

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 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

Help shape the future of EATA

Do you want to help shape the future of EATA and develop the organisation's long-term strategy? Would you like to have an important role in the direction the organisation takes over 2009?

Over the coming months, EATA shall be sending out formal notifications to invite full members to apply for positions on our Board of Trustees, which is responsible for establishing and supporting the strategic direction of the organisation. 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.

"We would like to get our members thinking about the role the Board of Trustees plays in shaping our future and whether they would like to be a part of it," said Sharon Carson, EATA Chief Executive. "If members believe they can make this valuable commitment to EATA, we want to encourage them to apply when we send out the formal notifications."

The Board of Trustees for 2009 will be announced at the EATA Annual General Meeting which is scheduled to take place on 26 February 2009 in London. All members can attend the AGM (which will be held during the forthcoming EATA event of seminars and workshops, *New Directions: Clinical governance and quality assurance*, taking place on the same day – see the story on page 2).

Formal notifications to invite members to apply for the Board of Trustees will be sent out by EATA in due course, alongside further details about the AGM. If you are interested and would like to know more about being an EATA Board member, please email ghada@eata.org.uk or telephone 020 7553 9580.

Read what two current members of our board have to say about their experiences

Brian Dudley, Chief Executive, Broadway Lodge

"I was very pleased when told I had been elected to the Board of EATA. It is important within the field of addiction to have a say in all aspects of policy and funding which affects the way people are treated. The commitment and willingness to participate at meetings and helping with conferences and other aspects are small compared with the benefits and knowledge obtained.

"Looking forward it is essential that professionals from all areas of treatment come together and work together to ensure the best outcomes for people within treatment."

Richard Johnson, Executive Director, ANA Treatment Centres

"The Board comprises a group of senior executives who are willing to give up their own time, and are committed and dedicated to moving EATA forward. It is truly an honour and a real opportunity to work as an EATA Trustee and affect positive change for our field at a strategic level."

EATA consults members on DWP green paper

Following the controversial launch of proposals for the biggest shake up of the welfare system since the 1940s by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), members were able to make their voices heard at an event organised by EATA on 23 September.

A number of issues were raised in response to the Welfare Green Paper, *No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility* published in July.

They included:

- the contentious plan for claimants to be required to declare as a condition of benefit whether they use certain specified drugs, as part of moves to improve identification and referral to treatment providers
- the paper's overwhelming emphasis on crack and heroin use rather than all substance dependencies
- proposals to compel drug users to take up drug treatment or face benefit sanctions.

Members also had the opportunity during the meeting to find out more about specific elements of the proposals, such as drug co-ordinators which the DWP explained will help to ensure greater integration and partnership working between Jobcentre Plus and treatment providers. Although the role of drug co-ordinators has not yet been defined, they will be funded by the Department of Health and introduced into Jobcentre Plus from April 2009.

More was revealed about the "Treatment Allowance" which would effectively replace Jobseekers Allowance for a set period, while problem drug users stabilise in treatment.

EATA intends to incorporate comments discussed during the meeting as part of our formal submission to the department on the proposals. We are also carrying out an email consultation, to offer members who were unable to attend the meeting the chance to contribute to this submission.

Sharon Carson, EATA Chief Executive said, "This meeting aimed to give members the opportunity to consider the implications that the proposed new welfare regime will have. While there are positive elements in the paper, particularly in identifying those drug dependent claimants who may benefit from access to treatment, there are also proposals that concern EATA and our members and we intend to respond to the department on them.

"We are keen to emphasise in our response that not only do different people react differently to treatment and treatment options, but also that other associated problems such as health, including mental health and debt or homelessness may be present in terms of availability of support and access. The new welfare system proposed in the Green Paper needs to bear all these pressures in mind and consider the impact of added demands like benefit sanctions or being required to declare specific drug use on drug users."

If EATA members would like to more details about the email consultation, including the questionnaire, visit our website at www.eata.org.uk/policy or contact rachelclarke@eata.org.uk. All contributions should be sent to EATA before 10 October 2008.

