

EATA e-bulletin

September-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...

- Chief Executive's update – the story so far
- Skills for Justice – consultation on governance
- Care Quality Commission – latest news on new registration requirements
- Drug-related deaths on the increase
- Stop Press!

Chief Executive's update – EATA membership hits the 100 mark

Firstly, I would like to welcome five new members – BAC O'Connor (Burton Addiction Centre), West Glamorgan Council on Alcohol and Drugs Abuse, the South Coast Recovery Centre, and City Beacon. We have now broken the 100 mark for members!

So what have the new team been up to? Apart from getting to know each other and realising that we click we are delivering a programme of events, getting to know the Government Departments and establishing relationships and are beginning to review the position of the field in preparation for the next Government whoever that may be!

I have had meetings with the Department of Health, Home Office Head of Drugs Strategy, the Chief Executive of the NTA and their Director of Communications and am going to meet the Ministry of Justice Drugs Lead and NOMS. I can say that I have been warmly received by all. In addition, I have been trying to get out there to visit as many of you as possible, along with Louise and Katie, which has been a few to date. That's been the exciting part of all this. Before used to I used to compete with you all now I am collaborating. What strikes me is there is a lot of talent and creativity in our field. We so need to pull together and harness this creative force into facing the next government on behalf of our clients who deserve a far better deal and an easier recovery and re-integration journey than offered by the treatment system as it stands.

To read the rest of Peter's update please click [here](#).



Skills for Justice Consultation

After 5 years of existence the Skills for Justice Board has decided it is time to review the make-up of the board and how Skills for Justice is governed. They believe it is time to make sure that the governance remains as effective as it has been in the past. EATA currently sit on the Skills for Justice Community Justice Committee and in this role have been asked to contribute as they are keen for employers and stakeholders to shape the direction of the business and holding

them to account. This exercise will help to ensure continued effective governance and decision-making while opening up arrangements to engage a wider range of interests.

EATA will be submitting a response on behalf of our members please [click here](#) for the questions and further details. Please send your thoughts and any concerns to <mailto:katie.hill@eata.org.uk>.

CQC new registration requirements – the latest

These changes affect many of our members. The changes are wide-ranging and affect services in the community as well as residential providers. The only providers falling through the gap are those who provide structured day care. You will need to register with the CQC from next summer, and for those unfamiliar with the inspection process you should start thinking about what evidence you can provide to meet the new guidelines for compliance. For those who are already registered under the existing Care Standards Act it is simply changing the 'language' in which you report to the CQC. The new guidelines are now outcome-based for example, "What should people who use services experience?"

The CQC are keen to listen to the views of the drug and alcohol treatment sector and are therefore holding another **consultation workshop** on the **7th September**, which EATA will be attending. Please do send your views and concerns to Katie Hill at Katie.hill@eata.org.uk.

EATA will be holding a number of regional events in November – January, which will provide further guidance on preparing your facilities for inspection. **Look out for your invite!**

Drug-related deaths on the increase

Statistics by the Office for National Statistics released on the 26th August show a worrying increase in the number of deaths related to drug-poisoning. In particular, figures showed an increase in the number of cocaine-related deaths, which have increased by 20% from 2007. Deaths related to heroin are also at their highest since 2001. In comparison to alcohol though, figures still remain comparably low increasing the pressure on government to tackle rising alcohol related problems.

The case for effective drug and alcohol treatment is once again illustrated by these findings. Tough action on drug dealers, tackling drug supply and prescribing methadone all have their place but when it comes to helping people recover from their addiction treatment and the services many of members provide is one of the most effective ways to reduce drug and alcohol dependency in the UK.

To read the report in full, please [click here](#).

Stop Press!

Watch out for some exciting changes to the EATA website. We will launch a revamped website in coming weeks so keep an eye out. We are planning regular video profiles of our members to upload onto the website so I will be in touch with you over the coming weeks to see what you are up to and if you are happy for me to come along and film some footage of the good work that is being carried out by our members. If you are interested in appearing on the small screen please contact me at Katie.hill@eata.org.uk

Don't forget we also have a new e-group on Google, which you should have received an invite for – any problems please let me know. This is a great way to keep in touch with each other and we really want to make this work for our members.

EATA are also twittering or tweeting on the networking website twitter. Make sure you follow us at www.twitter.com/EATAUK

Have a great September!