

The independent voice of the sector

Welcome...

Welcome to EATA's membership briefing. 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 news

Staff changes at EATA

- A new interim chief executive – Peter Martin CBE - has been appointed for EATA and he will take up post when the current CEO Sharon Carson goes on maternity leave in July. Peter Martin has over 30 years experience of drug treatment and rehabilitation. He has worked as a counsellor, group work facilitator and was CEO of Addaction before becoming an independent consultant in substance misuse. In addition he is a member of the ACMD and a Non Executive Director for the Kent and Medway NHS Partnership Trust. Peter will be responsible for both the day-to-day and strategic management of EATA's resources and activities.
- EATA has recruited a new communications and development post to replace Rachel Clarke, who will begin in July. In addition EATA will be looking to extend the team by recruiting a Membership Services Officer and a Policy and Development post. Please watch out for our e bulletins and website for details. These changes aim to offer a better service in meeting the needs of all our members.

EXPLORING COLLABORATION FOR THE FUTURE

The Department of Health through the third sector partnership grant (formally Section 64) has awarded a grant over three years to EATA, Alliance, ADFAM & DrugScope to scope the possibility of developing a coalition to improve representation, communication and support within and on behalf of the drug and alcohol sector.

It has been recognised that each organisation represents different areas within the drug and alcohol sector and, through recommendations made in the Cordis Bright review in 2006 the sector acknowledged better coordination would be an advantage in responding to and representing the sector. The four organisations are due to meet and agree a more detailed timeframe for scoping which at some point will include consultation with our members. Once an action plan has been agreed EATA will provide more details on the aims, objectives desired outcomes and time frame for implementation.

If in the meantime you have any questions with regard to the project contact EATA on 020 7553 9580.

AUDIT INTO DRUG USE DELIVERY

A study into the effectiveness of tackling drug use is to be carried out by the National Audit Office over the summer.

A report, scheduled for publication in October, will examine whether local delivery bodies have the capability and capacity to effectively tackle problem drug use through the delivery of local services.

As part of their investigation, the NAO plans to meet local strategic partnership members, treatment providers, PCTs,

police, prison and probations services, local authorities and voluntary and community sector providers of services.

They will examine the range and effectiveness of front line services aimed at:

- Getting problem drug users into treatment services
- Driving down the use of drugs locally (in particular, Class A drugs)
- Reducing the local levels of drug related crime and the associated costs
- Reducing the range of drug related harms

- Reducing the local supply of illegal drugs
- Reducing local population's perceptions of drug use and dealing as a problem.

The study will also incorporate a high level review of cross Government Department working arrangements and the frameworks being developed, or in place, between these departments.

If members have any comments they would like EATA to pass onto the NAO regarding these issues, please email us at secretariat@eata.org.uk.

EATA MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD ON ALCOHOL TREATMENT SERVICES

Last autumn, we asked members to comment on their concerns and experiences about alcohol treatment for an inquiry carried out by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Misuse.

The inquiry focused on whether and how recent policy developments have made an impact on treatment delivery, what the challenges are for a range of people working in the system and which actions need to be taken to widen access and place the system on a stable and sustainable footing. The research and report for the inquiry were undertaken by Alcohol Concern.

We are pleased to see that the subsequent report into the future of alcohol treatment services – the first to be published by the APPG – incorporates many of the key conclusions and recommendations made by EATA and our members, which stressed the need to raise the issue of alcohol treatment and resources as high on the agenda as that of drugs.

The report included comments from EATA on measuring outcomes, the challenge for policy makers and the effect of policy at grass roots level. The report also picked up the concerns expressed by our members surrounding funding.

We are now hopeful that positive steps will be made to tackle the many serious issues that EATA and our members have highlighted. To read how your input has made a difference to raising awareness of this issue, download the report at www.eata.org.uk/policy.

TIER 4 SERVICE REVIEWS – THE NEXT STEPS

EATA recently met with the NTA to discuss the next steps in the review process and to ensure a focus not only on improvements to delivery but also to commissioning.

The NTA issued a brief paper for EATA members, which stated that regional teams will work with all partnerships that are not targeted for specific "Planned Improvement", to support delivery of improvements in specific aspects of individual partnership's commissioning and service delivery.

