

# The independent voice of the sector

## Welcome...



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 affected by 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 would like to wish all our members all the best for Christmas and every happiness in the New Year.*

## EATA news

### Call for nominations for EATA's Board of Trustees

**2009 is expected to be full of challenges for the drug and alcohol rehabilitative treatment and aftercare providers and when Big Ben rings in the New Year, EATA's resolution is to continue to support the sector to help ensure that people affected by substance dependencies get the treatment they need.**

To do that to the best of our ability, we depend on our members to share their experiences and knowledge with us. EATA is, therefore, calling for full members to put themselves forward as candidates for EATA's Board of Trustees. Those elected to the Board will help to shape our future and long term strategy. The board, which meets four to six times a year, also oversees EATA's ethos and values, and ensures the organisation's accountability and compliance with legal and financial regulations.

Over the past few years, EATA has worked hard to secure its position as a key representative to the treatment sector and been actively involved in supporting its members through representation and providing services. During 2009, EATA aims to build upon this foundation and support further service developments and investment across the sector.

The new Board for 2009 will be announced at the Annual General Meeting, scheduled to take place on 26 February 2009, following *New Directions: clinical governance and quality assurance*, EATA's day of seminar and workshops. The AGM will start at 4.30pm at Ort House Conference Centre, 126 Albert St, London, NW1 7NE.

**EATA members who would like to be considered for election, or would like to nominate someone else to join the Board of Trustees, should email their name, organisation details and an up-to-date biography (max 400 words) to Ghada Osman (ghada@eata.org.uk) by 12 January 2009. For those who would prefer to submit their application in writing, the relevant forms can be downloaded from our website at [www.eata.org.uk](http://www.eata.org.uk). If you are considering standing for the board but would like more information please contact EATA directly on 020 7553 9580.**

## Places filling up fast at "New Directions"

**More than half of the places available at New Directions: clinical governance and quality assurance, EATA's day of practical seminars and workshops, have already been booked.**

However, we want to make sure that EATA members, who are eligible for discounted registration fees, don't miss on the opportunity to book their places and attend the event on Thursday 26 February 2009 in London. The event is aimed at providers in all four tiers and those involved in commissioning projects.

The extensive one-day programme, which has been organised with support from the NTA, focuses on helping the drug and alcohol treatment sector face new challenges arising from the need to demonstrate clinical governance and quality standards in practice.

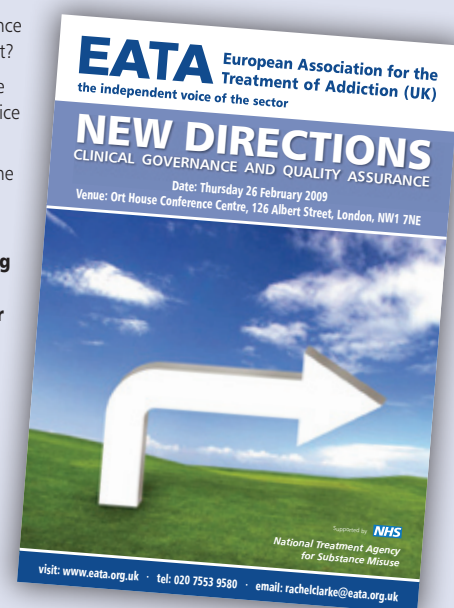
To get to the heart of some of these challenges, we have organised an exciting programme of speakers and facilitators to explore a topic that is guaranteed to stimulate and motivate you.

### Workshops include:

- Best practice and better quality services – what to do and where to find it. A workshop for providers and commissioners
- What is clinical governance and how to implement it?
- Quality: what's out there and putting it into practice
- Improving and ensuring quality and the role of the inspectorates.

**You can find the full programme and booking form (including details of discounted places for EATA members) on the website at [www.eata.org.uk/events](http://www.eata.org.uk/events).**

**To book your place, get in touch with Rachel Clarke at [rachelclarke@eata.org.uk](mailto:rachelclarke@eata.org.uk) without delay!**



## NEW REGIME FOR DRUG DEPENDENT BENEFIT CLAIMANTS ANNOUNCED

The use of benefit sanctions for problem drug users who fail to take up treatment options was one of the measures announced in the biggest shake up of the welfare system since the 1940s. As well as sanctions, (see the proposals in full below) the Work and Pensions Secretary James Purnell announced on 10 December that the government intends to explore the role of mandatory drug testing of claimants who fail to engage with the programme.

These proposals stayed in the White Paper on welfare reform despite strong concerns from EATA and our members about possible negative impact on claimants and their families. EATA believes that without careful implementation the threat of sanctions and mandatory drug testing could undo the work the sector is trying to achieve:

helping clients to tackle their drug problems, work towards recovery and rebuild their lives.

