

**eATA wants to engage with as many of our members as possible so please do forward this on to colleagues who will find this useful.**

## **eATA**E-Bulletin

**September 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 Executive's Update**
- **New Drug Strategy 2010**
- **NTA Business Plan**
- **The Potential of Recovery Capital**
- **The New World of Outcomes**
- **UKDPC launch report on stigma**
- **International welfare approaches**
- **Cost saving Tip of the month**
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### **Chief Executive's Update**

The month of August is usually a 'quiet' one but not this year with the launch of the drug strategy consultation 2010 it has been anything but! I also took time to visit Addaction's Cambridgeshire service and had a fantastic day meeting staff and clients in the day programmes and volunteer programme. I also visited St James Priory Project in Bristol where I learnt more about the work they do with dual diagnosis patients.

eATA plan to make a submission on behalf of members to the drug strategy so I hope you are able to find time to have a look at what is a very open-ended consultation and let us know what you would like to see in the new drug strategy moving forward.

DrugScope, in collaboration with eATA, The Alliance, and Adfam (the Drug Sector Partnership) are holding consultation events in the second week of September on the drug strategy – please find invite attached and contact Emma Ward at DrugScope if you are interested in attending.

Things to be aware of in the coming months: a white paper on the new public health service is expected sometime after the Comprehensive Spending Review; the Comprehensive Spending Review; Party Conference season; eATA National Conference; launch of new drug strategy (Dec 2010); and the Ministry of Justice green paper the “rehabilitation revolution”.

As always eATA will do its best to keep members updated on the latest policy announcements and get involved with the consultations to ensure members views are heard.

We have also been picking up a number of difficulties members are having with the **Care Quality Commission** – if you could email me [katie.hill@eata.org.uk](mailto:katie.hill@eata.org.uk) if you are having difficulties and we will take this up with CQC. Also for those who responded to the difficulties with the **ESA** the drug and alcohol team at the DWP are now looking into the issue and I hope to report back news from that soon.

## New drug strategy consultation 2010

As you may be aware the Home Office launched the 2010 consultation on a revised drugs strategy. eATA will be putting in a submission on behalf of eATA members to the consultation so we are looking for your views and comments to inform this submission.

The consultation is fairly open-ended with suggested questions – am happy to take answers to the questions or general comments on what you would like to see in the new drugs strategy.

The consultation ends on the 30<sup>th</sup> September so if you could send through comments by the **27<sup>th</sup> September** that will give us chance to pull all thoughts together and provide an accurate and balanced picture of the views of eATA members. I appreciate time is tight so we will also be carrying out a telephone canvass over the next two weeks so you can feed in over the phone.

Please follow this link to the Home Office website for more information:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/cons-drug-strategy-2010/>

The attached document provides a template if you wish to follow the questions suggested by the Home Office.

## NTA Business Plan 2010-11

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August the NTA released their business plan for 2010/11 reflecting the anticipated changes in drug and alcohol treatment over the coming months and years. The document attached is a snapshot of the document so we would recommend you read the full document if you want a more detailed picture.

[www.nta.nhs.uk](http://www.nta.nhs.uk)

## The Potential of Recovery Capital

The RSA, who promote new ways of thinking about human and social progress, have published an article 'The potential of Recovery Capital' written by David Best and Alexandre B Laudet who aim to define recovery and assess how it is best achieved.

The definition of recovery they put forward is the voluntary control and personal empowerment over one's life with particular reference to one's health and well being. That recovery is not an end state but an on-going quest for a better life. There are three components to recovery;

- 1 Wellbeing and quality of life
2. Some measure of community engagement or citizenship
3. Some measure of sobriety.

The key, they argue, is the second point – the importance of community and the power of having role models as they state they are 'increasingly confident that recovery is contagious'.

This aspect of the paper is probably the most challenging as our culture has some pretty powerful pulls away from a cohesive community supporting recovery and wellbeing. We have to face the facts, villages, towns and cities alike often have the pub as the default meeting place. Even our popular soap operas have pubs as the centre of the action. The availability of alcohol and both legal and illegal drugs is widespread and this is a huge problem when trying to engage all the community, especially in this time of cuts for so-called non essential services and provisions. Just as well that the AA, NA and our rehabs can pick up the pieces, as clearly there is a role for rehabs, advice and counselling support groups as well as the less structured community settings.

