



New Horizons

New Horizons: A shared vision for mental health was launched at the end of 2009, following wide ranging consultation, which Volition promoted and responded to. New Horizons is the over-arching vision for mental health in England covering the next ten years. It seeks to both improve mental health services, and to prevent people developing mental ill health. Importantly, New Horizons says that mental health is everyone's business, so it will be delivered across government departments (not just health). It also brings together an alliance of local government, the voluntary sector and professionals, as well as local communities and individuals to work towards a society that values mental wellbeing as much as physical health.



New Horizons covers a lifetime - from laying down the foundations of good mental health in childhood, through to maintaining mental wellbeing into older age. It emphasises the importance of prevention through to effective treatment and recovery. It also outlines the benefits to society of reducing the burden of mental illness and unlocking the benefits of wellbeing in terms of physical health, educational attainment, employment and reduced crime.

New Horizons was launched at the same time as three other significant policy papers, outlining plans to support people with mental health needs back into employment. They are:

- Working our way to better mental health: a framework for action, which is the mental health and employment strategy
- Realising ambitions: better employment support for people with a mental health condition, an independent review carried out by Rachel Perkins.
- Work, Recovery and Inclusion: employment support for people in contact with secondary mental health services. About people receiving treatment and support within the Care Programme Approach, this forms part of the government's response to the Perkins Review.

More on these employment reports inside.

You can order a copy of New Horizons from the publications section of the Department of Health website: www.dh.gov.uk, or visit: www.newhorizons.dh.gov.uk, where you can find news, information and resources to support the plans.

Inside

2 Around Volition & city

- New member, Leeds Black Elders Association
- Volition members' conference

7 IMH

- New website

8 Working Groups

- MH Programme Board and Expert Advisory Group
- SDS Forum

10 Reports and National Issues

- MH and employment—reports

12 Noticeboard

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**Deadline for
next edition of
Volition:
Noon, Thursday
8th April 2010**

Around Volition and City

People

Kath Lindley is the new Forum Manager for the Leeds Voluntary Sector Learning Disabilities Forum and shares an office with the Volition team. Contact Kath on Kath@ldforum.org.uk, Tel: 0113 278 7300 or 07827 790455

Professor Ian Hughes, the Chairman of Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust, will retire at the end of March 2010, after 11 years in post. Professor Hughes guided radical improvements in the way that mental health and learning disability services are delivered, including the development of three new in-patient units to replace the old High Royds Hospital.

New Volition member: Leeds Black Elders Association

Leeds Black Elders Association aims to provide services that are innovative and appropriate to the needs of Elders, enabling, empowering and representing the interests in particular, but not exclusively, of Black Elders, in order to break down the barriers preventing equality of opportunity. The organisation is built on a firm foundation of dedicated committee members, staff and volunteers, many of whom have been present for a number of years.

The association provides services including a dementia café, befriending, advocacy, gardening and handyperson schemes to the Black Elderly throughout Leeds and operates as a neighbourhood network scheme covering mainly the Harehills and Chapel Allerton and University wards (Leeds 6, 7, 8, and 9).

www.lbea.co.uk
info@lbea.co.uk or Tel: 237 4332

Jane Wood is leaving her post as Strategic Development Manager for Mental Health at NHS Leeds at the end of March. She led major projects including the development of the IAPT and CDW services, introduction of shared monitoring systems, outcomes and work towards meeting the challenges of New Horizons and Darzi.

Jane brought huge commitment, strong knowledge and understanding of mental health as well as to commissioning and she will be greatly missed. She takes up a joint commissioning role in Barnsley - our loss is definitely Barnsley's gain.

Community Links wins two Star status in Best Companies 2010

Community Links has won a Best Companies accreditation for the third year running. This year we have improved our rating, moving from 1 star First Class employer to 2 star Outstanding Employer status. This places Community Links in the top 200 of all companies in the UK.

The awards are based on independently conducted staff surveys and on what the organisation offers as an employer.

Jon Woolmore, Chief Executive, said "We are proud to be recognised for the third year in a row as a Best Company to work for, and delighted that we have moved up to two star status. Community Links recognises that our staff are our greatest asset."

