

# **EATA e-bulletin**

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**June-2009**

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

## **Coming up in this month's e-bulletin...**

- Results of our members' survey
- News about our Chief Executive
- Have your say on Home Office websites
- Consultations on new drug controls

## **Results of our members' survey**

We have now completed the evaluation of the feedback we received from our members' survey sent out in May.

The replies we received will be used by EATA to continue to develop its communications, policy work and membership services. In the near future, the recommendations will be incorporated into the workplans of the incoming Communications and Development Manager, the Membership Services Officer and the Policy and Development Officer.

Among the future activities that respondents said they wanted were more regional meetings, more networking opportunities and training that focuses on developing more effective and efficient approaches to treatment.

Keep an eye out for more news about our developing programme of activities and services on the website and in future editions of the monthly e-bulletin and quarterly Briefing.

Remember that you don't need to wait until we carry out a survey to let us know what you'd like EATA to be doing. We welcome your input and feedback at all times so that we can improve our services and member benefits. Simply email us at [secretariat@eata.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@eata.org.uk) any time!

## **News about our Chief Executive**

This is just a reminder to let you know that our Chief Executive Sharon Carson goes on maternity leave in July. Interviews for a new CEO will be taking place later this month and he or she will be responsible for both the day-to-day and strategic management of EATA's resources and activities. We'll have more information about this appointment on our website and in a future edition of the Briefing.

## **Have your say on Home Office websites**

The Home Office digital communication team are conducting research into what stakeholders think of their websites.

The team is holding focus groups in Leeds and Cardiff in June to which they hope stakeholders from the drug and alcohol treatment sector would like to attend. The workshop details can be found below.

### **Leeds (central location) - Friday 5 June**

Group 4 - Professionals working in crime prevention, enforcement and community safety

Group 5 - Professionals and voluntary workers dealing with alcohol or drugs related issues

**Cardiff - Tuesday 9 June**

Group 6 - CDRP (CSP) authorities and partners, professionals working in crime prevention, enforcement and community safety

Group 7 - Professionals and voluntary workers dealing with alcohol or drugs related issues

For both these workshops the team will be asking for feedback on Home Office websites like Crime Reduction [www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk) or Tackling drugs.

Changing lives [www.drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk).

If you'd be keen to attend any of these meetings, please email Ann Arrizabalaga ([ann@eata.org.uk](mailto:ann@eata.org.uk)) for more information.

## Consultations on new drug controls

New controls for a range of substances including GBL were set out in May in two public consultations launched by the Home Secretary Jacqui Smith.

The aim is to prevent the misuse of GBL, 1,4 BD, BZP and a range of anabolic steroids as part of the Home Office's drug strategy and its commitment to responding to the changing drugs environment and emerging threats to public health.

GBL (gamma-butyrolactone) and its precursor 1,4 BD (1,4-butanediol) have wide legitimate uses as solvents but can be converted into the Class C controlled drug GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyric acid) in the body. The consultation sets out three options for control and invites industry, commerce and the general public to set out to the Government the potential impacts of the different approaches. These responses will inform the action that Government takes forward.

The second consultation sets out the Government's intention to control BZP (1-benzylpiperazine) as a Class C drug. It also makes clear the Home Office's aim, in line with the advice published today from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, to control a group of related compounds or substituted piperazines that have the same or very similar harms to BZP. The consultation also sets out the Government's intention to update the list of steroids currently controlled as Class C drugs by adding a further 24 anabolic steroids and two non-steroidal substances to the class.