The article goes on to describe how influence is derived from people close to us according to degrees of separation and how important the influences from spouses for instance. Of course the power of a conventional spouse, employment and aging will have a natural positive influence on the an individual's wellbeing and yes influence can spread to friends and family as a natural process of being part of a community however this cannot be relied upon to cure our deep engrained addictions to drugs and alcohol. Treatment providers and commissioners have an important responsibility to provide a variety of services and sign posts to ensure that accommodation, job opportunities, training and social needs are met in order for people to have a chance to recover. Equally the role of the community cannot be under-estimated. What is hard is to quantify the potential impact of the community versus more specialised services and groups and indeed the importance of recognising the interlinking of both these roles cannot be over emphasised.

## **The New World of Outcomes**

Most of us would agree that measuring outcomes reveals a level of effectiveness in a service however it is something we need to pay more attention to in this new world of outcomes. Funding bodies are becoming increasingly aware of the need to focus on outcomes and it is important that providers also focus on outcomes.

eATA understand that not all members are surveying (ex) clients on their outcomes. Some members may be confident in their systems of recording these figures and some may want to ensure their results reflect all the work more appropriately and therefore eATA have devised a survey to ask members how they are recording data on outcomes with the view to provide a template for members to use in order help in this process. eATA would welcome your issues and responses on how you collate your data and so ask if you could take 5 minutes to complete the attached survey.

Also see this link which is a report from the Home Office on outcomes which you may find useful when considering your outcome statistics. [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr24c.pdf](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr24c.pdf)

## UKDPC launch report on stigma

The UKDPC recently launched their initial report from their research project on stigma. You may recall eATA attended the launch back in February where we were able to input into the initial stages of the project. The report has had extensive coverage in the press and highlights the difficulties that drug users come across due to the stigmatisation of their issue. "Sinning and sinned against: The stigmatisation of problem drug users" by Charlie Lloyd is the first instalment of a four part research study, supported by the Paul Hamlyn Charitable Foundation and others. The report asks why so much stigma is attached to drug addiction, how it may prevent social reintegration and whether society is ready for a shift towards a more compassionate approach, geared more towards care than punishment.

Highlights from the report include: the use of stigmatising terms such as 'junkie' and 'addict' is proving a major obstacle to rehabilitation and recovery for problem drug users. There were particular issues for those on methadone who felt uncomfortable fulfilling scripts at the pharmacy where they feel they are treated differently from other customers and in some cases expected to come in through their own entrance. The barriers to treatment often came from the transition from the word 'user' to 'addict' with some users feeling that treatment itself added to the stigma of being a problem drug user.

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

Charlie Lloyd of York University will be speaking alongside Nicola Singleton of the UKDCP at eATA's national conference in October.

## International Welfare Approaches

All members interested in the issue of welfare to work and who offer programmes or signpost clients to help them find employment should take a look at a new publication from the ippr.

The essays entitled 'Now it's Personal' set out some comparisons and lessons learnt from around the world in terms of welfare. There is a piece exploring the role of Personal Advisors in the Welfare to Work sector, Personalisation which is tailored support to help people back to work in Australia, the Canadian, and American experiences are also described.

There are a variety of projects such as Strive International which has 21 affiliates in the US and the UK and Israel and works with those who have projects working with people who have the most difficulty finding employment as well as job rotation in Scotland.

To see the full document you can download it from the ippr website free of charge

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=768>

## Cost saving Tip of the Month

This month we would like to remind all members to get in touch with Steve Broughton who is putting together a proposal on the role eATA can have in the procurement of services for members.

If you have not received your questionnaire on the subject please contact Steve and request one. [steveb@eata.org.uk](mailto:steveb@eata.org.uk) Your feedback is really important to us.

## Members' Highlights

SMART UK conference is on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. This year's theme is '**Harnessing the Power**' and promises to deliver a programme to explore diversity, innovation and a change in mindset in the treatment of substance misuse. To book your place please call 01926 311912 and also find attached the programme flyer with more details.

## And finally...

Members can expect their next edition of the quarterly publication Drugs and Alcohol Today to arrive in September. Please look out for yours and also inform us if you would like your copy sent to a particular contact?

Also please don't forget the eATA national conference on the 13<sup>th</sup> October – please see our website for more details. <http://www.eata.org.uk/news/121/93/>

eATA is excited to be able to announce a new event for members on 24<sup>th</sup> November at the House of Lords from 3.30 – more details to follow.