

**Issue: 141**  
**MAY 2009**

# The Camden Bugle



## **AND NOW WE KNOW**

In October of 2008, CMHC was suddenly told that its contract with Camden Council/Camden PCT would be terminated at the end of March 2009. A battle ensued in which CMHC won a reprieve for six months so that its contract was extended until the end of September. CMHC was advised that the Service User Involvement Service would be put out to tender and that a number of preferred bidders would be offered the opportunity to bid for the service and CMHC would be one of these.

Ever since it was known that the contract would be put out to tender, people have been interested in who the invited bidders would be. At a briefing meeting held by the Camden Commissioners on 21st May, this question was answered.

The others invited to that meeting were

Peter Bedford Trust which is a Housing Charity with offices in Hackney & Islington ([www.peterbedford.org.uk](http://www.peterbedford.org.uk))

Together which is a national mental-health charity with its head office in Hackney ([www.together-uk.org](http://www.together-uk.org))

The Shaw Trust which is a national organisation based in Chippenham, which says that it helps disabled people to get back to work ([www.shaw-trust.org.uk](http://www.shaw-trust.org.uk))

Disability in Camden (DISC) which is a Camden-based organisation mostly known for its work with the physically disabled but which has also been responsible for organising Direct Payments to service users ([www.discnwl.org.uk](http://www.discnwl.org.uk))

Islington Borough User Group (iBUG). This is the equivalent mental-health service user group in Islington. (Significantly, they sent apologies but whether this means that they would not wish to bid is not yet clear.)

**Making  
a  
Difference**

## **Camden Mental Health Consortium**

## **WHO ARE THEY?**

**Camden Commissioners have refused to supply information on how the preferred bidders for the Service User Involvement contract were chosen, citing as their reason 'commercial sensitivity'. However, who they are is now public.**

**Peter Bedford is a Housing Association with a very good reputation for involving people. It is based in Islington and Hackney and currently holds the contract for User Focussed Monitoring of the mental-health services in Camden and Islington.**

**TOGETHER is a national mental-health charity which used to be the Mental After Care Association. It is a service provider in a number of areas and has a very good record for user involvement.**

**The Shaw Trust is another national charity which is concerned with getting the disabled back to work. It is linked as an Associate Partner with TOGETHER. It currently provides the Camden LINKs (Local Involvement Network) service.**

**Service users, who after all are the people who will use the User Involvement Service, have consistently indicated that they want a service which is based in Camden. The Commissioners have even noted this in their handouts. None of these three organisations fulfils that criterion. It seems that the choice is not going to be made on a ground which the people who should benefit from the service want.**

**The other criterion which service users have consistently requested is that the new service should be service-user owned. These organisations may have good track records but they are national organisations with large staff and none of them can claim to provide that local user ownership which has been asked for.**

**It would seem that the Camden Commissioners have asked service users what they would like and then, as so often in the past, have chosen to disregard it and make a decision on some other basis which they are not prepared to disclose.**

## North Camden User Forum (NCUF)

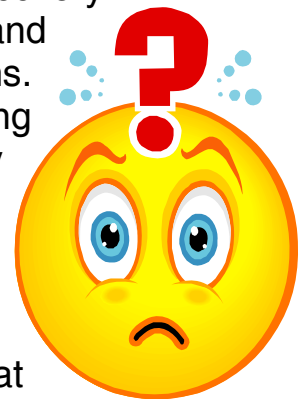
The June North Camden User Forum will be held at the North Camden Recovery Centre, 3 - 5 Daleham Gardens on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, and will bring the Camden Commissioners to talk about the proposed new User Involvement Service which is featured heavily in this issue of The Camden Bugle, because the outcome of the process will determine whether CMHC continues to exist.

This will really be the last opportunity that service users have to input into this process and to say something about the potential providers that the Commissioners have selected to bid for this contract. The meeting will run from 5.00 – 6.30 pm and if you are not able to be there but have a

point to make then please either send it to us at CMHC or direct to the Commissioners.

The July NCUF on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July, will revisit the North Camden Recovery Centre when Katie Clayton, who manages the facility and Dr David Osborn who is the Consultant Psychiatrist in charge will come along to talk about how the Recovery Centre is developing and answer any questions.

(One interesting question that they may not be able to answer is why when it was intended that there should be two Recovery Centres that the one in the South at St Pancras Hospital still goes under the name of the Jules Thorn Day Unit.)



