA on  and find us on [Facebook](#) (European Association for the Treatment of Addiction)

The monthly e-bulletin from the European Association for the Treatment of Addiction (eATA) to keep our members up to date on the latest developments and news in the drug and alcohol treatment and aftercare sector. If you have any comments or questions about our articles, don't hesitate to get in touch.



TREATING ADDICTIONS
TRANSFORMING LIVES

t: 0207 820 8130
f: 0207 820 0055
e: louisew@eata.org.uk
w: www.eata.org.uk