

## The independent voice of the sector

# Welcome...

...to EATA's membership briefing. EATA is the largest membership organisation for the independent drug and alcohol treatment and aftercare sector. Our aim is to ensure that people with substance dependencies get the treatment they need. By being part of the umbrella body of the sector, our members are able to contribute to improvements in access and quality in the provision of treatment.

## EATA news

### Public health minister to give keynote speech at EATA conference

What exactly does success mean to the treatment sector? Is it when someone reduces their treatment or do they need to stop using drugs? Or is it when a chaotic user manages their addiction so that they can control their life and hold down a job? Can we define and measure outcomes in a way that is recognised by everyone?

To explore answers to these questions, EATA has organised a conference programme of talks, workshops and debates this autumn – including a keynote speech from the Minister of State for Public Health, Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP. Alongside the minister, *Roads to success in drug treatment*, which is sponsored by Pavilion, features several leading figures from across the treatment sector.

The issue of success and tangible outcomes was a key feature of the new national drug strategy: *Drugs: protecting families and communities*. This highlighted that society is shouldering a massive burden in dealing with the health, social and economic problems of drug addictions. It is only natural, the strategy implies, that there must be a successful return on investment, particularly in drug treatment. But establishing what is a successful outcome is a major headache for the drug treatment sector.

Speakers that will help to address these issues include **Harvey Redgrave**, Head of Home Affairs, PM's Strategy Unit; **Colin Bradbury**, Treatment Delivery Manager, NTA; **Richard Tamlyn**, Centre for Public Innovation; **Danny Kushlick**, Transform; **Mike Ashton**, Editor, Drug and Alcohol Findings; and **Nicola Singleton**, Director of Policy & Research, UKDPC. Some of the key themes that will be explored include setting the scene on UK policy and drug treatment, outcomes based commissioning, major treatment and harm reduction outcome studies in the UK and the degree to which we can rely on their results.

**The full programme will be posted on our website at [www.eata.org.uk](http://www.eata.org.uk) in mid-June, alongside details about booking places, which will be available at a discounted price to EATA members.**

## EATA WORKING FOR OUR MEMBERS

A key role of EATA is working on behalf of its members with government departments and other agencies. By representing the interests of its members on working groups and at consultation events, EATA continually raises the concerns and needs of the independent sector. We also engage our members so that they contribute to the impact we make on policy and practice.

**For full details of what EATA is currently working on and how you can feedback your opinions, visit our policy webpage at [www.eata.org.uk/policy](http://www.eata.org.uk/policy)**

## Independence and the Compact – is it working?

EATA has been involved in Compact Voice's series of focus groups on independence and the Compact. This provided an excellent opportunity for EATA to put our members' views across, particularly on whether the Compact is fulfilling its commitment on safeguarding the independence of voluntary organisations. Points EATA raised included:

- the issue that many funders and commissioners do not recognise the Compact or are unaware of it;
- that even where a local compact is in place, funders do not feel obliged to follow it or fail to follow the correct guidelines and contracting procedures when commissioning services;
- the continuing difficulty in achieving full cost recovery;
- PCTs and local authorities do always exercise what is contained within their local compacts;
- examples of bad practice, such as contracting over an unsustainable period such as one-year instead of three-years.

The consultation's results will be presented by Compact Voice to Parliament in November. EATA will update members on the outcome of this consultation later in the year.

## CEOs discuss strategic decisions for the future of drug treatment

Key policy officials from the Department of Health and the Home Office have been lined up to discuss their strategic priorities with chief executives of EATA's member organisations.

The high profile event, organised by EATA and sponsored by Pavilion, aims to bring together the policy and treatment sectors to explore the impact of implementing the new strategy over the next few years and the implications this will have on treatment providers

Speakers at *Strategic decisions: what the national drug strategy means for the future* are:

<b>Karen Biggs</b>	Chief Executive, Phoenix Futures
<b>Nick Lawrence</b>	Deputy Director, Head of Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco, Health Improvement Directorate, Department of Health
<b>Ian Martin</b>	Head of Drug Strategy Unit, Home Office
<b>Sally Richards</b>	Acting Head of Drug Interventions Programme, Home Office

*Strategic decisions* will take place on 30 June 2008 in London. This event is free to attend, but delegates must book places in advance.

If you would like to book your place at what promises to be a highly stimulating and fascinating event, email: [rachelclarke@eata.org.uk](mailto:rachelclarke@eata.org.uk) for more information.

## Update on identifying and promoting good practice in housing and support

EATA has been involved with a multi-agency taskforce working on preventing homelessness among drug users. The taskforce, which includes the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), NOMS, the Housing Corporation and the NTA, has updated EATA on its progress in identifying and promoting good practice in housing and support.