EATA meets with DWP on benefit claims delays

During the summer of 2008 EATA carried out a consultation among its members on DWP payments following reports that DWP delays in processing benefit claims (housing, unemployment, etc) for clients in residential care were leaving providers out of pocket and unable to claim the costs back.

Several members responded with their comments on this issue, with all who responded explaining that they had experienced problems in the past and many adding that they continue to do so. During a meeting arranged with DWP in September, we handed over a report summarising these issues and asked for their response. EATA expects to hear back from the department over the autumn months.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from the EATA website at www.eata.org.uk/policy

Tackling new challenges in clinical governance and quality assurance

EATA is organising a day of seminars and workshops in early 2009 which will help the drug and alcohol treatment sector face the new challenges arising from the need to demonstrate clinical governance and quality standards in practice.

New directions: clinical governance and quality assurance, scheduled for Thursday 26 February 2009 in London, will offer an extensive programme of interactive and practical workshops. These will share knowledge, lessons learned and real-life experiences.

Leading professionals from across the health and social care spectrum who have already put into action forward thinking approaches to integrated governance and quality practice are being lined up to facilitate the workshops.

Sharon Carson, EATA Chief Executive, said, *"This should be an exciting and informative event to attend as we are planning an extensive programme that should be invaluable not only to service providers in all four tiers, but also to commissioners."*

More details about the programme and how to book places will be released over the next few weeks.

So, don't forget to save the date, 26 February 2009, in your diary now.

Members, who will be eligible for a discounted price, can register their interest in attending this conference by emailing rachelclarke@eata.org.uk to receive notification of when the booking form and programme is available.

Book your place at our Accreditation workshop

Demonstrating the quality of service you provide to individuals in drug and alcohol rehabilitative treatment is essential for helping informed purchase and choice.

Following the launch of EATA's Accreditation Scheme last year, members who want to find out more about what the scheme has to offer them may benefit from attending one of our one-day intensive training workshops first.

The latest workshop will take place on Tuesday 18 November at Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7PB.

EATA's Accreditation Scheme was set up to offer our members the opportunity to gain Accredited Provider Status. This 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.

The workshop will provide a thorough introduction to the scheme and the accreditation process, and give delegates the opportunity to discuss the scheme with Pauline Bissett, the Chair of the Accreditation Panel.

Representatives from service providers which have been through the accreditation process will also offer their practical experiences and tips for success.

We are offering the one-day workshop at a rate of £150 for the first delegate from a member organisation. Supplemental places for delegates from within the same organisation are available at discounted price of £50 per person. Lunch and all other refreshments are included.

For more information or a booking form, contact rachelclarke@eata.org.uk or tel 020 7553 9580

News in Brief

Voluntary position opens up at EATA

A part-time opportunity has opened up within EATA for a volunteer capable of helping with office admin, events and communications. We can be flexible for the right person, and lunch and travel expenses will be reimbursed. If you would like to know more about this position or know someone who may like to fill the post, why not get in touch.

For more details or to apply for this opportunity with your CV and cover letter, please email ghada@eata.org, uk or telephone 020 7553 9580. You can also post your application to EATA at 25 Corsham Street, London, N1 6DR.

New standards for managing volunteers published

The UK Workforce Hub has published a new set of standards to improve how volunteers are managed. People taking a National Vocational Qualification in volunteer management will have to show that they have met these standards.

The UK Workforce Hub is run by umbrella bodies the NCVQ, Nicva, the SCVO and the WCVA. Justin Davis Smith, chief executive of Volunteering England, added that the standards would help volunteer managers develop their own skills and professionalism.