The Welfare White Paper set out the new drug and employment support programme which aims to provide integrated and personal support for problem drug users claiming benefit. These include proposals to share information between Jobcentre Plus and criminal justice agencies in order to identify drug dependent claimants who may benefit from access to treatment, alongside the introduction of a 'Treatment Allowance' and drug co-ordinators within Jobcentre Plus.

One of the White Paper's most positive proposals was the decision not to make the declaration of heroin or crack cocaine use a condition of benefit entitlement. EATA had highlighted major concerns

to this measure during our extensive consultation of the proposals in the autumn.

Our members had explained that many claimants would be reluctant to declare for various reasons such as fear, shame and even because of lack of trust in the people to whom they are revealing this information. We also expressed our opinion that the declaration was asking people to incriminate themselves and could push problem drug users further away from getting the help to which they are entitled.

The White Paper confirmed that all measures will be piloted and fully evaluated before any national rollout, and EATA intends to keep a close eye on the results of these pilots. A welfare reform bill is expected to be published in January 2009 and any changes would be implemented during 2010/11.

### The new drug and employment support programme

- The government will not require new benefit claimants to make a declaration of drug use at the start of their claim.
- Claimants identified as problem drug users will be referred to an initial assessment with a healthcare professional who will decide whether the individual has a heroin or crack cocaine problem, and will determine whether they should be referred to the new programme.
- The government will explore whether mandatory drug testing has a role to play in respect of claimants who fail to engage.
- Data will be shared between Jobcentre Plus and criminal justice agencies, i.e. details of those who have left prison and those who are subject to a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement imposed by the courts as part of a community sentence.
- A 'Treatment Allowance' will be introduced with entitlement conditions tailored to support recovering drug users. Claimants will be expected to follow a rehabilitation plan (which may include treatment).
- Failure to engage with the rehabilitation plan "without good cause" will result in benefit sanctions.
- From April 2009, new drug co-ordinator posts in Jobcentre Plus, funded by the Department of Health, will facilitate the programme. The co-ordinators will be introduced into each English district, and will establish close links with Drug Action Teams and drug treatment providers in their areas.
- The benefit system applies across Great Britain, but health services are devolved in Scotland and Wales and the criminal justice system is devolved in Scotland. The government is exploring with the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government if these measures can be extended in a way that it is consistent with their respective substance misuse strategies.

A full copy of the White Paper can be viewed on the DWP website at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/raisingexpectations/>

### Tackling Tier 4 issues with the NTA

EATA has met with the NTA to discuss some of the continuing issues surrounding commissioning of Tier 4 services, as part of our efforts to generate a constructive debate about the current state of residential services and funding.

Our aim is to get to the root of the reason why services are struggling for referrals from commissioners and have so far revealed a multitude of factors.

These include the impact from developments such as the establishment of more independent services within both Tier 3 and Tier 4, gaps between Tier 4 allocated spend versus the tier's actual spend and the standard of commissioning across the UK.

### YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN THE RECOVERY CONSENSUS DEBATE

Earlier this autumn, EATA launched a consultation on the UK Drug Policy Commission's (UKDPC) recovery statement. Our aim is to generate discussion among our membership and from the comments we receive, put together a statement which engages all levels of the sector. This statement would then be passed on to UKDPC.

As EATA has a wide range of members that deliver services involving different approaches from harm minimisation to abstinence, we intend to represent our membership base to UKDPC from an informed point of view. Consequently we sent out a questionnaire to encourage members to give their thoughts on what they consider to be "recovery" and what should happen next. Due to the importance of this debate and to ensure maximum opportunity for all our members to respond, we have extended the consultation period until the end of January 2009.

To recap, the UKDPC consensus group's statement is as follows: "The process of recovery from problematic substance use is characterised by voluntarily-sustained control over substance use which maximises health and wellbeing and participation in the rights, roles and responsibilities of society."

The questionnaire can be downloaded from EATA's website at [www.eata.org.uk/policy](http://www.eata.org.uk/policy). Comments can also be sent to Rachel Clarke at [rachelclarke@eata.org.uk](mailto:rachelclarke@eata.org.uk).

### 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)

## EATA launches new POVA First service

Following the launch of our successful online CRB checking service, EATA has set up a new web-based service, POVA First (Protection of Vulnerable Adults), for members.

POVA First is a preliminary check carried out by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), which allows workers in exceptional circumstances to begin working while waiting for a full CRB check. The Criminal Records Bureau will check its databases to ensure that applicants are not on the Protection of Vulnerable Adults list. It will then allow the applicant to start working while waiting for a full CRB disclosure.

