

JANUARY 2011

# eATA e-bulletin



## In this issue

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Interim / Chief Executives Update | Page 1   |
| Welcome New Members               | Page 1   |
| Funding Allocations               | Page 1   |
| Payment by results (pilots)       | Page 2   |
| Skills Consortium Launches        | Page 2   |
| Drug Strategy                     | Page 2/3 |
| Drug Sector Partnership -         |          |
| Consensus Statement               | Page 3   |
| And Finally                       | Page 4   |

## Interim Chief Executive

I will be the Interim Chief Executive for eATA for the next six months. I have had a long association with the organisation, having been a board member and Chair for 6 years up to 2008. I am also the current Chair of the Accreditation Panel.

I am looking forward to working with all of you over the current months and to assisting you in navigating through the changing business landscape. If you would like to discuss any aspect of eATA's work please don't hesitate to contact me on [billp@eata.org.uk](mailto:billp@eata.org.uk) Bill Puddicombe.

## Chief Executives' Update

December was another month for big announcements with the launch of the new drug strategy. eATA attended a reception for the launch of the strategy with key introductions from the departmental ministers responsible including Anne Milton MP, Minister for Public Health and James Brokenshire MP, Minister for Crime Prevention. As expected the strategy had recovery at its heart with outcomes focussing on stable housing, freedom from drug dependency and gainful employment. It also reflects the coalition's desire for localism and light touch regulation. We also had the release of the Public Health England White Paper, confirming that drugs and alcohol would both come under this new entity and the NTA would have its functions transferred from 2012.

## Welcome New Members!

eATA would like to welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Association.

1. Martin McGroarty
2. Silvia Baba Neal
3. Mark Rich
4. Mariana Larios Rovirosa
5. Diana Sharp
6. Swivel Care and Support
7. Wellington Lodge
8. Westcliffe House

A detailed summary was covered in our recent policy briefing – if you missed this please contact [louisew@eata.org.uk](mailto:louisew@eata.org.uk) to request a copy. I would like to wish everyone a happy new year – looking ahead we will be navigating pilot areas for payment by results, further announcements from the Department of Health and more.

## Funding allocations for drug misuse treatment announced – 2011-12

Following on from the recent release of the revised drug strategy, funding allocations for 2011-12 have been released.

The Pooled Treatment Budget is more or less the same as 2010/11 at £406.7 million. From 2011 most funding for drug treatment in the community and prison will become the responsibility of the Department of Health with the aim of removing some bureaucratic barriers to the deployment of resources.

In summary, the overall figure from government to support delivery of treatment and recovery in 2011-12 will be £501.7m. For further details please visit the NTA website by [clicking here](#).

**eATA e-bulletin**

JANUARY 2011

## Payment by Results pilots:

The Department of Health is currently inviting expressions of interest for pilots of the proposed Payment by Results (PbR) system for drug treatment and recovery. This is a potentially exciting and challenging development for our field. First expressions of interest (Pre Qualification Questionnaires) are being returned by the 20<sup>th</sup> January. We imagine that, given the short timescale, Partnerships (DAATS) will be not be able to consult service providers before returning the PQQ.

It may be a good idea, however, for members to talk to commissioners about the pilots and whether they are considering applying to run one.

We would be interested to talk to members about any issues that they have about PbR in general and the pilots in particular. Providers' contribution to the "co-design" stage of these pilots will be critical in their success.

## Skills Consortium launches

The Substance Misuse Skills Consortium launched on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010. An online hub, the [skills hub](#), offers easy access to hundreds of resources to help front line drug and alcohol workers improve services and achieve better results for those in their care.

eATA is represented on the Executive Committee of the Consortium and has been supporting the development of the skills hub over the last twelve months. We would urge members to visit the website and take advantage of this fantastic online resource, which aims to help develop skills across the sector. The new resource also provides an opportunity for the field to share best practice and work together towards recovery for service users.

A challenging programme of work for the consortium in the coming year will support services in meeting the recovery ambitions of their users.

It will include forming a sector-led consensus on how to develop the evidence base that supports effective treatment, ensuring that qualifications and training meet the needs of treatment services, and adding even more online resources to the Skills Hub. To visit the hub, please [click here](#).

## Drug Strategy

Reducing demand, restricting supply, and building recovery in communities are the three themes that will guide the structure of the work to be done in the Government's plan to tackle the drugs culture in the UK.