TOP on top

The largest outcomes database for drug treatment in the world – Treatment Outcome Profile (TOP) – has been declared "fit for purpose" in a paper published by the peer review journal *Addiction*. The NTA receives around 200,000 completed TOPs, which measure the effectiveness of substance misuse treatment in England, via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System. The tool was validated through a sample of more than 1000 service users from 63 different treatment organisations. Colin Bradbury, NTA Treatment Delivery Manager, adds: *"TOP is proving to be a valid and reliable measure of change. Its applied use will help drive up quality and standards of drug treatment in England."*

A full abstract of the paper can be found at <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/121372221/abstract>

New members

A warm welcome to EATA's new members:

The New Life Addiction Centre

The Jatis Project

FARS

Verdun House

The Aesculop Community

Serenity House

Solida Centre

Nova Vida

Odessa Center

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

NEW GUIDE TO IMPROVE PRACTICE IN HOUSING FOR DRUG USERS

It is widely acknowledged throughout the treatment sector that people with substance dependencies face many obstacles in accessing the services that they are eligible for, despite the impact this can have on their health and social well-being. Now a new guide has been published on housing support to support local areas in preventing homelessness and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

The guide, *Improving Practice in Housing for Drug Users*, uses 13 real and recent case studies of good practice which demonstrate how housing, drug and mental health services worked together to find sustainable and successful housing solutions for drug users. Supporting information such as relevant national strategies, policies and guidance, and national, regional and local delivery structures are another key feature of the guide which aims to be an evolving, living document.

It aims to inform and help those involved in commissioning, planning and delivering housing, housing services, related residential rehabilitation and support services for drug users. The document will also be of interest to anyone working with drug users with related housing needs through the criminal justice system, health and social care (hospital and community related services) or those working with vulnerable groups.

Improving Practice in Housing for Drug Users is the result of a partnership project between DIP, the department of Communities and Local Government, NOMS, the Housing Corporation, the NTA and the Department of Health Care Services Improvement Partnership. Together, these agencies worked with a national stakeholder group, comprising of representatives from both housing and drug fields, including EATA, to identify practice and approaches that could inform and improve housing and housing related support for drug users.

You can download your copy of the guide at <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drug-interventions-programme/guidance/throughcare-aftercare/HousingandHomelessness/PracticeInHousingPracticePaper/>

News from our members

Film celebrates 21 years of recovery

As part of its 21st Anniversary celebrations, Addiction Recovery Agency (ARA) has produced a new short film, *Transforming Lives*, in which six former clients tell the story of their treatment journey.

The film, part funded by the National Lottery and Safer Bristol, is being used by ARA to promote a better understanding of addiction, especially the benefits of treatment and support of the kind the charity provides.

"We wanted to celebrate our 21st Anniversary Year by highlighting what treatment can achieve in transforming people's lives and these six moving stories do just that," said Peter Walker, chief executive of the Bristol-based treatment centre.

The film, which includes music written and played by former ARA clients, will be launched at a high profile event to mark the charity's anniversary on 3 October 2008.

Email ARA to get your copy, priced £15 plus postage: info@addictionrecovery.org.uk

Update your contacts book...

Life Works Community (London) moved to 10 Harley Street, London in September. In their new premises, they will continue to hold their Intensive Evening Programme, incorporating evening sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6pm – 9pm, plus a one-to-one session each week. This programme is proving very popular with those unable to commit to residential treatment due to work and family commitments.

Life Works have also been busy with their last minute preparations for the Innovative Treatment for Eating Disorders Conference which takes place on 8 October at Regent College, Regents Park, London.

Mount Carmel Charter Mark success

After undertaking its regular assessment for the national standard for excellence in customer service, Mount Carmel was successful in retaining the award.

A spokesperson said, "As far as we are aware Mount Carmel remains the sole UK treatment center to have achieved this standard which reflects a genuine understanding of the needs and preferences of our residents, day clients and the community."

Charter Mark is being replaced with the Customer Service Excellence standard which the service will be evaluated against when the current certification ends in June 2011

New services for Phoenix Futures

Phoenix Futures have spread their wings during a summer of new developments, including new CARAT services within the Eastern prison region and setting up an alcohol service across all north London Boroughs, working in partnership with the London Probation Service.

