



**national survivor
user network**



27 April 2011

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NSUN news

Service User Groups across England

NSUN has a map of where service user groups are across England. If you would like to find out where your local group is, just visit the [website](#). If you are aware of any groups we don't have listed please let us know so we can make sure others know about them, just [email us](#) with details.

News, views & opinions from the North East

Agreat round up of local news and what is happening in the wider mental health world. [Read more here](#).

We want to know how cuts to benefits and services are affecting you.

It was recently discovered that Jobcentre staff around the country have been given weekly targets, having to refer a certain number of claimants for sanctions, where benefits are removed for up to six months. The [Department for Work and Pensions](#) (DWP) initially denied this, then confirmed that this had been happening in some offices. It was reported that because of pressure from 'the targets', some personal advisers 'set up' claimants, tricking them into stating things that were not necessarily true. The DWP have now stated that this practice has been stopped.

We have also started to see the impact of the cuts with contracts not being renewed and retendering processes excluding smaller groups and providers.

Let us know how the cuts have affected you and the support you get. [Just click here](#).

NSUN poll results

We asked members what impact they felt the Mental Health Strategy, no health without mental health, would have on their experiences of mental health services. The results were:

- No significant impact on your experience of mental health services **44%**
- A negative impact on your experience of mental health services **37%**
- A positive impact on your experience of mental health services **19%**

For briefings and comments about the strategy [click here](#).

Manage your membership

If you haven't signed into the members area yet your log in credentials will have been set as a default to:

Your member name is: **mulimba.namwenda@nsun.org.uk**

Your password is: **mypassword**

Please sign in and check that we have all your member details up to date and correct. When you are there you can, of course, change your password to the one you want to use and set a user name for the forum. It will only take a few minutes by [clicking here](#).

Mental Health in the Media

NHS reform live blog - mental health special. Today, dedicated all of their coverage to changes in mental health services. Read more [here](#)

High-level supported-living housing is under threat as one London council calls a hostel 'surplus to requirements'. Read more [here](#).

Disability Now: Organised chaos - Cuts leave lives in crisis. Read more [here](#).

A roof garden, developed in partnership with the Eden Project, has been created at London's Southbank Centre by a team of 50 people who have faced adversity in life. Most have been homeless, spent time in prison or have mental health problems. Read more [here](#).

[NHS cuts](#): the first casualties.



[Catherine Zeta Jones](#) has opened up about her struggle with bipolar disorder. "There is no need to suffer silently, and there is no shame in seeking help," said the actress.

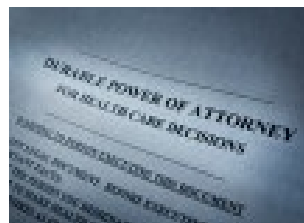
[Mental Health America](#): May is Mental Health Month: "Do More For 1 In 4". Mental Health Month was created more than 50 years ago by Mental Health America to raise awareness about mental health conditions and the importance of mental wellness and promoting good mental health for all. One theme of this year's activities, "Do More for 1 in 4," is a call to action to help the 54 million adult Americans who have a diagnosable mental health condition.

[NHS Choices](#): Mental Health news.

Advanced Directives

The term advance directive (increasingly being replaced by the term advance decision) means a statement explaining what medical treatment the individual would not want in the future, should that individual 'lack capacity' as defined by the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The term 'living will', whilst helping people to understand the concept, is somewhat misleading in that, unlike a will, it does not deal with money or property. Moreover, it can relate to all future treatment, not just that which may be immediately life-saving. An advance directive is legally binding.

For more information visit the [Patient.co.uk website](#) and the [Directgov website](#).



Day of Protest 11th May

On Wednesday May 11th thousands of disabled people, their families and supporters from all over the country will come together to protest with one voice outside the Houses of Parliament and make their feelings known about the impact of spending cuts on disabled people.

The day of protest is organised by [UKDPC](#) and major disability organisations. For further details & a full lobby pack [click here](#).



Open Up

Open Up is becoming Time To Change Champions

This month's bulletin is mainly to tell you about changes that will be happening to Open Up this month and next - to let you know what to expect, and how you can carry on getting the most out of this project.

Read the Open Up E-Bulletin [online](#).



Department of Health news

The members of the NHS Future Forum, chaired by Professor Steve Field, were announced last week. The Forum met for the first time on 20 April. Visit the [website](#) for more information on the listening exercise and the Future Forum.

[Liberating the NHS](#): Next steps & legislative framework.

Engagement workshops for smaller provider organisations will feed into the wider listening exercise. Four workshops are being held from 5-17 May. Dates and venues:

Workshop A

Central London Thursday 5th May 13:00-17:00
Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG

Workshop B

Birmingham Wednesday 11th May 11:00-15:00
BVSC, 138 Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DR

Workshop C

Bristol Thursday 12th May 11:00-15:00
ACAS South West, The Waterfront Welsh Back, Bristol, BS1 4SB

Workshop D

Leeds Tuesday 17th May 11:00-15:00
Department of Health, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE

[Email](#) or telephone 020 7210 2786 for a booking form.

