

MARCH 2011

eATA e-bulletin



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Chief Executive's Update

As this Bulletin is going out we are preparing to send the first issue of our new publication, the *Difference*, to all drug and alcohol commissioners across the UK. This document, a collection of good practice ideas and case studies, shows the scale of the contribution that eATA members are making to the UK's diverse and vibrant treatment sector.

This diversity is worth protecting and some recent reports from members have highlighted the risks from disinvestment from a number of different sources. Recently we looked at the Supporting People fund and how changes in this have resulted in reductions in service in some parts of the country. We are keen to hear from members who have knowledge of funds from PCTs, Local Authorities or other statutory bodies being withdrawn from drug and/or alcohol treatment services. We will use this information to keep the pressure up on the NTA and other Government Departments to protect the gains that we have made in building treatment services across the last 10 years.

Lastly I would like to recommend to members the recent report from Alcohol Concern – "[Making alcohol a health priority: opportunities to curb alcohol harms and reduce rising costs](#)". This report is one that highlights a concern that we have raised for many years – the need for more attention and funding for alcohol treatment services. As Baroness Hayter and Don Shenker say in their foreword: "*While smoking and drug abuse have received vast attention and support from the public purse, services for alcohol misuse have remained shamefully under-invested in.*"

I know that we would all agree with this.

Welcome New Members

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

- Alexander Libreri
- Hope House Retreat
- Panacea Healthcare

eATA Launch...*the Difference*

Today sees the launch of the new publication *the Difference*, a new project to raise awareness of the range of services that members are providing in helping clients achieve recovery and a better quality of life. Providing commissioners with regular communications on members' work is necessary to ensure it remains in the forefront of the commitment to help achieve recovery and better outcomes for drug and alcohol misusers. The first edition has been posted on our website to increase wider public awareness on the difference that member's are making – click here to view the document:

<http://www.eata.org.uk/publications/>

Each edition will have a designated theme with the first being 'Working with the family to achieve Recovery'.

The next edition to be released on 1st May 2011 and will be entitled: 'Community Involvement and Volunteering schemes'.

Please get in touch to have your service included. Alternatively email us a short piece on how your organisation works with the community and/or how your volunteering scheme works effectively. Contact Nina or Erin volunteer@eata.org.uk or call 020 7820 8130

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Building Recovery in Communities

We are working on an aid to responding to the BRIC consultation, outlining the kind of responses that eATA members have indicated that they are likely to make and some of the areas where you may wish to express concerns/ideas.

This will be with all members before the 11th March.

For member's information, the NTA is asking people who are interested in drug treatment and recovery to help design a new framework which will support local areas in delivering the government's new drug strategy.

Responses are required by 2nd May 2011. The new framework would also provide better access to a complete range of services to support people and sustain recovery. It will be called "Building Recovery in Communities".

The NTA's 25 page questionnaire asks people to provide examples of good practice to support their answers, and will allow people to express their views.

The NTA website detailing this consultation is <http://www.nta.nhs.uk/recovery-consultation.aspx> and the questionnaire can be found at <http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/bricquestionnaire.pdf> questions can be emailed to yourviews@nta-nhs.org.uk

Radical shake-up of CRB / ISA schemes

More than nine million people working or volunteering with children and vulnerable adults will no longer need to register and be monitored by the state following an overhaul of the checking regime.

The government has unveiled plans to scale back the vetting and barring scheme (VBS) and criminal records regime to "common sense levels while ensuring vulnerable groups are appropriately protected". The proposals, which come after a comprehensive review of the existing system, include:

- *the merging of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to form a streamlined new body providing a proportionate barring and criminal records checking service*

- *a large reduction of the number of positions requiring checks to just those working most closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults; portability of criminal records checks between jobs to cut down on needless bureaucracy*
- *an end to a requirement for those working or volunteering with vulnerable groups to register with the VBS and then be continuously monitored by the ISA*
- *stopping employers who knowingly request criminal records checks on individuals who are not entitled to them*

The government will also keep the scope of CRB checks under review to ensure that they are not disincentivising people putting themselves forward for volunteering.

The legislative changes will be included in the Protection of Freedoms Bill. Subject to parliamentary approval, the Bill is expected to become law by early 2012. The new regime would be introduced as soon as possible after this.

The timeline of developments.

