



**national survivor  
user network**



Monday 21st February 2011

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## NSUN news

### Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press

**London:** Look out for the bulletin about the London service user/survivor training mapping. We will be sending out more information on Wednesday with details on how to access the survey. We want to find out what training is being delivered for & by service users & survivors & what standards exist regarding payment of trainers.

**North West:** Summary of findings from the consultation about continued regional networking with Collective Voice North West members is now available [here!](#)

**South East:** Regional [training programme](#) - interviews are taking place 31st March. There are a few places left so if you're interested [APPLY NOW!](#)

**NSUN poll results:** We asked you what impact the new [Mental Health Strategy: no health without mental health](#) was likely to have on your experience of mental health services.

50% said 'No significant impact'

39% said 'A negative impact'

11% said 'A positive impact'



## NATIONAL INVOLVEMENT PARTNERSHIP (NIP)

NIP is a consortium, led by NSUN, that includes the Afya Trust, Attend, Equalities National Council, Together, Mental Health Foundation and the Social Perspectives Network (SPN). These organisations have a wealth of previous experience in the field of service user and carer involvement in national mental health policy.

The consortium will continue to work together to ensure that the direct voice of people using services and their carers influences policy makers and commissioners. We want to create a sustainable & authentic involvement infrastructure that doesn't fragment when statutory structures change or disappear.

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



## MENTAL HEALTH RESISTENCE NETWORK

If you are going to the demo this **Saturday, 26th March**, but don't want to go alone, members of the Mental Health Resistance Network will be meeting in Camberwell Green at 10.15am.

You don't have to be involved with the MHRN to join the group.

Contact [Denise](#)

The Next meeting of the Mental Health Resistance Network will be on Wednesday 23rd March 2.00pm - 4.00pm at Cooltan Arts [SE17 1RL](#)

See a map of Anti-Cuts groups around the UK [here](#).



## INQUIRY: Incapacity Benefits to Employment & Support Allowance

The Work and Pensions Committee have launched an inquiry into the migration from Incapacity Benefits to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), including the Work Capability Assessment.



ESA replaced incapacity benefits for people making new claims from October 2008. To be eligible for ESA, a person must usually undergo a Work Capability Assessment (WCA).

The introduction of ESA in 2008 was initially limited to new claimants. Existing incapacity benefit claimants are now being reassessed under the Work Capability Assessment. The process will last until 2014 with around 1.5 million people being reassessed.

Reassessment commenced on 11 October 2010 with a trial in Aberdeen and Burnley. At the end of February, Jobcentre Plus began a limited introductory phase, and will move to full national reassessment of incapacity benefit claimants from April 2011.

Short submissions (no more than 3,000 words) are invited from interested organisations and individuals. The deadline for submitting evidence is **14 April 2011**.

Full terms of reference and further information about submitting evidence can be found on the [inquiry page](#).

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## PUBLIC HEALTH WHITE PAPER: Response

The Afiya Trust and Race on the Agenda (ROTA) have prepared a response to the Coalition Government's White Paper on public health, Healthy Lives, Healthy People.

This response is based on on-going consultations with BME community and voluntary sector organisations and the networks the Afiya Trust hosts.

If you would like to be co-signatories visit the [website](#) to find out more and respond by Friday, 25th March 2011

You can also visit the Department of Health [online](#) consultation



THE AFIYA TRUST

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## TIME TO CHANGE: It's time to talk, it's Time to Change

From today you'll see advertising across England – all aimed at breaking down the fear and awkwardness people feel in talking about mental health.

Now is the ideal time to get your organisation talking about mental health. The new campaign is all about the fact that a few small words can make a big difference. That could be talking about our own mental health problem, or talking to someone we know who has a mental health problem. See the [five step plan](#) to get started.

Visit the ['Your organisation'](#) section of the website for:

- Inspiration and tips on how your organisation can get involved
- New free ['time to talk'](#) materials
- A free event box with all you need to run events that will get your organisation or community talking - available free when you [register](#) your activity



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## ESSAY COMPETITION: Post-Natal Depression

Essay title: *The relationship between mothers, their role, culture, social status, economic disposition and Post-Natal Depression in world societies: clues to understanding the origins, presentation and treatment*

The prize is open for all people from any organisation and professional discipline that has engaged with issues of Post-Natal Depression and culture.

Three prizes will be awarded by a panel of experts.

1st Prize: **£1000.00** 2nd Prize: **£750.00** 3rd Prize: **£500.00**

Entries must be no more than 5000 words, and must be referenced using the Harvard reference style, and submitted by [email](#) 1st December 2011.

For more information, please visit the [website](#) or email:

[Albert Persaud](#), Co-Founder & Director - careif

[Stephen Stansfeld](#), Chair - careif



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## WEBCHAT: With David Behan

Following the launch of the new mental health outcomes strategy No Health Without Mental Health, [David Behan](#), Director General for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships at the Department of Health, will be hosting a webchat on **Thursday 7 April** starting at 1.15pm.

This presents a unique opportunity for you to ask a senior government official, responsible for the strategy, questions you may have relating both to the strategy itself and mental health in general. This may include questions covering for example:

- The relevance of the strategy to your work
- Implementation issues
- How we can continue to build better relationships and work together to



achieve the vision set out in the strategy.

To increase the likelihood of your question being answered you are encouraged to send them in advance by Thursday 31 March by [email](#).

Details of how to register for this webchat will be sent out soon.

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### **INQUIRY: Quality of General Practice in England**

Next Thursday the Kings Fund will launch the findings of an independent Inquiry into the Quality of General Practice in England. Sign up and watch the live coverage on the Kings Fund website 8.25am Thursday 24th March.

[Register](#) to watch this free event, featuring Sir Ian Kennedy and Professor Nigel Mathers.