A paper, *Identifying and Promoting Housing Good Practice*, containing the interim findings will be published later this year and will also set out the criteria of requirements, such as:

- an understanding of changing needs which could better be described as a 'range or spectrum of needs';
- recognition that 'needs' will change as circumstances change;
- flexibility within housing and related support to be able to respond accordingly;
- planning of approaches which considers how and where they fit.

Alongside these points, adequate and appropriate staff, and policies that safety meet individuals' needs and enable them to live independently are also required.

If you would like to read more, please visit <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drug-interventions-programme/guidance/throughcare-aftercare/>

## Changes to role for Voluntary Community Sector Forum

The future role of the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) forum in light of the new drug strategy was discussed during a meeting attended by EATA in late May. The forum, held by the Home Office every six months, was originally established to provide an opportunity for voluntary organisations across the sector to exchange views, promote discussion and consultation.

At the meeting, the Home Office presented its proposal for the forum's future role and it was agreed that it should exist to support the delivery of the drug strategy through the active engagement of the voluntary and community sector. This will enable the forum to carry out consultations on policy development and make recommendations for strengthening policy and delivery, nationally and locally. The new role will also facilitate joined-up working within the sector and ensure that the sector's views are presented to government.

EATA, a member of the forum, will disseminate to members the outcomes of discussions as part of our representative function. We also want to encourage our members to share their views so that we can raise them at future meetings, and will work to ensure that concerns are listened to, discussed and any agreed actions are fed back to government and policymakers.

**The next meeting will be held in October. If you have any comments you would like EATA to raise at the forum, please email [sharoncarson@eata.org.uk](mailto:sharoncarson@eata.org.uk). A reminder will be sent to all members out closer to the date of the meeting.**

## New members

A warm welcome to EATA's new members:

Summerfield Recovery Centre

Fundacion Recal

Carter Gordon Clinics

Guide

Montrose Place

Wayahead Rehab

The Life Change Centre

Winthrop Hall

## Unlocking Potential -

**'It's about being the best that you can be'**

DIP has also been working with a variety of partners to create a question framework to promote and share some of the positive results achieved through innovative approaches in throughcare and aftercare.

These approaches were developed or adopted by local partnerships and projects working with service users, for example through art and sports. A common theme reported by service users, despite being helped in different ways, is that they helped to "unlock their potential". The Promoting Practice framework aims to support these partnerships and project teams in identifying how they may be able to build on what initiatives are happening locally or start a new one themselves. The framework, which is a living document, describes projects, approaches and lessons learnt through a detailed analysis of the initiative.

To access the Promoting Practice framework visit <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drug-interventions-programme/guidance/throughcare-aftercare/UnlockingPotential/>

## News in Brief

### Taking a stand during May's conference season

While EATA Chief Executive Sharon Carson joined a panel discussing the implications of implementing the new drug strategy at Drug and Alcohol Today in May, staff set up a stand at the conference at the Business Design Centre in Islington to answer queries about our activities and forge new relationships. A similar exhibition opportunity was available at UKESAD 2008, held in the Millennium Gloucester Hotel in Kensington. Many of EATA's members were also out in force, and could be found exhibiting, speaking and participating at both conferences.

## EATA Forums – why not voice your opinion?

Do you have a view or opinion about a particular subject in the substance misuse or addiction treatment field? Register at EATA forums and get your message out. Visit our revamped website at [www.eata.org.uk](http://www.eata.org.uk)

## Positive start for Spring's regional meetings

Networking, an in-depth discussion on the national drug strategy and gathering vital insights into winning statutory contracts kicked off EATA's Spring series of regional meetings. **Winning Statutory Bids & Contracts and implementing the new national drug strategy** were held in Bristol and London and attracted more than 60 delegates; feedback has concluded that the programme was a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships, make their voices heard and help develop their organisation's capacity to succeed.

A report on the discussions held during the events into the implications of implementing the new national drug strategy within the treatment sector will soon be published on our website. The report will contain key recommendations for policy makers and for EATA members to consider.

Running workshops and regional meetings are part of EATA's commitment to supporting its members in operational and strategic development. This includes meetings, discussions development and training provided at a subsidised cost to delegates. We particularly welcome feedback from EATA members on any topics or training needs that you would like future regional meetings and workshops to cover.