POVA First checks are available in only very exceptional circumstances. For England these are described in Department of Health guidance as: where a care worker may be allowed to start work in a care home, for a domiciliary care agency or as an adult placement carer before a CRB check has been issued. In Wales, the provision only extends to care homes and nurse agency workers. Such cases are permissible only where it is necessary to take such action because of a real danger that staffing levels will otherwise fall below numbers required to meet statutory obligations. The Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales will monitor applications for POVA First checks to ensure compliance with this criteria.

EATA will offer this service to members at a competitive rate of £9.00 for each POVA First application. To get started contact EATA on 020 7553 9580 or email [ghada@eata.org.uk](mailto:ghada@eata.org.uk).

## News from our members

### Turning Point team surfs to a win

A partnership which empowers service users and enables them to have a direct input into the development of services and treatment in Bradford has won a prestigious award. The Bradford Drug Rehabilitation Team, a partnership between Turning Point and the Probation Service, worked together to develop SURF (Service User Representative Forum). In early December, the team travelled down to London to pick up the Yorkshire and Humber Team Award for Tackling Drugs and Changing Lives. A spokesperson for Turning Point said, "This is a fantastic achievement and recognition of all the hard work that DRR SURF has achieved. The day was a massive success and everyone really enjoyed it."

### Honorary doctorate for Action on Addiction's CEO Nick Barton

Action on Addiction's Chief Executive, Nick Barton, was awarded an honorary doctorate of health from the University of Bath for his contribution to the field of addiction treatment. Nick, who also sits on EATA's Board of Trustees, was educated in clinical psychology and trained as a psychotherapist specialising in marriage, family and child counselling. He was appointed Chief Executive of Clouds in 1989 and now holds the position of Chief Executive for Action on Addiction, a charity formed as a result of the merger of Clouds, The Chemical Dependency and the former Action on Addiction.

Nick commented on his honorary award, "It was a particularly special ceremony for me because my conferment followed the awarding of degrees to Foundation Degree and Honours Degree students from our Centre for Addiction Treatment Studies. This

award honours all those who have contributed to realising the charity's goals."

### Action on Addiction's Clouds House in East Knoyle has been selected to treat doctors and dentists who develop addictions as part of the Practitioner Health Programme being piloted by the NHS in London.

The programme offers help for physical and psychological conditions and patients will be seen at a specialist GP centre in London before being referred for onward treatment and care. The Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, announced the initiative at the British Medical Association conference this week when the programme was launched last month. If the two-year pilot scheme, which surveys indicate is supported by the public, is judged a success, there is every chance it will be made available to doctors and dentists and possibly other health practitioners across the UK. Further information can be found on the website [www.php.nhs.uk](http://www.php.nhs.uk).

### New Mood Disorders Programme from Life Works

Life Works is pleased to announce that it is running a new mood disorders programme for those suffering with various types of depression, anxiety, OCD and so on. This new programme will include CBT and various other methods of therapeutic work.

### New CEO for Broadreach House

Broadreach House has appointed a new Chief Executive, Gina Dormer, who takes up the post with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the drug and alcohol treatment sector.

Gina has worked in the private, public and voluntary/community sectors, and for the past five years has

been responsible for managing and commissioning a range of services in drugs/alcohol and community safety. Her career began with the health service in HIV/AIDS counselling; and throughout this career she has successfully implemented a range of multi-agency projects, including services for young people and an innovative accreditation scheme for drug and alcohol treatment providers. "At Broadreach we will continue to work in partnership with a range of agencies and individuals and further build on our excellent reputation as a dynamic and successful organisation," said Gina.

The outgoing Chief Executive, Chrissy Richman, left Broadreach after 17 years, five of which were as its CEO. She is moving overseas, although she will still be working for the organisation as a fundraising consultant. Chrissy has made an immense contribution to Broadreach House over the years with many achievements, including driving forward organisational change and initiating the development of the pioneering and highly successful day service at Ocean Quay.

### Remember as a member... advertise your "Jobs Online"

It's free to advertise your vacancies on our jobs online webpage. Since we relaunched our website earlier this year, we have had over 8700 visitors and over a quarter visited the "Jobs Online" webpage to check out what vacancies are available. Don't miss out on this free and valuable opportunity to reach potential candidates. If you have jobs that you are currently recruiting for, email the details to [rachelclarke@eata.org.uk](mailto:rachelclarke@eata.org.uk) or use our online form at [www.eata.org.uk/jobs-online](http://www.eata.org.uk/jobs-online) and we'll get them posted up for you as soon as possible.