However, along with the rest of the sector, Phoenix Futures were shocked and saddened by the news of Adapt entering into administration. A spokesperson said, "We agreed to take on their prison contracts in order to ensure continuity of service provision and protect the staff working within these services and their service users. We appreciate the impact of this situation on staff and have been working hard to help them begin to move on from this difficult situation and welcome them fully into Phoenix Futures."

Crossroads launches new six-week programme

The Antigua-based Crossroads Centre has launched a new six-week programme of services aimed at those clients with prolonged detoxification needs, in need of more time to adjust to the treatment

environment and have had multiple treatment experiences, and require more concentrated work on sustained recovery tools and relapse prevention.

For information on the programme, contact admit@crossroadsantigua.org

ANA Treatment Centre opens third stage treatment programme



A fully supported Third Stage treatment service has been launched by ANA following a year of development. Libby Reid, ANA CEO, and her team started the new programme this month, in response to increasing demand and specific requests from referring agencies.

The service is open to clients who have completed ANA Secondary Programme or any other similar Secondary Stage treatment, subject to assessment. ANA now offers Primary, Secondary and Third Stage Treatment and structured life-time after care sessions for all former clients in accommodation that has been modernised to a very high standard.

Please contact Sally McCaffrey, Third Stage service manager, or Libby on 02392 341444 for more information, brochures and referral or to arrange a visit.

Remember as a member... EATA directory

Are your details on our directory up to date? Why not check www.eata.org.uk/eata-directory to see what's there. It's easy to change your submission – simply fill in the online form and we'll make the amendments you require.

EATA consultation set to find recovery common ground

The UK Drug Policy Commission's recovery statement (the result of a consensus group representing a wide range of perspectives) prompted some welcome debate from the drug treatment field and played a prominent role at the NTA conference in June. EATA believes the field can really benefit from greater clarity in this area and so we will shortly be consulting with members to find out your views: both on the UKDPC statement and on treatment outcomes more generally.

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."

Although the statement has sometimes been misinterpreted as excluding abstinence-based modalities, the phrase 'voluntarily-sustained control over substance use' was carefully chosen by the consensus group to be inclusive of a range of approaches, including abstinence. In fact, one of the key issues the group highlighted is that a focus on recovery is not dependent on, or guaranteed by, any specific treatment modality.

If that is accepted, then the question that remains is what characteristics do services need in order for them to be recovery-orientated? The UKDPC project offers us some clues: it emphasises a focus on the individual service user (considered to be "at the core" of recovery), and it gives as much weight to concepts such as 'wellbeing' as it does to the specific problem of drug use.

We hope to explore this question further through our consultations – look out for more news on these in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, find out more about the UKDPC recovery statement at http://www.ukdpc.org.uk/Recovery_Consensus_Statement.shtml

Events

Roads 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 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, visit
www.pavpub.com or tel: 0870 890 1080

Prisons and beyond...2008

16-17 October 2008
Birmingham

The two-day conference, organised by Feelgood Events for NOMS, Adfam, FDAP and EATA, is aimed at professionals working in and around criminal justice settings.

This is the third year the conference has been run and builds on the success of previous events. This year's conference focuses on drug treatment services in custody and in the community to ensure timely effective continuity of care, and is targeted at frontline staff and managers in prisons, probation, criminal justice integrated teams and the wider criminal justice field.

For more information, email
mala@prisonsandbeyond.org or visit www.prisonsandbeyond.org

EATA Accreditation training workshop

18 November 2009
London

The workshop provides a thorough introduction to the EATA Accreditation Scheme and

the accreditation process. It also offers the opportunity to discuss the scheme with Pauline Bissett, the Chair of the Accreditation Panel, and with providers who have practical experience of completing the process.

Full programme and booking information can be obtained from rachelclarke@eata.org.uk or by visiting www.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

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. Members will be eligible for a discounted price.

Register your interest in attending this conference by emailing rachelclarke@eata.org.uk and receive notification of when the booking form and programme is available.

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 (in the winter of 2008) 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.