**To be kept informed of our events or to make suggestions for future topics, email [rachelclarke@eata.org.uk](mailto:rachelclarke@eata.org.uk). Do not forget to keep an eye on the website where we post news of all our activities.**

## New guidance published on CRB checks for volunteers

New guidance has been published by the Cabinet Office to clarify when organisations which use volunteers need to carry out CRB checks. The guidance aims to cut unnecessary red tape and responds to the voluntary sector's concerns that potential volunteers can be deterred if they are asked to undergo a CRB check without good reason.

People volunteering or working with children or vulnerable adults are sometimes legally required to have a CRB check. Where contact with vulnerable people will be limited or perhaps the person has recently been CRB checked for a different role, a decision about clearance must be made. The guidance explains how the check works as part of a proper risk management process, where other safeguards such as interviewing, training and taking references from potential volunteers can also be employed.

**The Guidance on CRB checks and volunteers is available from the publications page of our website or you can directly download it at [http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/~media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/OTS\\_CRB%20pdf.ashx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/~media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/OTS_CRB%20pdf.ashx)**

Meanwhile the **first century is in sight for EATA's CRB checking service**. Almost 100 applications have been processed through EATA's online disclosure service since its New Year launch. The service offers CRB checks at competitive rates for members and non-members. Our online system provides a faster turnaround time, while our step-by-step instructions and an online manual help prevent fewer application errors. EATA also tracks your application and informs you of its progress for your complete peace of mind.

**For more information about EATA's online CRB checking service, contact [ghada@eata.org.uk](mailto:ghada@eata.org.uk) or telephone 020 7553 9580.**

# News from our members

## New Centre for Addiction Treatment Studies launched

Action on Addiction's new Centre for Treatment Studies (CATS) officially opened its doors to students in April. The first charity-owned treatment centre in the addiction field aims to deliver degree level professional education, working in collaboration with the University of Bath. The centre was the first in the UK to offer a Foundation Degree Course in Addictions Counselling and a BSc (Hons) in Addictions Counselling as a top up to the Foundation Degree.

CATS' learning model combines both workplace and classroom education which help graduates to emerge with the knowledge and skills to work in a variety of addiction treatment settings. According to Action on Addiction, demand has escalated far more quickly than the development of skills and the new training centre is a major development in addressing this situation.

## Party time for Inishfree

Following its move to larger premises which will give them more capacity for extra services and activities, Inishfree is planning a launch party to celebrate on 28 June 2008 from 3pm at Roseclive, Rooksmoor, Woodchester, Stroud, GL5 5NE.

**If you'd like to attend the party, email [Andrea Sprenger, Project Co-ordinator at andrea@inishfree.org.uk](mailto:andrea.sprenger@inishfree.org.uk) or telephone 0845 458 9904.**

## Life Works to hold first Eating Disorder treatment conference

Lifeworks will be holding its first Eating Disorder Treatment conference in Central London on 8 October. Specialist speakers including Janet Treasure, Deanne Jade and Alessia Ciani. Other news from Life Works includes:

- Terence Gorski, a US relapse prevention specialist, returns to run a two-day workshop on the subject (6-7 October);
- Life Works are now able to treat patients from the age of 17 (previously 18 years);
- Staff are continuing their development with recent training from Alpha Hospitals, and talks are taking place to set up training at St Andrews Hospital;
- The annual alumni summer BBQ is fast approaching. The event on 6 July will help alumni to catch up with each other, make new friendships and find additional support.

**For further information, contact Emma Ennis on 01483 757572 or email [eennis@lifeworkscommunity.com](mailto:eennis@lifeworkscommunity.com).**

## ARA wins new funding in Bristol

The Bristol based Addiction Recovery Agency (ARA) has won two major competitive tenders. Recently ARA secured a £1.8 million contract for the provision of structured day care services in the City which it will deliver both directly and through sub contracting arrangements with the Bristol Drugs Project and Nilaari.

It has also secured funding for its existing Tier 4 and third stage housing services following a competitive tender under Supporting People, alongside funding for two new housing schemes and a major expansion of its floating support service. These, together with a three-year contract secured last year for its harm reduction services in North Somerset, mean that the organisation has achieved a high level of funding stability and expansion.

ARA has also won a PCT tender for the development of its specialist alcohol service in Bristol. The Conditional Alcohol Conditional Scheme – a joint initiative with the police and Crown Prosecution Service – will offer the option of attending an ARA-run alcohol awareness course rather than prosecution and a criminal record.

## ARP and Rugby House announce merger plans

Formal merger discussions are taking place between Rugby House and ARP – both London based substance misuse treatment providers. The new organisation will provide alcohol and drug services to over 6,500 people a year across London with a revenue turnover of more than £11m across a range of community treatment and residential settings.