Creative Bites Training at Arts & Minds

Do you run a group? Do you attend one? Would you like to get some new ideas for how to do creative stuff? Try Creative Bites at Arts & Minds. The training sessions are two hours every two months and each explores a different art form. Coming up soon we have workshops in photography and visual arts. You will learn new techniques to use in your group and discuss project ideas to carry on ideas in the long term. There is a particular emphasis on working with groups of people with mental health issues.

Sessions are £25 each – but you can get two for the price

of one if you book soon!

Future sessions:
Tuesday 12th March, 2-4pm: Photography
Tuesday 11th May, 2-4pm: Visual Arts
Location: The Mount Art Room, The Mount,
44 Hyde Terrace, LS2 9LN

Please book your place with Sue: 0113 3056621 or info@artsandmindsnetwork.org.uk

Tom Bailey, Arts & Minds Network Development Worker

Getting to grips with the changes ahead

Volition's members' conference this year was on the theme of "current picture, future horizons", a chance to get to grips with some recent and upcoming developments that affect the mental health voluntary sector. Once again, it was a well attended and lively event, thanks to everyone who attended and participated enthusiastically.

"We learn and appreciate more each time we attend the conference."

Workshops, which were mostly run by Volition members, included contracts and commissioning, refugees and mental health, personality disorder, the Compact for Leeds, and the Mental Health Act. These workshops were described as brilliant, excellent, interesting or informative, so clearly met people's needs and expectations.

We were really pleased with the range of speakers, who challenged us as well as giving up-to-date information on local and national developments. Peter Bates of the National Development Team for Inclusion urged voluntary sector organisations to prepare for challenges ahead, both the gloomy predictions of the economic downturn, and the positive affects that personalisation will have on people's lives. Some things, perhaps services that people have worked hard to build, will disappear, so there should be renewed urgency in making sure that people who use these services are supported and have connections.

Those organisations that watch the horizon for new developments, and remain curious and questioning, will be the ones that survive.

More factual presentations followed. Kim Adams of Adult Social Care gave an update on self directed support in mental health services in Leeds. And Jane Williams, NHS Leeds, ran through the important new policy developments, taking in New Horizons and three documents concerned with employment (see page 10 for summaries).

Clare Shaw finished the day off with some of her fantastic and insightful poems, performed as only she can, with passion and humour.

If that wasn't enough to think about, we asked people, through the evaluation form, what Volition's priorities should be for the year ahead. Commissioning issues came up most, with personalisation / self directed support, meeting future challenges, and working collaboratively all getting a number of mentions. And we'll be aiming to "keep up the good work" as some people suggested. Participants showed they were aware of our work and how we keep members updated, through emails, meetings and newsletters.

All presentations, handouts and notes from the event are on our website: www.volition.org.uk

Exhibition about High Royds at Thackray Museum

Leeds Discovery Centre (part of Leeds Museums) and Thackray Medical Museum are making a small mobile exhibition on the theme of High Royds Hospital. This is a pilot project to inform future work with a focus on mental health. The exhibition will initially open at Thackray Museum but will be designed so that it can travel around to other places, such as community groups or libraries.

The project wants people to get involved in two ways. Firstly for people to contribute their stories. Because High Royds closed some years ago, they would like to collect people's stories before they are lost, to form part of a community history archive. Some of these stories can be filmed by the Discovery Centre. Filming will be very informal, and can be done in a variety of settings.

Another option will be to have stories presented as a part of the text and pictures display. Or participants can contribute their stories to make sure that they are not lost and are held in the collection for the future.

People are also needed to join a steering group for the project, to give feedback on the exhibition content and presentation so that it progresses in the right way. This steering group will help create an exhibition that looks at High Royds sensitively and without prejudice but also educates and informs visitors.

If you are interested in participating in any way, please contact Delphi Scott.

Email: delphi@thackraymuseum.org

Unique new support for hate crime victims

STOP HATE CRIME
0800 138 1625
24 HOUR HELP LINE

Victims of hate crime in Leeds can now report incidents by text, email and online, thanks to a new service set up by Stop Hate UK.

According to research by the British Crime Survey, the majority of hate crime victims do not report what has happened to them. Stop Hate UK's services enable victims and witnesses to report hate crime and get support whenever they need it.

