

THE CAMDEN BUGLE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CAMDEN MENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

WHAT WILL THEY TELL ?

There is a view that Identity Cards will make the United Kingdom a safer place to live in. That doesn't seem to be the case in the United States of America or much of the EEC where they have been around for a long time.

There is a view that ID Cards will provide clear proof of who we are and prevent others misusing our identities and committing crime. If that were the case, then surely the currently available identity documents from Library Cards and Bus Passes through to Driving Licences and Passports ought to achieve that.

There is a view that ID Cards are simply another intrusion of Government into everyday life with its wish to monitor and control. These days, almost all the information about anyone can be contained in a tiny electronic form. Wouldn't ID cards be the ideal way of doing this and then anyone who had the power to ask for them could know all about us – name, address, date of birth, criminal record, mental-health status

BAD PATIENT BLUES

In a recent speech to the Health Service Confederation, the Secretary of State for Health, Patricia Hewitt, identified three keys for the future of the NHS:

Putting patients first

Transforming the whole service that people receive

Engaging all our staff

Cynics might say that the first and third of these are mutually exclusive.

The Camden & Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust certainly started out with an agenda that put its patients at the centre of its work and its efforts in the field of user engagement seemed to reflect this. Now there is a feeling that much of the energy (and too many of the staff) has disappeared from this area. It also seems that the Care Trust has decided to focus on 'bad' patients with its proposals for metal detectors, drug dogs and policies to deal with vexatious complainants. Of course, it can produce arguments to support all these initiatives, but that does not make those arguments valid. There is a genuine problem here – how are patients and staff best protected? The best way to achieve this may not be by authoritarian means which people will resent.

Being mentally ill is tough enough without being made to feel that you are a potentially bad person who needs to be detained in a locked ward where it is hard to get out even if you are entitled to. If you are then to be subjected to random searches for drugs or weapons that is only going to make matters worse.

It may be too that going down this route will bring about a further deterioration in the patients' mental health with the stigmatisation of being bad. 'Bad Patient Syndrome' may become a new diagnosis and its treatment may be in the form of 'caring'.

CMHC NEWS

CMHC Ltd

At the Christmas Special General Meeting a final vote was taken so that CMHC could incorporate to become a Company Limited by Guarantee. Everything has now been formalised and CHMC is a Company Limited by Guarantee in England with the Company Registration Number 5427327. This company is also a Charity with the new Charity Registration Number 1109647. People will notice that the necessary changes have been made to the stationery and all CMHC Publications.

WELCOME

CMHC would like to welcome Krsytyna Farrell to the Post of User Focussed Monitoring Co-ordinator within Peter Bedford. We are hopeful that CMHC and CBUG will be able to work closely with Krystyna to further develop UFM within the statutory and voluntary sector.

CAMDEN COUNCIL'S MENTAL HEALTH LIAISON GROUP

The Mental Health Liaison Group will meet at Hampstead Town Hall from 6.00 – 8.30 pm on Thursday, 21st July. This will be an important meeting not only because it should have the latest information on developments with the implementation of Best Value Review, but also because the last meeting promised that this time we would have the findings of the feasibility study for Camden's Crisis House.

CARE TRUST BOARD MEETING

This next meeting of the Mental Health & Social Care Trust Board will be held on Thursday, 28th July from 5.00 pm in the Conference Centre at St Pancras Hospital. Trust Board Meetings are open to the public and we would encourage as many people as possible to attend. Papers may be obtained from the Board Secretary, Kate Wilkins, on 020 7445 8427 or by e-mail kate.wilkins@candi.nhs.uk Notified questions for the Board should be sent to Kate by 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 26th July.

CMHC SUMMER BARBQ

Once again this year, CMHC has decided to hold a Summer BarBQ. It will be held in the Courtyard at St Pancras Hospital from 6.00 – 8.00 pm on Friday, 12th August. This venue has been chosen once again to make it possible for in-patients at The Huntley Centre to join us for the event.

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Aidan Moloney is the Co-ordinator of Camden & Islington Providers' Forum (CIPF). We include regular monthly contributions from Aidan telling people what is happening in the voluntary sector. Aidan can be contacted by post at Camden & Islington Providers' Forum, St. James's House, 15 – 20 Bruges Place, Baynes Street, London, NW1 0TF; by 'phone on 020 7428 5999, and by e-mail at cipf.office@virgin.net

CIPF was pleased to welcome Rebecca Harrington to our May general meeting in her new role as Assistant Director of Strategic Planning & Joint Commissioning for Camden. Her previous excellent record of work in the Borough makes us sure that Rebecca in this important post will be good for the delivery of services in Camden. It is also good to see the mental health commissioning arm of the Primary Care Trust/ Social Services Department take shape with some recent appointments to key posts. CIPF looks forward to working with the new personnel in what is hoped to be a more sustained relationship.

It is good to see that Maureen Brewster, Voluntary Action Camden, is taking the lead on the review of the action plan for the Camden Suicide Prevention Strategy. Maureen has a wealth of local experience of cross sector working. The review is due for completion in September.