1. Registration for the first wave of workers and volunteers with the vetting and barring scheme (VBS) was halted on 15 June pending the remodelling of the system back to common sense levels.
2. The VBS report makes a number of recommendations including a new streamlined body to provide a national barring system and criminal records disclosure service. The new scheme will also capitalise on technological developments to provide an online checking function for employers and applicants whilst allowing checks to be transferred easily from one company to another.
3. The review of the criminal records regime was carried out by the independent adviser on criminality information, Sunita Mason. The government will make a full response to the whole review once this work is complete.
4. The review sought views from a range of partners and members of the public via the 'Your Freedom' website which called for portability of CRB checks from one job to another. This is one of the proposals that will be introduced under the new scheme.
5. The latest information on the can be found on the [Direct Gov website \(new window\)](#) or [www.businesslink.gov.uk/vbs \(new window\)](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/vbs)

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VAADA conference 2011

Katie Hill - *Comparative news from Australia*

On 17th February 2011 I was fortunate enough to attend the latest biennial conference held by VAADA (Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association Inc), discussing the current topics and issues affecting the drug and alcohol sector (AOD sector) in Victoria and Australia as a whole. VAADA is the leading peak organisation in the state of Victoria and like eATA represents service providers by providing leadership and representation for AOD providers. The two-day conference brought together providers, and interested parties from the State of Victoria to discuss the way forward for AOD treatment. In the same vein as the UK Victoria has recently had a change of government from a Labour administration to a Liberal one. The keynote speaker was the newly appointed Minister who set the scene for the future of AOD services in Victoria.

Melbourne is the urban centre of Victoria and as such the majority of services are located here and as any urban centre bears the brunt of drug and alcohol use in the state. Since being in Melbourne I have become aware of the hot political issue that anti-social behaviour, drug use and alcohol use has become. Many clubs open 24 hours and figures (Victoria wide) highlighted by the Hon. Mary Wooldridge, Minister for Mental Health, Women's Affairs and Community Services, indicate an increase of 45% for alcohol-related hospital admissions and a 55% increase in alcohol-related assaults.

Date for the diaries: eATA Regional Conferences There will be three regional meetings this year;

Bristol Wednesday 4th May

London Friday 6th May

Manchester Monday 9th May

A heroin epidemic in the late 1990s and early 2000s still leaves its mark with a strong focus on harm reduction programmes. The big issue currently appears to be the rise of crystal methamphetamine, a popular drug on the party circuit, particularly amongst young people. In a presentation by Alison Ritter, Acting Director of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre the audience learnt that cannabis use was on the decrease, along with heroin and cocaine (apart from a spike in New South Wales). Australia's proximity to the Golden Triangle, one of the most extensive opium-producing areas in Asia is something that raises its head in most of my conversations with other delegates.

An interesting presentation by John Challis, Director of Training and Technical Assistance at the NYS Center for Excellence in Integrated Care, on difficulties around provision for dual diagnosis clients. He provided a list of current trends in the AOD sector, many of which mirror what is happening in the UK currently. These include recovery-orientated; integrated; person-centred; culturally competent; trauma informed; motivational; measurable outcomes; evidence-based. My own personal view talking to people in the sector here is that Australia is slightly 'behind' the UK in relation the recovery agenda but is heading the same way. I attended a couple of workshops covering work with the aboriginal community and transitioning from the criminal justice system.

The presentations on the criminal justice system were particularly interesting highlighting work done with families and children. Members might also be interested in checking out Caraniche, a private firm providing prison-based treatment leading innovative approaches including a therapeutic community at Marngoneet Correctional Centre (www.caraniche.com.au).

For more information on VAADA please visit www.vaada.org.au.

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And Finally...

Tender Opportunities: (UK-Leicester: health and social work services)

Addiction treatment. ESPO, on behalf of Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council, is seeking to identify and appoint suitable provider(s) for the provision of integrated drug and alcohol treatment services for Coventry and Warwickshire residents. The services will be recovery-focused, user-led and will support the social re-integration of service users. The services to be provided will include young people services targeted and specialist drug and alcohol treatment services (Warwickshire only), and adult drug and alcohol treatment services encompassing tiers 2 / 3, criminal justice elements and tier 4 inpatient treatment. The contract is divided into 2 Lots: Lot 1 "Warwickshire Targeted and Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Services for Young People" and Lot 2 "Coventry and Warwickshire Adult Tier 2 / 3 Community and Tier 4 Inpatient Treatment Services". Each lot will be awarded separately, recognising however that the same provider could be appointed to both lots. The commissioners welcome consortia bids with an identified Lead Organisation. See here for more info: <http://www.publictenders.net/tender/94007>

Training Opportunities: Adfam

In recognition of the growing interest in family involvement in treatment, this one day course aims to ensure that practitioners are ready to work effectively with families and that they can deliver treatment interventions in line with local protocols. **Next available dates:** Monday 21st March (London), Monday 28th March (Manchester). See http://www.adfam.org.uk/training/training_for_professionals



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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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