Building recovery in communities begins with the recovery of an individual. This strategy seeks to look at recovery through the lens of a person-centred journey.

A system that is local will allow for freedom to design and commission services, reward and increase competitive tendering, and provide more accountability.

In relation to the proposed scheme of Payment by Results the government has set out the outcome domains it will be using to measure success. These include sustained employment; secure housing; improved relationships; reduced crime; and freedom from dependence on drugs and alcohol.

Recovery communities, where recovered individuals can inspire those going through treatment, are among other programs directed towards achieving a recovered community. Support for children and families of dependent individuals are also seen as a component of the strategy.

eATA has continued to press for changes around the Employment Support Allowance, which has been addressed to some extent in the drugs strategy: ESA has been listed as an automatic entitlement to individuals in residential rehabilitation and would be eligible for auto-of work benefits.

JANUARY 2011

Localism will play a huge part in the reforms taking place. Mechanisms such as the Police and Crime Commissioners and the Early Intervention Grant will give local authorities the ability to act more efficiently and at a personal level that the central government cannot. The government is keen to intervene in the early stages of life to prevent drug use from ever occurring. They cite family-focused interventions as among those that have evidence to support their success. Evidence-based approaches are the hope of the coalition, for example, learning from other countries. Making information available is also a huge part of the plan. Echoing the Information Revolution, the strategy calls for education and information to be open and available. Even within colleges, this program would like to see access to "advice and support that they need as part of wider health and welfare services." Restricting the supply of drugs will include law enforcement reforms that increase localism. Reducing the drug supply within prisons will also see itself as a component of the reform.

"Legal highs" are also addressed in the document, suggesting that these "substances can pose a serious threat, especially to the health of young people." The legal framework for these drugs needs redesigning, and the government seeks to do this with immediacy.

"While some of the detail of the reforms are being developed by specific Departments through Green and White papers and legislation, this strategy establishes the framework for all of the activity to address drugs and deliver system-wide reform." This Drug Strategy certainly continues to build on

the ambition of the coalition government to tackle drug and alcohol problems in the UK, but implementation of these goals will be defined in the future as it is developed.

To view the Drug Strategy click here:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/drugs/drug-strategy/drug-strategy-2010?view=Binary>

## **Drug Sector Partnership Consensus statement**

This is a reminder to have a look at the drug sector partnership consensus statement and add your name to an ever-growing list of stakeholders from across the substance misuse sector.

The consensus statement was drafted by four national charities including eATA (the Drug Sector Partnership) - Adfam, DrugScope, eATA and the Alliance - and is supported by many other charities and organisations.

If you or your organisation would like to 'sign up' in support of the consensus statement please email your details to [info@drugsectorpartnership.org.uk](mailto:info@drugsectorpartnership.org.uk) Please include your name, your organisation, postal address and a telephone contact number.

We are inviting chief executives/directors or the chair of trustees to sign the statement on behalf of their organisation, but also welcome support from individuals. Only your name and organisation (not your contact details) will be published. To view the consensus statement, please [click here](#).

**eATA e-bulletin**

## And Finally...

- **Tendering Opportunities;** London Borough of Hillingdon is inviting expressions of interest to tender for the provision of a floating support service for offenders, single homeless people and people with substance misuse issues in the Borough. The contract for this service is for a three-year period commencing July 2011 with possible annual extension, after review, for up to a 2 further years. TUPE will apply to this contract. Interested suppliers wishing to tender must log on and register on the following website in order to register their interest and to access open tender documentation: <https://www.londontenders.org> Closing date for receipt of completed tenders is 25th January 2011. For any questions please contact: Sally Smith, Procurement Executive by emailing [ssmith10@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:ssmith10@hillingdon.gov.uk) or telephone 01895 277932.
- **Training Opportunities;** Professional Development Award in Assessment and Care planning for more information see the Open University link <http://www.open.ac.uk/oufdap/pics/d104633.pdf>
- **Members News;** Open Minds is the first organisation with Quasi Residential Facilities in Wales to achieve registration with the CSSIW. The Sober House is now fully staffed at all times. With this registration they can now offer reassurance they provide the right environment for clients.
- **Accreditation News;** eATA is currently in discussions with commissioners about the our accreditation scheme. For further details please contact Louise [lwalsh@eata.org.uk](mailto:lwalsh@eata.org.uk)



## eATA e-bulletin

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.

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