September also marks the date set for completion of the Stage 3 Report arising from Camden's Best Value Review. Much work is currently being carried out around the implementation of the Review's recommendations. The voluntary sector is playing a major role in this phase of the work. The workplan for the review reflects a variety of activities that include continuation of work started in stage two of the review. The review team is also now working closely with New Directions Camden in developing and piloting Support, Time and Recovery (STR) workers. This initial STR model will inform the development of a specification for a STR service or services for implementation in 2006/7. CIPF is represented on all four Day Centres Working Groups of the Best Value Review implementation. The groups are: Person Centred Planning, Social Inclusion & STR Development & Recruitment Strategy; Employment & Social Enterprise; Legacy Service Planning; and Further Education & Leisure. Further to this representation each group is chaired by a CIPF member. We are pleased with this level of involvement reflecting as it does some of the key principles of partnership working.

SOUTH CAMDEN USER FORUM (SCUF)

May's South Camden User Forum had as its venue The Walk-In at Tottenham Mews Resource Centre. This was the second of the meetings based on the idea that the Forum should go to the people. The Walk In at Tottenham Mews is one of the few real Drop-In centres in the local area and it is highly regarded by those who use it. Though this meeting expressed concern at the number of temporary staff employed there, which does not make for a stable service.

The meeting on 24th May was not that well attended, but those there brought up a number of important issues, not least the future of Tottenham Mews and whether it will move to the Odeon site. This is a question that needs to be put to UCLH since they own both the sites concerned. There was also a question about repair at Tottenham Mews and whether there was an asbestos hazard as there were notices around suggesting that there is but that the official view is that this is no longer the case. Clearly this is an issue which needs to be sorted out urgently. There were concerns too about the out-patient arrangements in the new UCLH and issues of confidentiality when records were called up on unshielded computer screens.

The June SCUF meeting was scheduled to be held at Mind in Camden on the afternoon of Tuesday, 21st June. Unfortunately, the person who was to co-ordinate the meeting was overcome by a bout of sickness and was unable to get there. CMHC would like to apologise to all those who attended on that day for the fact that there was no meeting. We really are sorry about this and will try and restage the meeting later in the year. We have also changed our working arrangements so that in future no one person is responsible for a meeting and there should always be someone else to take over when problems occur.

In its travels around the services the July SCUF meeting will be held at The Highgate Centre from 3.30 – 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 26th July. Whilst the purpose of taking the meetings to the venues is to give those who use that service an opportunity to raise any issues that they might wish to, all service users are very welcome to attend the meeting and raise any issue that they think are important.

This new format seems to be one that people like and it is the intention to continue SCUF in this way certainly until it has visited all the South Camden services. We will then review the format and see if it should be continued or if we should think about adopting another way of seeking out the issues which are of concern to our Members – the users of the services.

NORTH CAMDEN USER FORUM (NCUF)

May's meeting of NCUF provided an opportunity for people to take a first look at the new Grove Centre – the new and soon-to-be-opened mental health unit at The Royal Free Hospital. Only a few people attended this meeting, but the small numbers made the logistics of taking people to the new centre somewhat easier. Although people were suitably impressed by the new unit, they were concerned that it should not retain any of the bad things that are associated with the current wards. They wanted the new building to come with a new therapeutic culture and philosophy.

We hope to be returning to the new unit regularly and there is the question of whether this will be where the North Camden User Forum meets in the future. This is presently being negotiated with the management of the North Camden services.

These issues can all be discussed at the NCUF meeting on Tuesday, 5th July from 5.00 – 6.30 pm in Room 20 on Level 2 (near Psychiatry Out-Patients). This meeting has no fixed agenda and will provide an opportunity to review the North Camden User Forum and what it does and does not provide and how it meets the expectations of people. CMHC is firmly committed to reviewing all its activities to ensure that they provide what its Members want in the form that they want it. Whilst this does not necessarily mean that we can provide what everybody wants, it does mean that we don't want to provide something which no-one wants or thinks is worthwhile. The North Camden User Forum is one of the longest-running of CMHC's projects and whilst the attendances tend to vary quite a lot depending on the topic, it does seem to be an event each month which people go to.

On Tuesday, 2nd August, the Chief Executive of the Mental Health & Social Care Trust, Erville Millar, will be coming along to the North Camden User Forum to invite people to 'Ask the CEO'. This is a real opportunity to put questions to the man who is ultimately responsible for the services that the Care Trust provides. Although there are formal restrictions to the questions that he can answer – they cannot be in the form of a complaint which needs to be investigated since there is a procedure established for this – these meetings do offer a chance for people to question the services that are provided and the philosophy behind them. It offers the CEO the opportunity to introduce future plans that the Trust might have. At a time when there are all sorts of rumours circulating about the financial position of the Care Trust, it also provides the space to explain what is really happening.

