



TREATING ADDICTIONS  
TRANSFORMING LIVES

## E-BULLETIN

Attached: Coalition Agreement  
Gamma Butyrolactone Dependence and Withdrawal - New challenges for -  
Addiction Psychiatrists

**June 2010**

**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 Executives Update**
- **Commissioning and Tendering Workshops**
- **Meeting for Tier 4 providers**
- **Coalition agreement – the implications for the drug and alcohol treatment sector**
- **Members Questions – Detoxifying and treating individuals with GHB addiction**
- **DWP payments and difficulties with Employment Support Allowance (ESA) – we need your help!**
- **Important changes to CQC's assessment of adult social care services**
- **CRB News**
- **The Drug Sector Partnership – Adfam consultation**
- **And finally...**

### **Chief Executives Update**

The team is now settled into our new offices in Vauxhall and enjoying the new office location. We joined other exhibitors from across the world at UKESAD in May and attended workshops and had some interesting conversations with representatives of treatment centres in the United States and eATA members who exhibited there such as Action on Addiction, Castle Craig, ANA Treatment Centres and Western Counselling.

I visited Ravenscourt down in Bognor Regis which is a 12 week 12-step primary stage treatment centre I was able to talk with clients and staff. There are more visits planned in June and July to Broadway Lodge, Focus 12 and ARA. I look forward to seeing these centres.

Despite a delay, on the 11<sup>th</sup> May we discovered who would be running the country going forward. In what is an historic agreement the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats signed a formal coalition agreement, which could potentially see the former rivals in government for the next five years. It didn't take long for them to reconcile their differences and draw up a programme for the next parliament. See attached for a more detailed summary of what policy proposals could have implications for the sector.

## Commissioning and Tendering Workshops

Workshops on the commissioning and tender process are coming up on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010 10am – 12.30 and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 10 – 12.30 at the Barcelo Oxford Hotel. They are aimed at giving providers of residential services the opportunity to gain an insight into the commissioning and tendering process. There is no cost for the workshops. To book a place email [sarah.roberts@oxfordshiredaat.org](mailto:sarah.roberts@oxfordshiredaat.org) and request a booking form.

## Meeting for Tier 4 providers

eATA are planning to convene a meeting on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July in Central London** for members providing **tier 4 services** and/or who have an interest in **residential provision** to discuss issues affecting them and to develop a consistent discourse and position in conversations with the new administration in Westminster.

Further details including the timing and venue will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

If you are interested in attending please email [volunteer@eata.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@eata.org.uk) or call Katie on 020 7820 8130.

## Coalition agreement – the implications for the drug and alcohol treatment sector

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May an historic document was revealed by the new Conservative-Lib Dem coalition government, which took office on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010. The document was extensive - covering banking reform, the NHS, criminal justice, electoral reform and education, amongst others. There are a number of areas the new government's agreement will have an impact on the sector – drugs policy, 'Big Society' and changes to the way the NHS and commissioning works. Attached is a pick of the policies, which could affect or interest you as drug and alcohol treatment providers and/or service users.

## Members Questions - Detoxifying and treating individuals with GHB addiction

The answer to question 1 (from previous e-bulletin); ***Do any of you have any experience of, or information on detoxification and treating individuals for GHB?***” has been kindly provided via Gina Dormer, Broadreach House from Dr Siobhan Morris from the Ritson Clinic Royal Edinburgh Hospital. The presentation entitled ***Gamma Butyrolactone Dependence and Withdrawal - New challenges for Addiction Psychiatrists*** is attached to this e-bulletin. We hope you find it useful reading.

If any members would like to submit a question for fellow members for the next e-bulletin then please get in touch with Louise.

## Delays in processing DWP payments and difficulties with the new Employment Support Allowance (ESA) – we need your help!

A number of members have raised with eATA various issues concerning the DWP and the Employment Support Allowance. Initially problems appear to be predominantly affecting the residential sector and those providing longer treatment programmes. eATA is keen to find out whether other members are experiencing similar difficulties either in delays to processing of payments or in the case of the ESA the eligibility of clients being challenged. eATA carried out a similar consultation during the summer of 2008 and in light of the recent changes in the benefits system and the introduction of the ESA we thought it important to follow this up and identify any new issues, and establish whether things have improved in the last two years.

You may have received a call from our new intern, Chelsea in the last week asking the following questions. If you have not had chance to talk with Chelsea it would be great if you could take a couple of minutes to provide answers so we can pull together a detailed report for DWP.