### New members

A warm welcome to EATA's new members:  
Littledale Hall

## News In Brief

### New umbrella role for Adfam

Adfam has secured funding to become an umbrella and membership organisation for the families, drugs and alcohol sector. They will be launching firm plans in the spring, but in the meantime, if there any enquires please contact [o.french@adfam.org.uk](mailto:o.french@adfam.org.uk).

### Project to investigate drugs impact on families

UKDPC has commissioned a group of leading UK academics to consider the impact of an individual's problem drug use on adult family members. The research, led by Alex Copello, Professor of Addiction Research at the University of Birmingham, will estimate the number of adults affected by problem drug using family members and will attempt to place a 'value' in financial terms on the support and care they provide and the cost to society of the harm they experience. The review will also identify effective practice, both in terms of how family members can be involved in the treatment and recovery of their relatives, and how their own support needs can be met. The research will be published in mid-2009.

If you are interested in the project and would like to register for updates, please email [blynam@ukdpc.org.uk](mailto:blynam@ukdpc.org.uk) or telephone 020 7297 4752.

## Accreditation Scheme extends its reach

### Two new developments have opened up the benefits of the EATA Accreditation Scheme to more of our members.

We have recently extended the scheme so that our international members can apply for Accredited Provider Status and demonstrate the quality of service they provide. Also, multi-service agencies, which provide treatment at more than one site, can now submit applications for two or more services simultaneously, where these run very similar programmes.

It is expected that both of these developments will generate many benefits for even more of our members. All types of structured service delivery, not just residential rehabilitative treatment providers, can submit applications for EATA's Accredited Provider Status.

Demonstrating the quality of service provided to individuals in drug and alcohol rehabilitative treatment is essential for helping informed purchase and choice. Accredited Provider Status is the kite mark for quality for rehabilitative

treatment providers, enabling them to visibly demonstrate the quality of treatment delivery, through clear evidence about aims, objectives and methods used.

**EATA recently organised an Accreditation workshop in November to provide the opportunity to learn more about the scheme. If you would like to attend similar workshops planned for the future, register your interest with [rachelclarke@eata.org.uk](mailto:rachelclarke@eata.org.uk).**

## Events

### Sixth Annual Drug & Alcohol Professionals conference

13 January 2009  
London

Plenary presentation will cover the new drug strategy; working with families; young drinkers; getting people into employment; and the Independent Safeguarding Authority. Workshops and seminar topics include: khat; ketamine; cannabis; diversity; dual diagnosis; prescribing interventions and staff training and developments.

Full programme and booking form at [www.fdap.org.uk](http://www.fdap.org.uk)

### Voices for Choices

Thursday 29 January 2009  
Birmingham

Building on the success of last year's "Nothing about us without us", DDN/Alliance national service user involvement conference "Voices for Choices" will bring together policymakers, DAAT coordinators, treatment providers and drug and alcohol service users from all over the country for essential dialogue.

Please email [ian@cjwellings.com](mailto:ian@cjwellings.com) or [faye@cjwellings.com](mailto:faye@cjwellings.com) for further information or contact 020 7463 2081/ 2205. More details including the programme and booking information can be found by visiting [www.drinkanddrugs.net](http://www.drinkanddrugs.net).

### EATA – New Directions: clinical governance and quality assurance

26 February 2009  
London

An extensive programme of interactive and practical workshops organised by EATA to share knowledge, lessons learned and practical experiences on implementing clinical governance and quality assurance. EATA members are eligible for a discounted price.

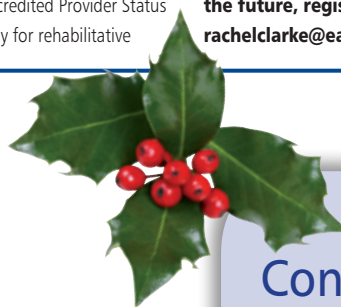
To book your place, email [rachelclarke@eata.org.uk](mailto:rachelclarke@eata.org.uk) for further details or visit our website at [www.eata.org.uk/events](http://www.eata.org.uk/events)

### EATA – Annual General Meeting

26 February 2009  
London

EATA's Annual General Meeting will take place at 4.30pm on Thursday 26 February 2009 following *New Directions: clinical governance and quality assurance*, EATA's day of seminars and workshops. We shall also announce our new Board of Trustees at the meeting.

Anybody can attend this meeting. If you would like to attend please email Ghada Osman, EATA Membership Services Officer, at [ghada@eata.org.uk](mailto:ghada@eata.org.uk) or telephone 020 7553 9580 for more information.



## 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 Spring 2009) and share it with all of EATA's members. Send your news to

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