CARE TRUST NEWS

Robert Jones, the Social Care & Inclusion Development Manager, provides a review of the month's events within Camden & Islington Mental Health & Social Care Trust. Robert can be contacted at Care Trust Headquarters, 2nd floor, East Wing, St Pancras Hospital, London NW1 0PE, by telephone on 020 7445 8554 or by e-mail robert.jones@candi.nhs.uk

News for Carers & Family Members

The Carers 4-change group will be meeting between 4.30pm – 6.30 pm on the 6th July at the Carnegie Centre, 1 Carnegie Street, N1 9QW. Carers 4-change groups are held 6 times a year and provides an opportunity for carers and family members of people with mental health problems to discuss issues with senior managers and directors of Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust.

Work placement opportunities for people who are unemployed

This new scheme is now ready for its next intake of people. The scheme compliments the work of the Care Trust's Service User Employment Project and provides people with training, support, and career guidance and up to 12 weeks work placement opportunities within the NHS. To book your place or find out more about the project contact Ruth Gaunt on 020-7878-2512

Islington Music Forum, Music & Art Festival - 9th July

A FREE music and art event is taking place on Saturday, 9th July, between 12pm and 5pm. There will be live music from WTW Jazz Band, the Whittington Steel Band, IMF's band OSMOSIS and others featuring Reggae, Pop, Rhythm & Blues, poetry, performance, visual arts, stalls and kids entertainment. The festival will be held at the Highgate Mental Health Centre, Dartmouth Park Hill, London, N19 5NX. For further details contact 020 7561 4150.

Hanley Road Education and Employment Project ART SUMMER SCHOOL and OPEN DAY

A seven-week Art Summer school starts on the 13th July 2005.

The programme includes:

- Guided visits to the Tate Modern and a local gallery.
- A chance to do some creative art using different media.
- Drawing and painting in the great outdoors!

- A chance to find out about opportunities for art in your area and in London.
- An opportunity to meet other people with a shared interest.

The **Open Day from 12.30 – 3.00 pm on 13th July** is a great opportunity to find out what courses are on offer at the Education and Employment Project; sign up for things you're interested in; meet staff & users of the project; listen to some great music and eat some delicious summer food. To book your place on the Art school or for more information about the Education and Employment project, contact: Francine Haagman 0207 281 6221.

Camden Community User Involvement in Health Network

Are holding a meeting on the 12th June between 9.30 –12.00 in the Conference Room at St Pancras hospital to discuss 'complaints processes for health and social care services' guest speakers will be from Patient Advice Liaison Services, Complaints Services and the Independent Complaints and Advocacy Service. This is your opportunity to look at how complaint systems work, how the various components interrelate and how they influence decision-making. For further information contact Julia Regan, 020-7974-5340

Conference

This years Annual Mental Health Training and Education Conference will be held on the 15th September at ORT conference centre in Camden. The focus is to place service users and carers at the heart of mental health training and education. In addition to the main conference, a mini-conference for service users/survivor trainers will be held on the 14th September between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm. For further information, prices and details of the free places for service users contact; Pavilion 0870-161-3505

Service User Consultation Forum

Consultation Forums are held on a regular basis and provide opportunities for service users to meet with senior managers and a director of the care trust. Forums are on the 29th July, 23rd Sept & 25th Nov 2005 in the Groves Lounge at St Pancras Hospital. They start with lunch at 1pm and finish at 4pm.

For more information about consultation forums or anything else covered in this section please contact Robert Jones at the Care Trust on 020 7445 8554.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Consortium is a voluntary organisation, which operates in the London Borough of Camden.

It is run by its members who are users, former users and survivors of mental health services in Camden, its purpose is to enhance the quality of life of its members by promoting social contact and support, enabling them to take control of their own lives.

We promote equal opportunities and positively value individual differences and choice.

We combat negative prejudice and stereotypes of users of mental health services.

We seek to influence professionals and public opinion, to challenge poor practice, and to improve the quality and variety of mental health and related services.


To achieve our goals we work with other voluntary bodies, statutory agencies and individual allies.

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Events & Diary

DATE/TIME	VENUE	EVENT
<p>TUESDAY 05 JULY 5.00 – 6.30 pm</p>	<p>Room 20 Psychotherapy Corridor Level 2 The Royal Free Hospital Pond Street NW3</p>	<p>CMHC NORTH CAMDEN USER FORUM</p>
<p>TUESDAY 26 JULY 3.30 – 5.00 pm</p>	<p>Highgate Centre 19 -37 Highgate Road, NW5</p>	<p>CMHC SOUTH CAMDEN USER FORUM</p>
<p>FRIDAY 29 JULY 1.00 – 4.00 pm</p>	<p>Groves Lounge St Pancras Hospital 4 St Pancras Way LONDON NW1</p>	<p>Camden and Islington  Mental Health and Social Care Trust USER CONSULATIVE FORUM</p>
<p>TUESDAY 02 AUGUST 5.00 – 6.30pm</p>	<p>Room 20 Psychotherapy Corridor Level 2 The Royal Free Hospital Pond Street, NW3</p>	<p>CMHC NORTH CAMDEN USER FORUM Erville Millar invites people to ‘ASK THE CEO’</p>
<p>FRIDAY 12 AUGUST 6.00 – 8.00pm</p>	<p>Court Yard St Pancras Hospital 4 St Pancras Way LONDON NW1</p>	<p>CMHC MID SUMMER BARBECUE</p>