## South Camden User Forum (SCUF)

It was seriously concerning that the May SCUF had only two people in attendance and this when Angela Neblett, Head of Commissioning for Mental Health and Substance Misuse attended to discuss the new Service User Involvement Service. This might be interpreted by the Commissioners that service-

users don't care. It is more likely to mean that they are unable to cope with the continuing stress of this process having already made it clear that they want a user-owned service based in Camden but being fairly sure that this is not what the Commissioners want, as they have shown.

## SCUF (Continued)

The new Mental Health Act brought into existence a right to advocacy for detained patients. A new Independent Mental Health Advocacy Service has been set up to provide this in Camden and Islington and the contract was given to Islington Mind. The people who are involved in

providing this new service will be coming to the South Camden User Forum on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June to talk about this service and how it works. The meeting will be held from 5.00 – 6.30 pm in Conference Room 4 in The Conference Centre at St Pancras Hospital.

## TEA AND CHAT AT CMHC

Perhaps you have been wondering what this Tea and Chat, or Tea and Talk is all about. It is purely as the name suggests – a chance for a cup of tea and a chat in informal surroundings in the CMHC office. No fixed agenda, just what you want to talk about. The first one, on April 30, was quite successful. About 10 people came along, including 3 trustees, and we discussed all sorts of things, including the future of CMHC and what can be done to save it.

On May 20, there was a muddle about dates, and we had to cancel the Tea and Chat. But we very much hope that will not put you off, and sincerely apologise to anyone who arrived and found the door closed.

The next date for your diary is Thursday, June 18 from 5.30 to 7.00 pm – see you then, for a cup of tea and a chat!



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

One of the strange effects of the Companies Act 2006 is that companies no longer need to hold Annual General Meetings. CMHC feels that it has a duty to report at least annually to all its members and it intends to continue to do so. It seems even more important after what has been a turbulent year when a new management team that was elected in October 2008 has been trying very hard to restore the reputation and strength of CMHC.

The Directors have decided that they should hold an Annual General Meeting on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. It will be held in The Presidential Suite at the London Irish Centre and will be followed by a party if CMHC has gained the Service User Involvement Contract or a wake if it is going out of existence.

## COMMISSIONERS' NEWS

### Independent Mental Health Advocates (IMHA)

To meet the requirements of the Mental Health Act, we have remodelled the existing advocacy service provided by Islington Mind. Camden service users who are subject to the Mental Health Act now have access to an Independent Mental Health Advocate (IMHA) through the service. IMHA is an important new safeguard for service users who are subject to the Mental Health Act. IMHAs are specialist advocates who are trained to help people to understand their rights under the Mental Health Act and to exercise those rights. IMHAs are subject to regulations and are independent of any person who is professionally concerned with the patient's medical treatment.

The advocacy service through Islington Mind will continue to be available in acute, PICU and rehabilitative wards in St Pancras Hospital – Huntley Centre, Cedar House Ward; Royal Free Hospital - The Grove; St Luke's Hospital; 154 Camden Road; Queen Mary's House - Nancy Swift Ward. It is also available to service users living in the community.

#### **For more information on IMHAs and how they can help you contact:**

Islington Mind  
Camden Community Advocacy  
2c Falkland Road  
London NW5 2PT  
Tel/Fax: 020 7485 2424

### Recent Reforms to Incapacity Benefits

Some of you may have received a letter from WorkDirections regarding *Pathways to Work*. *Pathways to Work* is the name given to recent changes to Incapacity Benefits and Employment and Support Allowance.



We have outlined below some facts relating to Pathways to Work that may be useful for you to know.

- Incapacity Benefit is now called Employment and Support Allowance for new claimants.

- You only qualify for the mandatory Pathways to Work if you started receiving or returned to Employment and Support Allowance on the grounds of incapacity after 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007.
- If you qualify for mandatory Pathways to Work, you will be asked to attend an interview with a personal advisor who will
  - Discuss whether work is an option for you
  - Help you identify suitable work goals or support to move closer to work becoming a possibility
  - Explain the additional support that may be available to you, including financial support.



If you receive a letter regarding *Pathways to Work*, we advise that you contact your Care Co-ordinator for referral to the welfare rights advisor, speak with your named worker at other services or call WorkDirections directly on 0800 321 3134 and they can explain more. For further information on Pathways to Work contact WorkDirections.

## **Use of CPA Status as Eligibility to Access Mental Health Services**

Following a presentation at the Mental Health Liaison Group meeting by Clive Stevenson from NIMHE (National Institute for Mental Health) on the application of the new Department of Health guidance relating to the Care Programme Approach (CPA) and discussions that followed the presentation, CPA is no longer part of the eligibility criteria for access to any Camden service. All relevant service specifications have been revised to reflect this change. For further information on how the CPA changes may affect you call 0300 123 1002 and request the 'Making CPA Work for You' booklet.

