



**national survivor
user network**



Monday 14th April 2011

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NSUN news

NSUN Chair: Tina Coldham recently stood down as chair of NSUN after 2 years in post. Tina has been a tireless supporter of NSUN from its embryonic days right through to it becoming an independent organisation. Sue Haworth has been appointed as the acting chair of NSUN until the first annual general meeting. As a charity NSUN must hold its first annual general meeting before November 2011 (within eighteen months after the date of its incorporation). We will be setting a date soon and sending out details to all members.

London: We are mapping what type of training is available for and being delivered by people who have direct experience of mental distress & mental health service use.

We have created a short questionnaire which we would like to send you. But we don't want to waste your time. So rather than just sending it to everyone we'd like to find out from you if you want to participate. If you are, simply click the link below, fill out the short form and we will email the questionnaire straight back.

[I'd like to participate in the London Services mapping project.](#)

North West: You can read the summery report of the regional networking consultation on the NSUN [website](#).

Survivor Research Network: The Survivor Research Network is a user-led programme that aims to support and promote research led by people with personal experience of mental health problems. It was previously part of the Mental Health Foundation's Strategies for Living Project and is now being hosted through NSUN. If you would like more information or you would like to register your interest please [email us](#).



Epic walk: What's it all about?

Tony Russell is undertaking a long distance walk between March and May 2011 visiting various mental health establishments that are known to recognise the tremendous value art has in aiding recovery and enhancing the healing environment, as well as visiting prominent art galleries and media outlets.

The aim is to raise awareness of mental health issues and the value of the creative arts as an aid to recovery; and the work of Combat Stress who undertake using art as therapy for returning servicemen.

To find out more about the route and the events happening during the walk and to download a sponsorship form please visit the Breakthrough Art [website](#).



Report: Recovery & Resilience

Recovery and Resilience presents stories of recovery from mental and emotional distress, based on twenty seven interviews with women from African, African Caribbean and South Asian backgrounds. The project was developed by Survivor Research and based at the Mental Health Foundation.

The main aim of the project was to explore the concept of recovery from the perspectives of black women and present positive stories, highlighting what helped women regain a sense of self and identity and overcome the causes and consequences of mental distress.



Download the full report and recommendations [here](#).



Survey: Public Transport & Mental Health

[The Mental Health Action Group](#) (MHAG) is a user led campaign group based in Derbyshire. Since 2008 MHAG has been actively campaigning about transport issues in relation to mental health. In order to campaign effectively MHAG is gathering evidence about people's experiences of public transport and the effect it has on their mental health. This evidence will be presented to the Department of Transport and other relevant transport organisations in order to improve mental health awareness and to highlight any consequent need for changes and improvements.

If you consider yourself to have a mental health condition MHAG would very much appreciate your time and help by completing this [survey](#).



Competition: Making Events Accessible Wiki

SCIE wants to know what makes an event accessible and have produced a wiki that will create a guide to making social care events accessible. The wiki website is being used to ask service users what they need to take part in events. You can make changes to the wiki and find out further information [here](#).

This wiki will be available until 30 June 2011.

Everyone who registers to the wiki before 30 June will be entered into a free prize draw. The first four people drawn will each receive a **£25 Amazon gift voucher**. Anyone who has already registered will also be entered into the draw.

[Visit the wiki here](#)



Petition: Poetry Book Society

[Survivors Poetry](#) is supporting the [petition](#) against the cuts to the Poetry Book Society that was founded by T S Eliot and friends in 1953.

The Poetry Book Society is asking people to let the Arts Council England know the extent to which their decision will affect poets or poetry readers. You can do this by emailing the Arts Council's Chair, [Dame Liz Forgan](#) or signing the [petition](#).

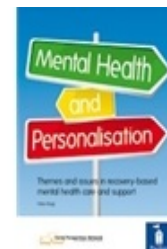
Visit the [website](#) for more information.



Publication: Mental Health & Personalisation

This workbook was produced by Daisy Bogg on behalf of [Social Perspectives Network](#). It aims to assist service users, carers and professionals to work through the themes and issues related to recovery-based mental health care and support and aspects of personalisation.

For more information and to order a copy visit the Pavilion [website](#).



Care Quality Commission: Count me in census

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) published the results of the final Count me in census (6 April 2011) about the ethnicity of mental health inpatients, and calls for organisations beyond the healthcare sector to help improve mental health and well-being among black and minority ethnic (BME) groups.

Overall, the findings of the sixth Count me in census show little change from previous years. They continue to show differences in mental health admission and detention rates between black and minority ethnic groups and white groups, and also differences within minority ethnic groups. Although the total numbers of mental health inpatients have fallen since 2005, ethnic differences in rates of admission, detention under the Mental Health Act and seclusion have not altered materially.

The report on Count me in 2010 can be found on CQC's [website](#).



Campaign: Welfare and benefits

Mind's welfare and benefits system campaign:

- March in London on **Wednesday 11 May 2011**. Charities and organisations



- will be protesting about the impact of cuts and welfare changes on people with disabilities or illnesses at the [Hardest Hit](#) march.
- Download the [Local Campaigner pack](#) to help you campaign in your area and raise concerns about changes to welfare and benefits with your MP

The new work capability assessment (WCA), the medical test for employment and support allowance (ESA), came into effect on Monday 28 March 2011. However, regulations like these can be overturned by a vote. An Early Day Motion (EDM) has been tabled by Ed Miliband, Leader of the Labour Party, calling for the new assessment to be annulled. In order to achieve this, the EDM needs to be signed by as many MPs as possible.

- [Find and contact your MP](#) and ask them add their support to [EDM1651](#).

Department news

The Health Bill's progress through Parliament is to be delayed by a month, to give health secretary Andrew Lansley time to listen to concerns about the possible impact on the NHS. The Government has taken the opportunity of a natural break in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill to engage with patients, the public and health professionals on NHS Modernisation. The Prime Minister said: 'This listening exercise is a genuine chance to make a difference. Where there are good suggestions to improve the legislation, those changes will be made'. Secretary of State Andrew Lansley said it was a chance to 'pause, listen, reflect and improve.' Steve Field, former chair of the Royal College of GPs, will lead the NHS Future Forum bringing together patient representatives, doctors, nurses and other health professionals to listen and report back to Government. For further information, go to the [website](#).

HealthWatch Transition Plan: On 30 March, the Department of Health published the first in a series of transition documents primarily for Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), their host organisations and English local authorities to support the evolution from LINKs to local HealthWatch. The transition plan can be found [here](#)

Department for Work and Pensions: This is the government's response to the consultation on proposals to replace the Disability Living Allowance with a new benefit, the Personal Independence Payment was published 4 April 2011. Read more [here](#).

Closure of National Mental Health Development Unit 31st March 2011: Full details of NMHDU's work will continue to be on the [website](#) and a summary of more recent activities is available in a final briefing.

New public sector equality duty comes into force: On 5 April 2011 the public sector equality duty came into force in England, Scotland and Wales. This duty replaces the existing race, disability and gender equality duties. For the first time, public sector bodies will be required to demonstrate equality across all strands, including age, sexual orientation and religion or belief. This builds on the existing duties relating to disability, gender and race, and improves the coverage in relation to gender reassignment. For more information visit the Equality and Human Rights Commission [website](#).

GP Pathfinder: The Secretary of State for Health has announced the latest groups of GPs to take on commissioning responsibilities. There are now 220 GP pathfinders covering almost 90% of the country and 45.7 million people. The groups will work together to help manage local budgets and purchase services for patients directly with other NHS colleagues and local authorities. For further information visit the [website](#).