Rose Simkins, Chief Executive of Stop Hate UK, says: "There are lots of reasons why people might prefer to send a text or chat online rather than speak on the phone. While some victims may not feel comfortable talking about what's happened to them, they may feel they can put it in writing. Providing them with a way of doing this could mean that a hate crime is reported where it would not have been before."

"It might especially appeal to young people. If someone uses text, email and web chat on a daily basis then they may well be happier communicating via these methods than by phone, especially if they are feeling nervous or distressed."

Che Bishop from Stop Hate UK explains:

"Hate crime victims often want to get support from an organisation that is independent from the Police. We can explain to them that hate crimes are not something they have to put up with, and help them feel empowered and supported."

The text, email and online services run alongside the charity's 24-hour helpline – 0800 138 1625 – and the Hate Incident Reporting Centres in Leeds. Victims and witnesses can use these services to report hate crimes and access support, and can remain anonymous if they wish. More details, and a list of reporting centres, are available at www.stophateuk.org

Email: info@stophateuk.org

Head office phone: 0113 293 5100

Head office text relay: 18001 0113 293 5100

Website: www.stophateuk.org

Do you know about Infostore?

Infostore www.olderpeopleleeds.info is a very easy to use website for older people. It brings together details of organisations, useful leaflets and other documents, news, events and activities within the Leeds area, along with more general advice and reference information of specific interest to them.

The website is designed to meet the needs of older people in Leeds, their carers and the people who work with them. We want to make it easier for older people to find good information about the things they want to know about and support them to live healthy, active and fulfilled lives.

Infostore has been running successfully for over a year, and we now want to develop the website using some of the internet's interactive facilities, such as people being able to leave feedback or reviews of services, have blogs or diaries, or to add useful organisations directly to Infostore.

By making these additions, we hope to help everyone to become much more involved and engaged, both with their community and in shaping their own information and services.

Get involved!

The opinions and suggestions of older people and the people who work with them have helped to make Infostore useful and easy to use. Now we are developing Infostore further we want to make sure that the people who are going to use it continue to be involved. We are looking for people who would be interested in becoming part of a user group. If you are interested, please get in touch with us by emailing infostore@leeds.gov.uk or telephoning Sally Boyes or Chris Dunne on 0113 247 8239.

We want to support as many people as possible to use Infostore. We have the opportunity to provide training to organisations in Leeds and may also be able to provide some computers. Anyone with a library card can use a computer free of charge at the local library, but if you know of somewhere that would benefit from training or computers, email infostore@leeds.gov.uk or telephone Nic Tortice on 0113 247 8239 or 07909 166 523 to discuss it further.



Research into multiple exclusion homelessness

The Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York, as part of the Economic & Social Research Council's 'Multiple Exclusion Homelessness' (MEH) research programme, was successful in its proposal for a six-site UK quantitative study of people who have experienced MEH. St Anne's along with two other local organisations, The Hollies and Bracken Court, were asked to help with the pilot stage of this work in Leeds.

The proposed research is for a robust quantitative survey of people with experience of social exclusion, with a detailed investigation of the particular role played by MEH. The purpose of the study is to better understand the needs, experiences and priorities of people who experience 'deep' forms of social exclusion (such as chaotic drug/alcohol problems, mental health problems, begging, street drinking, street-based sex work, and 'survival' criminal activities, such as shoplifting). There is a concern that these groups often 'fall between the cracks' in government programmes and services, and their needs are looked at in isolation rather than as a whole. The ultimate aim is to target services and resources more appropriately in order to improve the quality of life and life chances of very disadvantaged people.

St Anne's has been co-ordinating the pilot stage of this work in Leeds with Ann Sunter acting as locality

co-ordinator. There have been two stages to this piece of work: to identify people's experiences of homelessness and related factors which has involved a self-completion survey and an in-depth interview survey.

A short briefing on the main substantive findings in Leeds has taken place and because the pilot has been a considerable success the Leeds data can now be incorporated into the main dataset and used as an additional 'proper' case study. Therefore, the Leeds findings will be analysed alongside those from the other six sites next year. All of this analysis will be designed to allow us to pull out findings that are particular to Leeds and any other case study areas.

A feedback seminar will be held in Leeds, as with the other case studies, in 2011 when the project ends. An update report will be provided to Volition on the significant findings of the causation of multiple exclusion homelessness which will be of immense practical benefit to policy makers and service providers in a wide range of areas, along with information on how to access the full research document.