Speaking of the merger, Paul Jenkins (Chair designate of the new organisation) said, "This merger proposal provides Rugby House and ARP with a great opportunity. Combining resources and experience will enable us to strengthen and extend our highly respected services, which can only benefit service users and other stakeholders."

## Focus on: Accreditation

### Treatment works, but not all treatment services work equally well

Demonstrating the quality of the services you provide to individuals in drug and alcohol rehabilitative treatment is essential for helping informed purchase and choice. In acknowledgement of this, we offer our members the opportunity to gain EATA **Accredited Provider Status**. It is the kite mark for quality for rehabilitative treatment providers, enabling you to visibly demonstrate the quality of treatment delivery, through clear evidence about aims, objectives and methods used. In short, it helps you to make it clear to clients and commissioners that you can offer them a quality service.

Further benefits for becoming an Accredited EATA member include:

- enabling your service to think about processes, systems and the structure of the treatment manual you use
- helping you to link in the quality of care received by clients in treatment
- giving you the scope to identify which areas can be improved in the future
- helping you to explore with EATA what comprises quality treatment
- enabling you and your staff to gain a deeper understanding and knowledge of how effective your service is in terms of treatment

Accreditation is valid for three years and is aimed at members engaged in structured psychosocial treatment services for people with drug and alcohol problems – whether in residential or day care settings. To achieve Accreditation, applicants must satisfy an independent panel of experts that their services effectively support a reduction in substance use in individuals.

The Accreditation scheme was recently highlighted by the NTA as a way of indicating quality of standard and promoting assurance in its draft guidance on clinical governance in drug treatment.

*"Services that are not PCT-commissioned and not required to register with either the Healthcare Commission or CSCI but that do provide treatment (e.g. individual psychosocial therapies or group work) may be contractually required to carry out assurance against other standards by funding bodies, for instance against Best Value Performance Indicators as defined by the relevant Local Authority.*

*"An additional form of assurance might also be considered, such as an accreditation scheme, for example, that provided by the European Association for the Treatment of Addiction (EATA)."*

**For a detailed application pack, how to apply and cost of Accreditation, please email [ghada@eata.org.uk](mailto:ghada@eata.org.uk)**

## Events

### Strategic Decisions: what will the national drug strategy mean for the future?

**30 June 2008**  
**London**

CEOs of EATA member organisations are invited to a high profile and stimulating event in London specifically targeted at them. The event organised by EATA and sponsored by Pavilion provides an invaluable opportunity for open discussion with senior officials who led the direction of the new national drug strategy. The event is free but places do need to be booked in advance.

**For more information, email [rachelclarke@eata.org.uk](mailto:rachelclarke@eata.org.uk) or contact 020 7553 9580.**

### The International Conference World Forum against Drugs

**8-10 September 2008**  
**Stockholm**

The International Conference World Forum against Drugs, organised by World Forum, aims to help delegates exchange ideas and share experiences on how to develop methods and move forward to the visionary goal of a world free from drug abuse.

**For more information, visit [www.wfad08.org](http://www.wfad08.org)**

### National Conference on Injecting Drug Use

**27-28 October 2008**  
**London**

NCIDU, organised by Exchange Supplies, aims to develop the field, share information and learn by bringing together clinicians, researchers and users.

**For more information contact 01305 262244 or visit [www.exchangesupplies.org](http://www.exchangesupplies.org)**

### Paths to success in drug treatment

**7 October 2008**  
**London**

This one-day conference, organised by EATA and sponsored by Pavilion, aims to explore through plenary talks and workshops how to define and measure outcomes and success in drug treatment. Speakers, including a keynote address from the Minister of State for Public Health, Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, and workshop leaders from across the treatment spectrum will highlight issues of importance to the sector and promote discussion on a wide range of themes relating to successful outcomes and treatment.

**For more information, email [rachelclarke@eata.org.uk](mailto:rachelclarke@eata.org.uk) or contact 020 7553 9580.**

## Contact EATA

EATA is continually improving services for our members. If you would like to voice any concerns within the sector, or want more information on becoming a member, or would simply like to make a suggestion, please contact us at the address below with your query.

We also want to hear what you are achieving and what you have planned for the future, so that we can include it in our next edition of the Briefing (out in the early autumn 2008) and share it with all of EATA's members. Send your news to

EATA  
25 Corsham Street  
London  
N1 6DR  
Tel 020 7553 9580  
Fax 020 7253 7991  
Email [rachelclarke@eata.org.uk](mailto:rachelclarke@eata.org.uk)

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*EATA – helping to ensure that people with substance dependencies get the treatment they need.*