1. Please explain what problems you have had with DWP/ESA
2. Have you managed to recover the full costs and if so, how?
3. What happened when you discussed these problems with the DWP or the local area partnership?
4. How delays in processing benefit claims for clients affected your service (or treatment)?
5. What Offices have you been having particular difficulties with?
6. Other comments and feedback

## Important Changes to CQC's Assessment of Adult Social Care Services

The CQC is working closely with the adult social care sector in developing a new system to replace quality ratings (star ratings) for registered social care services.

The current quality ratings system will cease ahead of the new registration system and new standards, which come into force on 1 October under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

CQC has already begun talks with stakeholders to discuss how a new system might work. It will also draw on feedback from the recent consultation on assessments of quality in 2010-11 and will launch a further programme of work later this year to develop different options.

Inspections due to take place between now and September would be brought forward. By the end of June, CQC will have completed inspections at all "poor" and "adequate" services that are due an inspection and "good" and "excellent" services that have not been inspected for three years.

Until 1 October, CQC will continue to conduct risk-based inspections when it receives information indicating concerns about safety and will continue to publish the inspection reports on its website. These may be key inspections, which could result in change to a rating, or a random inspection, which will not involve a rating.

CQC will also inspect services if it needs further information to assess applications to re-register under the new registration system.

From 1 October, inspections will be conducted under the new model of regulation to assess compliance with the new essential standards of quality and safety. Findings from inspections will be published on the social care services directory.

It is important that members are aware of the new model so we would urge you to read the following guidance provided by CQC: [Read the press release](#) . If you are a health or social care professional visit the guidance for professionals section: [Visit our guidance for professionals section](#)

## CRB News

At eATA we have been looking at the cost of processing CRB checks for our members and as a result we unfortunately will have to increase the charges with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010. The cost of the service not only covers the time taken to process the applications but also the postal charges, and as we post every item by Royal Mail Recorded Delivery (unlike most CRB processing services), the postal costs represent a sizeable portion of the administration charge.

The new processing fee from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 is now £12 for eATA members per CRB application and £16 for non members.

CRB charges for the various checks are;

- Standard CRB check £26.00
- Enhanced CRB check £36.00

Standard and Enhanced CRB checks are free of charge to volunteers\*

- ISA Adult First check £6.00

**So, total charges are;**

**Standard CRB check £38 (£42 non-members)**

**Enhanced CRB check £48 (£52 non-members)**

**Standard CRB check VOLUNTEER £12 (£16 non-members)**

**Enhanced CRB check VOLUNTEER £12 (£16 non-members)**

**ISA Adult First check £6 (no additional admin fee)**

I would be grateful if you could make a note of this and ensure that all CRB signed paperwork is accompanied by payment according to the new charge from 1<sup>st</sup> June. We apologise for the price increase but it is a necessary move and we feel that the service still represents excellent value for money.

## **The Drug Sector Partnership – Adfam consultation**

As you may know four national charities – Adfam, The Alliance, DrugScope and eATA – have formed the Drug Sector Partnership to support community and voluntary sector organisations working in the drug and alcohol sector. The Partnership brings together charities working with families and carers, treatment providers, service users, drug education and prevention practitioners and others working to reduce the harms caused by drug and alcohol misuse. It is funded by the Department of Health.

As part of this partnership, Adfam is carrying out the workforce development strand of the project. They want to help develop a competent and trained family support workforce in the drug and alcohol sector and want all the hard work being done by practitioners to be supported and recognised. They are currently mapping National Occupational Standards and looking at existing qualifications. They have also collected role profiles from family support services.

Next they will be holding **consultations** for service-managers and practitioners to examine draft role profiles for family support workers and need your expert input to the project — the knowledge, skills, opinions and experiences of the people working in the field. The consultations will be held in:

London, July 6 2010 (afternoon) Leeds, July 13 2010 PM (afternoon)

If you would like to attend or have any other questions please contact Oliver Standing at Adfam on **020 7553 7656** and **[o.standing@adfam.org.uk](mailto:o.standing@adfam.org.uk)**

## **And finally...**

- eATA would like to welcome Chelsea Riccobelli, our new intern from the CAPA programme. Chelsea will be with us until the 1<sup>st</sup> July and will be helping the team with various projects over the coming weeks. Chelsea is a fourth year student from the University of Pittsburgh studying Psychology.
- Don't forget we now have a meeting space available to members at our new offices.