### **MENTAL HEALTH LIAISON GROUP**

The June meeting of Camden Council's Mental Health Liaison Group will be held in The Presidential Suite at the London Irish Centre from 6.00 – 8.00 pm on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June when the main topic will be BETTER CARE CHOICES.

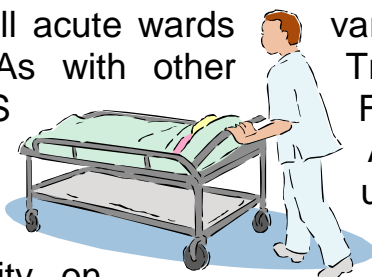
The long-standing MHLG is chaired by Councillor David Abrahams and provides an opportunity for service users, carers and other members of the public to meet with local Councillors and Council officers to discuss matters of significance in the mental-health world.

## FOUNDATION TRUST NEWS

Andrew Kirk from Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust provides some information about the use of beds within the FT.

### Monthly Bed Vacancy Figures

Vacancy figures for all acute wards during the week. As with other NHS Trusts the Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust includes 'On leave' beds and Absent Without Leave beds (AWOL) as usable beds. During March and April 2009 the average usable bed availability on the acute wards daily is shown in this table:



Borough	March 2009	April 2009
Camden	2.25	2.25
Islington	1.00	4.75

### Private Bed Use

Following the review of PICU provision the Foundation Trust now provides male-only provision for Camden and Islington PICU patients on Coral Ward at the Highgate Mental Health Centre.

Female patients requiring PICU care and provision are placed within the Private Sector on specially vetted female-only PICU Wards. Additionally, there are occasions when male patients are placed privately when local care is not appropriate. During March and April 2009 the average number of patients occupying a private PICU bed was as shown in the table:

Month	Female	Male	Total
March 2009	2.25	1.75	4.00
April 2009	4.25	1.00	5.25

In addition there were two short-term male admissions in March 2009 and four short-term male admissions in April 2009 to adult beds in the private sector.

### **Future Bed Movements**

The Foundation Trust is now preparing to complete its adult bed re-provision which is expected to complete by August 2009. This will involve

- Selecting a preferred provider for both private adult acute and PICU beds
- Refurbishment of Huntley Centre Wards and Ash Ward to enable transfer of patients from Cardigan and Fortismere Wards at St Lukes to St Pancras Hospital
- Transfer of Eight Camden AOT beds to Jade Ward, Highgate MHC

### **Bed Management Meeting**

The Trust's weekly bed management group will continue to monitor activity on the wards to ensure that there is sufficient 'bed capacity' to manage admissions and ensure patients are located wherever possible within their sector wards during this time of change on the wards.

### **GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK**

CMHC would like to say Goodbye to our friend Lis Jones, the FT's Co-Director of Nursing, who has been at the Trust as long as most of us can remember.

Lis has worked tirelessly for the MHCOP Service for which she was the operational Director and has brought it to a very high standard.

Lis will be sadly missed by all who know her and have worked with her when she leaves the FT at the end of May. We wish her a very happy retirement

## **FOUNDATION TRUST NEWS (Continued)**

### **Service User Focussed Working Group**

The Foundation Trust is still looking for people to join the Service User Focussed Working Group which is due to replace the FT's Implementation Group and Consultative Forums. If you are interested and want to discuss what is involved/or receive an application form, please contact Ros Lettman, Service User Involvement Co-ordinator on Tel: 020 7700 7458 or by e-mail: [ros.lettman@nhs.net](mailto:ros.lettman@nhs.net) The deadline for applications has been extended until Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June.

It has been stated that there will be dedicated places for CMHC and we are currently enquiring how this process will work.

We have also had a call for papers for the next meeting of the SUFWG which is currently attended by one of CMHC's Co-chairs. We are concerned about how the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the Independent Safeguarding Agency set up under it will impact on user-involvement in mental health.

There is also the opportunity for service users to receive training to take part in the recruitment and selection of FT staff. The training will take place at St Pancras Hospital from 2.00 – 4.00 pm on the afternoon of Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June. If you are interested in playing a part in the selection of staff then you need to undergo this training. Contact Ros Lettman for more details.