Below we have highlighted some of the key developments of the NTA's paper.

To recap, the NTA together with the Healthcare Commission carried out a three year programme of annual reviews of substance misuse services. The provision and commissioning of drug treatment were measured against key indicators. The aim was to identify a benchmark of the quality of drug treatment and provide further information on areas that require improvement.

For the 2007/08 review phase, a number of Tier 4 inpatient detoxification and residential rehabilitation services were targeted.

- Partnerships received their assessment results in November last year. The improvement planning stage of the review also started.
- Organisations and partnerships with the lowest scores will work with the NTA Standards and Inspection Team to draw up an action plan as part of the "Planned Improvement" intervention. If action plans are not delivered, the Strategic health Authority and Care Quality Commission will become involved.
- NTA regional teams will be working with all partnerships (treatment providers, drug action teams and commissioners) that have not been

targeted for "Planned Improvement" but have a service review criteria score of 2 or below, or question level score of 1. Work will support delivery of improvements in specific aspects of partnerships' commissioning and service delivery. If appropriate action plans will be developed.

- Regional teams should encourage partnerships not to make commissioning decisions based solely on the review scores awarded to Tier 4 services. The scores should only form a part of broader intelligence on the quality of service provision.
- A further paper will be published by the NTA outlining the priorities identified by the review.

Read the full briefing paper for more information at <http://www.eata.org.uk/news/60/78/>

CONTINUING THE DEBATE AT DRUG AND ALCOHOL TODAY

The end of April saw EATA returning to the Business Design Centre in London for the annual Drug and Alcohol Today conference organised by Pavilion Publishing. After setting up our stand, we were kept busy meeting staff from existing members and updating them on the latest developments and our activities for the coming year.

But our stay at the Business Design Centre would not have been complete without popping into some of the many interesting seminars and presentations taking place during the day. Highlights included seminars on a variety of issues

such as young people and poly drug use, alcohol practice issues, and perceptions of drug and alcohol use in the community.

EATA is a member of the programme planning committee for Drug and Alcohol Today.

POLICY ROUND-UP

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.

New Substance Misuse pilot

A pilot to integrate care in the context of a substance misuse and social reintegration service for vulnerable people has been launched by the government.

Wakefield Integrated Substance Misuse Service will involve a partnership of NHS, third sector and wider stakeholders and aim to make measurable improvements in the "care experience" for substance misusers, creating integrated pathways that are both personalised and cost efficient.

A total of 16 pilots have been funded by a £4 million initiative to investigate how health and social care services can look beyond traditional boundaries and join together to increase quality of care. But the Wakefield service is the only one of these pilots that will involve substance misuse services.

The scheme will assess the benefits of different models of care and identify any best practice that could be used more widely.

Each pilot, which will run for two years, will develop new methods to help respond to particular local health needs, including partnerships, new systems and care pathways that span primary, community, secondary and social care.

Home Office Drug Strategy – one year on

EATA attended the launch of the Home Office publication "The 2008 Drug Strategy: one year on" in April. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State responsible for crime reduction, Alan Campbell MP, gave a speech at the launch highlighting the important role of organisations working within

the sector, including treatment providers, in delivering the strategy.

The publication outlines the work taking place under the new drug strategy and highlights its future priorities. These include:

- Improvements to the quality of prison-based drug treatment and to the support for offenders being resettled into the community. New ways will be designed to further restrict the supply of drugs within prison.
- Extending the number of areas that are able to test drug offenders on arrest. From April 2009, 174 police custody suites across England and Wales will offer drug testing under the DIP, getting more offenders into treatment.
- Encourage the provision of more family-friendly services, so that parents can get the treatment and support they need, and families can be helped to stay together. Parents with drug problems are now being prioritised in local treatment plans.
- Supporting a number of pilot programmes throughout the country that drive improvements in the co-ordination of services to help drug users to re-establish their lives and reintegrate into society, i.e. changes to the commissioning of services, innovative use of budgets such as personal budgets.
- Introducing a Youth Rehabilitation Order with a drug treatment/support requirement.

EATA worked hard to ensure that members had their say on the Drug Strategy and its action points. We will continue to both monitor the developments and pass on any issues, concerns and/or developments to the Home Office policy team.

