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## Chief Executive's Update

The debate about what “recovery” is has continued this month, with key protagonists looking to set out a clear view on a way forward.

One of the aspects of this debate that is most striking is the defensive stances taken by some of the interest groups.

eATA has long campaigned for a treatment system that offered service users a realistic chance of making a full recovery from substance misuse. We have always maintained that there needs to be a balance of services and a pathway that clients can follow from dependency to a life without dependency. This journey will take as many forms as there are clients and will depend on what will constitute “recovery” for that individual. It must be a step forward, then, for this to be the stated aim of Government Policy. We now need to concentrate on the making the changes necessary to provide these opportunities to all clients. It is very important that we do not let the defence of particular views of what constitutes “real” recovery halt or slow this progress.

Of course we need to ensure that all effective modes of treatment are represented in the new system and that client choice is a reality.

## NEW MEMBERS UPDATE

April – May 2011

- Affect Ltd
- Bosence Farm and Bosence - Treatment Services
- Hope House Retreat
- Juanma Miguens
- Recovery Healthcare
- Somewhere House
- The Albert Centre

eATA welcome all new members.

Let's make sure that this is an aspect of progress rather than an impediment to it.

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We postponed this month's regional events after taking the view of members. With the convergence of a number of large conference/seminar events and the bank holidays members felt that the timing wasn't right.

We had assembled a strong programme of speakers for these events and they have all agreed to make the events when they are rescheduled later in the year.

One of the features of the events was to be a Q and A session with CQC staff. If you have any questions that you would like us to put to CQC about the new regime please send them to us at [louise.walsh@eata.org.uk](mailto:louise.walsh@eata.org.uk) and we will endeavour to find the answers and circulate both answer and question to all members.



## ***the Difference***

The second edition of *the Difference*, a bi monthly bulletin to raise awareness of eATA member services has recently been sent to drug and alcohol commissioners.

Each edition is intended to cover a specified theme, see below for details and also estimated publicity date.

- 1- **The Family – working with the family to achieve recovery – 1<sup>st</sup> March**
- 2- **Community Involvement and volunteering schemes – 1<sup>st</sup> May**
- 3- **Reintegration – 1<sup>st</sup> July**

You can view the first 2 editions on our website under publications. The lastest edition published focuses on community and volunteering and demonstrates that volunteering and community work is an integral and essential part of many eATA members' services.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is now being planned and this edition will focus on 'Reintegration'.

## **Submit Your Story on 'Reintegration'**

*the Difference*, is an excellent membership benefit, so please do make the most of this service.

eATA therefore request your input to write an article to be inserted into the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition out in July. Please get in touch with us for your chance to showcase your organisations work. This is a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of your service to your commissioners.

All members are invited to submit a story related to reintegration. This will enable their services to be marketed / highlighted to commissioners who will be personally sent a copy. The first 2 editions have been posted on our website to increase wider public awareness on the difference that member's are making – click here to view the documents:

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

Submit your article by June 8<sup>th</sup> (roughly 1 page) to be included in the July 1<sup>st</sup> issue. Post to [louise.walsh@eata.org.uk](mailto:louise.walsh@eata.org.uk) or call 020 7820 8130 for further details.

**'THE DIFFERENCE' IS A GREAT MARKETING TOOL TO ENABLE YOUR SERVICE TO STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD!**

The logo for eATA, featuring the lowercase letter 'e' in a blue, rounded font, followed by the uppercase letters 'ATA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

**TREATING ADDICTIONS  
TRANSFORMING LIVES**

MAY 2011

## Alcohol, Drugs and Young People: Worrisome Trends Spark Change in Ireland

*Erin Iglewski*

According to the Strategic Task Force on Alcohol, Ireland has the second highest per capita alcohol consumption in the European Union and binge drinking is more common in Ireland than in many other countries throughout Europe.<sup>1</sup> Adults are not the only ones involved in this statistic, however. Of particular concern to everyone from parents to politicians are the shocking statistics articulating that young people of Ireland are increasingly exhibiting addictive habits towards alcohol.

The abuse of alcohol can have a number of effects on young adults. One recent study found that Irish third level students who were regular, heavy drinkers were less likely to use positive coping strategies when feeling anxious or depressed. Although, in the short-term it may seem and feel like a good idea, alcohol can increase depression and anxiety soon after its use, leaving people feeling low and unable to cope.