The Foundation Trust Governors meet again on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The role of the Governors is a significant one and FT Members should approach them with any questions they may have. It has been promised that after this meeting there will be specific e-mail addresses for the Governors so that they may be contacted directly. Regrettably, CMHC's offer to the service-user Governors to come to one of our Forums to tell service users what they do has not been taken up. Another problem that

we have noticed is that although the Constitution requires the Governors to make Declarations of Interest and although in answer to a question to the FT Board CMHC has been told that they have done so, there seem to be some serious omissions, including at least one service-user Governor. However, no credence can be given to the Registers of Interest shown on the FT website since they are greatly out-of-date. This may be a matter which MONITOR ought to consider in terms of Governance.

Further questions about the future of St Luke's Hospital have been met with the same non-answer as previously – 'no decision has been made'. However, all the actions would indicate that the acute wards will be closed.

## **WELL-BEING EVENT**

NHS Camden and the FT will be holding a Well-Being event at The Camden Centre on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July. This will be an all-day event and will not be focussed just on mental ill-health but will look at aspects of physical illness as well. People with mental ill-health are also prone to physical illnesses and this will provide an opportunity to link up some of the problems that occur. There will also be the opportunity for those who smoke to learn more about the methods for 'giving up'.

## **AMERICAN CULTURE**

Dr Sushrut Jadhav who has been to many CMHC events and was a significant participant in last year's CMHC Annual Conference on 'Your Race, Your Culture, Your Mental Health' has now completed the study of the efficacy of Cultural Formulations and a Hospital Ethnography at the Huntley Centre and recently presented the results of his work to the Society for the Study of Society and Culture ([www.psychiatryandculture.org](http://www.psychiatryandculture.org)) at its Annual Conference in San Francisco. The presentation was received with great interest.

We hope that Dr Jadhav and his colleagues will come and present this work to service users in the near future and at the same time we will look at the work that CBUG is doing to try and gain some knowledge about how BME groups see the local mental-health services.

## ***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 and individual allies.

## **THE PIECES MOVE AROUND THE BOARD**

When it meets on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, the Board of Governors of the Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust will be presented with a nominee for the post of Non-executive Director which became vacant with the death of Robert Shrager.



This is the fifth appointment recently so that there is only one non-executive member of the original Board, Judith Frame still there.

Professor David Taylor stepped down as Chair of the C&I Board in March to be replaced by Richard Arthur. However, Professor Taylor has not disappeared from the scene. Far from it! He has not even moved from the St Pancras Hospital Building since he was immediately appointed a Non-executive Director of NHS Camden which is based in the same building. All we can hope is that in his new role, Professor Taylor will seek to protect the position of users of the mental-health services and ensure that no further cuts to services are made.



# DIARY & EVENTS



DATE & TIME	VENUE	EVENT
<p><b>TUESDAY</b></p> <p><b>2nd JUNE</b></p> <p><b>5.00 - 6.30 pm</b></p>	<p>North Camden Recovery Centre 3-5 Daleham Gardens London NW3</p>	<p><b>NORTH CAMDEN USER FORUM</b></p> <p><b>Camden Commissioners</b> will talk about the <b>New User Involvement Service</b></p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b></p> <p><b>10th JUNE</b></p> <p><b>6.00 — 8.00pm</b></p>	<p>Irish Centre The Presidential Suite 50-52 Camden Square London, NW1 9XB</p>	<p> Camden <b>Camden Council's</b> <b>Mental Health</b> <b>Liaison Group</b></p>
<p><b>THURSDAY</b></p> <p><b>18th June</b></p> <p><b>5.30 — 7.00 pm</b></p>	<p>C.M.H.C. Hampstead Town Hall 213 Haverstock Hill LONDON NW3</p>	<p><b>C.M.H.C.</b></p> <p><b>TEA &amp; TALK</b></p>
<p><b>THURSDAY</b></p> <p><b>25th JUNE</b></p> <p><b>5.00 pm</b></p>	<p>Conference Centre St Pancras Hospital 4 St Pancras Way London NW1</p>	<p>Camden and Islington  NHS Foundation Trust <b>BOARD MEETING</b> (Notified Questions by 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 23rd June )</p>
<p><b>TUESDAY</b></p> <p><b>30th June</b></p> <p><b>5.00—6.30 pm</b></p>	<p>Conference Hall, Conference Centre St Pancras Hospital 4 St Pancras Way London NW1</p>	<p><b>SOUTH CAMDEN USER FORUM</b></p> <p><b>Islington Mind</b> will talk about the new <b>Independent Mental Health</b> <b>Advocacy Service</b></p>