If you would like to download a copy of the publication, visit <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-events/latest-news/drug-strategy-one-year-on> for more information.

Update on redevelopment of Bedvacs

EATA has been updated on the redevelopment of Bedvacs and the Residential Services Directory. Consultation on the redevelopment of Bedvacs and the Residential Services Directory took place during June 2009. This consisted of four consultation workshops.

- 8 June – Strategic Partners (CSCI, DAT commissioners, referrers, LA community care leads)
- 15 June – A range of providers (large/small rehabilitation, detox and EATA)
- 19 June – Service user and carer representatives
- 25 June – NTA representatives

Following the consultation process OLM Pavilion (formerly Bettercaring) will put together a revised paper outlining feedback and how this could inform the future design. This will then involve further consultation by email with all relevant stakeholders. By October, it is scheduled to re launch the redesigned site.

Once the site is up and running, evaluation will be carried out during January 2010 to assess how far it has reached its target of 100% of potential services listed and to find out how useful it is rated by key organisations, i.e. service user groups, commissioner representatives and provider representatives.

DRUG TREATMENT SCHEME OPENS UP TO JOBSEEKERS

A drug treatment referral scheme to get substance misusers off benefits and back into work started operating across England in April.

Heroin or crack cocaine users claiming benefits in England will be able to access advice and referral from their Jobcentre to a drug treatment service so they can get help and take steps to return to work, Employment and Welfare Reform Minister Tony McNulty announced following the launch.

The Welfare Reform Bill, currently before Parliament, includes provisions to pilot a new mandatory employment-support programme for problem drug users. Participants will be required to attend discussions about treatment and

agree a rehabilitation plan. The plan will set out the steps individuals will take to address both their drug problem and any other barriers to work that they face.

EATA as well as recognising the potential positive impact this may have has also highlighted the concerns of our members about the programme and submitted a response to the DWP during the consultation on the reforms. A copy of the submission can be found on our website at <http://www.eata.org.uk/policy/completed-activities/>.

Drug coordinators have already taken up their posts in every region across England to ensure the local links between Jobcentre Plus and drug services are seamless and that problem drug users receive more integrated support to help them tackle their drug use.

News from our members

National award for the Nelson Trust

The Nelson Trust has been honoured with a national award of excellence in this year's Centre of Social Justice Awards - an independent think tank that seeks effective solutions to the poverty that blight parts of Britain.

Steve Cooke, the Nelson Trust's Chief Executive said: "We are very proud of our achievements within our organisation and of the many people who have already succeeded in breaking their substance misusing cycle and rebuilding a meaningful life within their community. We are delighted to receive such prestigious recognition of achievement, particularly as we are about to enter our 25th year."

The Nelson Trust has also been shortlisted for a share in a prize pot of £50,000. The winner of this will be announced at an awards ceremony on 1 July 2009 with MPs, senior policy makers and celebrities attending to award the prize.

Cranstoun celebrates its 40th anniversary

A GP and his wife who set up a drug service in 1969 in their quiet Esher neighbourhood are to return to the flourishing organisation to help celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Local GP Michael Dixon and his wife Annie set up Cranstoun Drug Services or Esher Association for the Prevention of Addiction as it was then known because of their personal concerns about drug use in their community.

Four decades later, the service continues to embrace the principles and philosophy

of their founders. Cranstoun has planned a series of events throughout 2009 to celebrate 40 years of success, "resulting from the hard work and dedication of our staff - both past and present, and of our founders who will be part of this occasion," a spokesperson said.

For further information on how you can get involved, contact Kate Macauley on 07885 067440, email kmacauley@cranstoun.org, uk or visit www.cranstoun.org

Gambling treatment progress

Broadway Lodge has just signed a contract with Gamcare. The organisation, based in Weston-super-Mare is the first centre in UK to receive funded from the gambling industry to provide residential treatment.

ARA wins funding to provide lapse accommodation

As part of its Tier 4 residential provision the Addiction Recovery Agency (ARA) has been commissioned by the Bristol Drug Strategy team to offer "lapse" accommodation. Up to four beds in supported housing will be available to clients who lapse while in Tier 4 treatment in the city. These places provide a two to six week programme which combine access to the main Tier 4 programme plus additional relapse prevention work. The facility will be open to clients taking part in any of the city's Tier 4 programmes with the aim of enabling them to rejoin the main programme as quickly as possible.

