

NEWSLETTER

March 2009, Issue No. 5

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NSUN update

Rob Henderson has stepped down from the management committee as chair after 2 years with NSUN. Rob has been a great asset to NSUN and we wish him well with his future work. Tina Coldham has taken over as chair and we wish her luck in her new role.

We would like to welcome Angela Hill as the newest member of the management Committee.

We would also like to say goodbye and a massive thank you to our interim coordinator Lisa Haywood. Lisa has been working with NSUN over the last 10 Months to help develop the organisation and get things rolling. She has been a joy to work with and will be greatly missed.

On a brighter note we welcome the new network Manager, Sarah Yiannoullou. Sarah Joins NSUN from the South East Service User Network and brings with her a wealth of knowledge about the service user movement as well as expertise in developing and expanding organisations. Sarah joins NSUN at an exciting time in our development and both the staff and management committee are thrilled to have her on board.

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Patient Involvement and Empowerment 2009

Date: Thursday 21st May 2009

Venue: 76 Portland Place, London

This conference provides an important update on recent changes in patient involvement and empowerment including delivering high quality of care for all, involvement patients in the delivery of quality indicators and quality accounts, involving the patients and the public in commissioning and working with patients to deliver improvement and redesign through lean thinking.

Contact: For more information please call Hanisha on 020 8541 1399, email hanisha@healthcare-events.co.uk or visit <http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk>

BME report launch

We will be launching our first report entitled 'Dancing to our own tune' on the 24th March 2009 in London.

The report addresses the issues of BME service user involvement, exploring the experience of Black and minority ethnic service users in being involved - looking at both the problems and possibilities. It also assesses more effective ways of working to increase the influence from this group.

The launch will involve a brief presentation from the author of the report followed by a questions & answers session and open discussion.

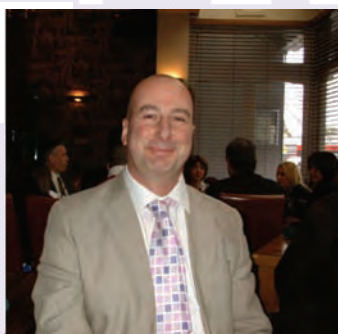
Places for the launch are limited so you are advised to book early.

If you are interested in attending the report launch please contact Amma Djan on 0845 602 0779 or email amma.djan@nsun.org.uk. Information about the report can be found at www.nsun.org.uk.

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Meet the Management Committee: Graham Saxton



I have been a User Focused Monitoring Co-ordinator for 7 years now. User Focused Monitoring is a form of service user evaluation of mental health and social services.

We carry out face to face interviews with our own in house designed questionnaire. We then analyse the data and write a report with recommendations.

Over the last 10 years I have also been a trustee for a local MIND and also for Mental Health Matters. I have also been on many local, regional and national forums.

Recently I have started a new role, alongside the UFM work, as a Mental Health Commissioning Manager. I lead on areas such as Social Inclusion, Delivering Race Equality, Service User Involvement and Personality Disorder. This new role feels very strange at present. It being only 10 years ago that I was in supported accommodation, coming to an end of a period of psychiatric hospital admissions and self harm. I spent 6 years doing the revolving door bit.

I have been on the management committee only for the last 6 months. I am a firm believer in getting positively involved and not being critical on the outside.

2009 Conference

On 25th March 2009 NSUN, in partnership with Pavilion publishing, will be holding a conference 'Keys to Power' Which will look at the potential challenges of service user-run services and explore the enormous possibilities offered by service user-run mental health services. A range of innovative and exciting service user-run services will be showcased - ranging from crisis services, to self-help groups.

Key issues involved in commissioning and operating such services will be explored. Including:-

What are the key benefits attached to these kinds of services, and what are the major challenges they are likely to face?

How can the transition from staff-run to service user-run services be managed efficiently?

What kind of training and support will individuals running such services require?

How can service user-run services ensure they meet the expectations of local commissioners?

Aims of the conference

At the end of the day, participants will have: a greater appreciation of the wide range of service user-run services in existence in the UK and the enormous possibilities offered by them. An improved understanding of the range of contexts in which development of service user-run services can take place. A better understanding of the challenges involved in running such services and effective strategies for dealing with them. A greater confidence to commis-

sion, develop or run service user-run services.

Key themes

Attendees will gain a greater understanding of the range of possibilities that exist and be inspired by the successes that have been highlighted. The conference will provide a range of different perspectives on service user-run services, including those of commissioners, service users and mainstream provider agencies. Participants will have an opportunity to debate a wide range of issues regarding the future of service user-run services within the UK.

Speakers at the event

Chair David Crepez-Keay NSUN

Peter Flanagan Interim Head of Joint Commissioning, Barnsley

Patricia Chambers Catch-Afiya, BME national network

Liz Halle Reading Resource Centre

Alex Duffield Bromley Mind

Ian Muhammad and team members Together

Barbara Wayne Changes, Stoke-on-Trent

John Nurse Sutton Mental Health Foundation

Fiona Venner Manager, Leeds Survivor-led Crisis Service

Steve Shrubbs Director, NHS Confederation Mental of

NSUN will be sponsoring free places and travel expenses for the conference.