Although many factors are involved in suicide, the link between alcohol use and suicide has been well established. Suicide is the leading cause of death in young Irish adults, with Ireland having the fifth highest rate of suicide among 15-24 year olds in the EU.<sup>3</sup>

In order to crack down on the young drinking problem in Ireland, the Irish government along with the Health Service Executive of Ireland have put forth a number of suggestions that aim to decrease the number of Irish youth partaking in dangerous drinking activities.

It has also been recommended that HSE launch a social marketing campaign aimed at reducing the levels of alcohol consumption among parents who drink. The influence of parental drinking patterns on their children's choices about drinking has been well documented with the highest teen substance users coming from families that had favorable attitudes to alcohol and were more tolerant of getting drunk. Reducing alcohol consumption among parents, and increasing monitoring of children by parents, needs to be a key focus of public health messaging, if drinking among teenagers is to be seriously tackled.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>[http://alcoholireland.ie/alcohol-policy/alcohol-children-and-young-people-do-we-need-be-concerned/http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/health/alcohol\\_and\\_drug\\_treatment\\_services/alcohol\\_addiction\\_services.html](http://alcoholireland.ie/alcohol-policy/alcohol-children-and-young-people-do-we-need-be-concerned/http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/health/alcohol_and_drug_treatment_services/alcohol_addiction_services.html)

<http://alcoholireland.ie/2011/new-national-on-line-%e2%80%98get-help%e2%80%99-guide-to-alcohol-services-launched/><sup>4</sup>

<http://www.mtas.ie/>

**eATA e-bulletin**

# And finally...

## **Tendering Opportunities: Expressions of Interest for the Provision of an Alcohol Misuse Service for people aged 16 and over and their families**

Wolverhampton City PCT is seeking to invite suitably experienced providers of alcohol misuse services to discuss an exciting opportunity to develop the existing service within Wolverhampton. We intend to commission services on a phased basis, prioritising the commissioning of a multi-disciplinary hub in the first phase. The "Hub" will be a single point of contact for all alcohol referrals offering assessment/triage and onward referral for people with increasing and higher risk alcohol problems, and will manage individuals with serious alcohol problems in the community and in hospital through the provision of community detoxification, motivational support, relapse prevention and case management.

In the future the "Hub" will monitor and evaluate onward referrals ensuring users of alcohol services receive appropriate treatment and a systematic call and re-call system will be operated. An IT solution will be commissioned to support this process, enabling data collection, and monitoring and information transfer arrangements.

Providers are invited to an information event on Thursday 9 June 2011, 9.30am - 1.00pm, which will give providers the opportunity to learn more about our vision for alcohol treatment services and requirements for the "Hub".

Should you wish to express your interest to participate in the WCPCT Scheme you must submit an Expression of Interest, via Bravo the e-procurement system to be used for this procurement (hyperlink <https://hcs.bravosolution.com>) by completing and returning the Pre Qualification Questionnaire. PQQs will be available from 09.00 hrs 9th May 2011 PQQs must be submitted before by 17:00hrs 27th May 2011 To book a place at the event, please email Margaret Liburd on [Margaret.Liburd@wolvespct.nhs.uk](mailto:Margaret.Liburd@wolvespct.nhs.uk) or telephone - 01902 444579

## **Members News: Addaction gets funding from the Department of Education**

Addaction has recently been awarded more than £1 million by the Department for Education. The money will help two Addaction projects support hundreds more families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

The first project will work with staff in Sure Start centres, helping them to better identify and help families in need. To do this, Addaction will provide Sure Start employees with training, advice and support to help them build their skills and knowledge around substance misuse.

The second project will deliver 'Skills for Change' in schools across England. Skills for Change promotes activities to improve the health and learning of young people aged between 13 and 16, and who are affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. This kind of 'early intervention' has proved to be highly effective in the past, and Addaction are extremely pleased to be providing such work.

The projects present an exciting opportunity for Addaction to reach out to more families in new, effective ways. Children of parents with substance misuse problems are far more likely to develop problems themselves, and the work the Department of Education is funding will help us break this 'cycle'.

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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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