In North Somerset ARA has also been

commissioned to provide an Alcohol Conditional Cautioning Service under which clients arrested on certain alcohol related offences are offered the opportunity to pay to attend an alcohol awareness course provided by ARA rather than go to court and face a criminal record.

Join the Core Trust's garden party for their 25th birthday

The Core Trust's is having a garden party to celebrate its 25th birthday. Join them on the 24th of June from 1-4pm at their premises in Marylebone to learn more about our services and enjoy tea, cake and take part in the Core's famous tombola! The Core Trust has recently merged with EATA member WDP, a leading drug and alcohol treatment provider working in London and across the South East.

Visit www.coretrust.org or call 0207 258 3031 for more information.

Expansion planned for the PCP

PCP is opening an 18 bed unit in Chelmsford, Essex at the end of May. The new unit will have the same set up as their Luton service - a 12 step approach with other holistic therapies to support clients' needs. A spokesman said, "We are very excited about this new venture and look forward to having the opportunity of treating more patients and putting them on their path to recovery."

Visit PCP's website for more details at www.rehabtoday.com or call 08000 380 480.

Award for lifelong learning

Bridgegate Drugs Service based in Peterborough has received a national award from the lifelong learning charity, Campaign for Learning.

The organisation won the award for running one of the best Skills for Life events as part of last year's National Family Learning Festival. The award, which was sponsored by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, was presented by the Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister for Children at the National Family Learning Network Conference in London in March 2009.

The Family Learning Festival is an annual event co-ordinated by the Campaign for Learning and promotes the importance and enjoyment of learning together as a whole family. Bridgegate Drugs Service successfully encouraged families to try out a range of new learning activities at its event. These included cooking, using maths for shopping, word searches, computer activities and competitions.

Opening doors at Western Counselling

Western Counselling in Western Super Mare is holding a Family Programme Weekend over Saturday and Sunday 13-14 June. The centre is also opening its doors for an Open Day on 11 June from 1.30pm.

For information about both events, contact 01934 627600.

Rapid Growth for TTP Recovery Community Model

Trust The Process Counselling (TTP) opened two new centres in June. The Recovery Day Programmes in Coventry and Halton take the number of new facilities opened by the company to four in the last 12 months. These latest openings are part of the company's strategy to offer a varied range of drug and alcohol treatment options that work well within a Recovery Orientated Integrated System. For more about TTP call 01925 405040, email amanda.finch@tppcc.org or visit www.helpwithaddiction.co.uk

Advertise your jobs online at www.eata.org.uk

We have been busy posting up several job vacancies on our website, both for EATA and for members. Don't forget that it is free for members to have their adverts uploaded here and it is one of our most visited pages. So go and have a look at the current vacancies. For more information, email ann@eata.org.uk.

For more information about Camino Recovery's contact (0034) 95278 4228 or email gini@caminorecovery.com.



Pictured left to right are Lindsey Burrows, Bridgegate's Chief Executive, Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Tracy Cory – Bridgegate's Structured Day Care and Partnerships Manager

NEW APPOINTMENTS FOR ACMD

Two new appointments to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) have been announced today by the Home Secretary.

The new appointments, which will be for a period of three years, are:

- **Dr Anita Nolan, Consultant, Honorary Senior Lecturer in Oral Medicine, Dundee Dental Hospital, NHS Tayside**
- **Dr Fiona Measham: Senior Lecturer in Criminology at Lancaster University.**

ADDRESSING GAPS IN STANDARDS

Skills for Justice will be running a consultation on the community justice national occupational standards. Plans are underway to review the standards in order to address possible skills gaps in the justice sector. However, the group would like to know what specific needs are required by the drug and alcohol rehabilitative treatment sector.

The first steering group meeting for the consultation took place in London in May and we will release further details over the next few weeks.

If you have any comments on the community justice national occupational standards, please email them to secretariat@eata.org.uk and we will pass them onto the steering group for consideration.

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

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EATA – helping to ensure that people affected by substance dependencies get the treatment they need.