If you would like to attend or want more information please call 0844 880 5061 or visit www.olm-pavilion.co.uk

Website update

We're delighted to tell you that following a six-month burst of rapid development at the National Survivor User Network (NSUN), our website is now **the** place to start if you want to strengthen your user survivor organisation.

Choc-full of docs – not the medical kind!

NSUN's wonderful website is now packed with practical help to boost user and survivor organisation in their important work. Whether you want help with funding applications or support in an annual appraisal for staff; need to know where to go for help in a crisis or what counts as a management committee conflict of interest, you'll find all the answers and much, much more in the members area of NSUN's website – complete with checklists, downloadable templates and clear descriptions on everything you need to know to run a good organisation.

How to get your hands on them

Simply go to www.nsun.org.uk and become a member to see what we've got to offer. If you've any problems using our site, email us at info@nsun.org.uk. Or if you're not on-

Funding opportunities

New) Chelsea Building Society Charitable Foundation – review completed now open

Chelsea Building Society Charitable Foundation is a registered charity established by Chelsea Building Society. They make donations of anything from £250 to £5,000 to a variety of charitable causes who aim to relieve suffering and disadvantage and to benefit local communities like yours. The Foundations Trustees meet twice each year to approve grants for charities which relate to the Chelsea Building Society core business in the communities in which it operates. As a general rule the Foundation makes grants in the following proportions from the funds available at each meeting.

The proportion of funding allocated by Charitable Sector are: Housing/Homelessness and Debt Management - 50%; The Elderly - 12.5%; The Disabled - 12.5%; Mental Health/Learning Difficulties - 12.5%; Children/Young People - 12.5%.

The next Trustee meeting is due to take place on 14 May 2009 and **the closing date for any application who wish to be considered is 2 April 2009.**

Full details for application are on Website: <http://www.thechelsea-charity-foundation.co.uk/>

Focus Group volunteers wanted

Do you currently or have you in the past had a social worker involved in your care?

If so, WITNESS would like to hear from you. We want to hear about your experience of professional boundaries with social workers – what are appropriate or safe boundaries? Have there been times when boundaries have been crossed?

The General Social Care Council (GSCC) has commissioned this work as a part of a larger project on boundaries in social work. This is a great chance for people who use services to influence new guidance for social workers.

We are asking people to participate on two days. The first day will consist of a short session (30 - 60 minutes) where the facilitators will talk with you on your own. On the second day, you and the other participants will meet together as a group for a half-day session (11 – 3). We are able to reimburse participants for their time and travel expenses and will provide food and beverage on each of the days. The meetings will be held in London. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lynn Hiltz by Friday 13th of March:

Tel: 020 7922 7801

Email: lhiltz@professionalboundaries.org.uk

Derbyshire User focused Monitoring

Derbyshire User Focused Monitoring (DUFM) are hoping to conduct research into the use of seclusion in the Derbyshire area in order to consider the wider use (or abolition) of seclusion in the areas we need to consider.

It would therefore, be most helpful if individuals/ organisations could let me have their views/ experiences seclusion, implementing seclusion or witnessing seclusion. Also are you aware of any research on this topic?

If you can help in any of the above areas please write to :-
Keith Suanders, 19 Watson Street, Derby, DE1 3P

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Financial penalties for hospitals who fail to tackle mixed sex accommodation

Financial penalties for hospitals who fail to tackle mixed sex accommodation

From next year hospitals that treat patients in mixed sex accommodation will not be paid for their care, Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced today. These tough new penalties are part of a package of measures being introduced in a new drive to virtually eliminate mixed sex accommodation and ensure it doesn't reappear.

The Department of Health's guidance to trusts is that men and women should not have to share sleeping accommodation or toilet facilities. From 2010/11 hospitals who fail to deliver this will face serious financial consequences - unless there is an overriding clinical justification.

The Health Secretary also announced that a £100million Privacy and Dignity Fund will be made available to support the NHS to make the necessary changes to virtually eliminate mixed sex accommodation.

The package of measures includes:

- * Financial penalties for those hospitals where patients are treated in mixed sex accommodation - unless it can be clinically justified.
- * A £100 million ring-fenced Privacy and Dignity Fund to help Trusts make swift adjustments to hospital accommodation.
- * Improvement teams will be set up to go into hospitals that need support over the next six months.
- * A greater focus on measuring and improving patient experience of mixed sex accommodation.

The Privacy and Dignity Fund will be allocated to SHAs following submission of plans that set out how they intend to significantly reduce mixed sex accommodation. Plans will be submitted to the Department of Health by the end of February and the money will be allocated in April with the expectation that work has begun on the wards by the end of June.

Poet's corner

.A poem from the night in question

Oh moonlit sky
I love your moonlit eyes gazing down over us.
And the cold and mild sea breeze,
What an impish Autumn tease?

With space vast in heaven at last.
Out of our city, into our country and seaside pretty it
makes you want to be alive and wild.
Scream like a banshee even if you're a he

Then the inner child jumped out
Wanting to climb to the top of every mount and shout.

Some of us were curious to look over the edge
Nerves jangled and some were scared to death
In the Old days they endured tall feats

Dressed like a Dickens character,
And letting go of anxieties.
Oh moonlit sky,
I love your calming light over our uncertainties.

Julie Hamilton 2008

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