Karen Newsome, St Anne's Community Services

Peer support for people with dementia

There is a new project in Leeds to develop a range of peer support networks for people with dementia. The project is a demonstrator programme from the Department of Health and forms part of the National Dementia Strategy. It is a joint project from Adult Social Care, NHS Leeds and the Alzheimers Society, with the aim of ensuring effective peer support. This should mean that people are enabled to make informed choices about what support they want now and what support they want in the future. The project has four target groups: people living alone with dementia; black and minority ethnic communities; lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender people; and younger people with dementia.

Peer support networks should be set up by April this year.

Some of the ideas for peer support include electronic networks, structured or flexible group work and meetings and therapeutic activities. All of these ideas are being explored to find out which are most effective in giving people with dementia access to emotional support and meaningful information from people in similar situations.

The project is funded until March 2011 and after that the support networks will hopefully be self sustaining, perhaps using volunteers who will be recruited as the project develops.

For further details contact Deborah Marshall, Project Lead Officer, 0789 127 1980 or

Email: deborah.marshall@leeds.gov.uk

Infostore mental health documents available in community languages

Infostore now has its Understanding Bereavement and Understanding Mental Illness leaflets available in other languages. See www.olderpeopleleeds.info

For information on bereavement go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/yhuo9ua>

For information on mental illness go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/yk5uhhv>

More hope, engagement and recovery at aspire

It has been a year since aspire extended its age range to become the sole pathway for all young people aged between 14 to 35 yrs who are or may be experiencing a first episode of psychosis. In that time, the service has seen a 36% increase in the number of young people accessing the service and getting early intervention support.

aspire would like to take this opportunity to thank all services and people who have referred into the service as it has been proven that early intervention significantly improves a young person's chances of recovery from psychosis.

"aspire has been such a support and without it I probably would have relapsed or ended up in hospital"

Fiona Barber and Gemma Elks, team leads at aspire, are very impressed with the increase in referrals since the age range was extended:

"aspire is continuously working with those who have

contact with young people to raise awareness about the early signs of psychosis and what we as an early intervention service offer to both young people and their carers. We are delighted that 36% more young people experiencing a first episode in psychosis are now getting help more quickly and significantly improving their chances of recovery."

aspire is committed to working in partnership with health professionals and the public to promote the importance of early intervention in psychosis. The service has developed a variety of free resources that are young person friendly and a range of free interactive training presentations that can be delivered to staff teams.

Please contact aspire if you would like further information, resources/presentation or a referral pack.

0113 200 9170

www.aspireleeds.co.uk (online referral pack downloadable)

New mental health accommodation available

In May 2010 the new independent living project transitional housing unit (THU) at 144 Spen Lane will open on the former Spen Croft hostel site. The new service will provide short-term support to people with mental health needs on discharge from hospital or to people living in the community who need support prior to moving into their own tenancies.

Tenants will be able to stay for a maximum of eight months. Staff will support tenants to maximise their independent living skills, promote recovery and help tenants find appropriate longer term housing. The service will be staffed 24/7 (sleep-in staff only overnight). The service consists of eight self contained flats, two short-

term respite flats and a crisis flat which will act as an alternative to hospital admission where appropriate. The crisis flat is managed jointly with Leeds Partnership Foundation Trust's Crisis Resolution Team.

The service is now taking referrals for the eight THU short term flats and respite. All referrals must be accompanied by a completed FACE risk assessment.

For further information and referral forms please contact:
Glyn Ramsden tel 0754 5604142
glynn.ramsden@leeds.gov.uk
or Claire Oliver tel 0754 5604141
claire.m.oliver@leeds.gov.uk

The development of a user led organisation for Leeds

The expectation is that every local authority with adult social care responsibility will have in place by 2010 a user led organisation on a centre for independent living model which, as a minimum, offers:

- information and advice
- advocacy and peer support
- support in using direct payments and/ or individual budgets
- support to recruit and employ personal assistants
- assistance with self assessment
- disability equality training
- support the implementation of the Disability Equality

Duty by public sector organisations in the area – including consumer audits.

In Leeds there is no one organisation – user led or not - that can meet the Department of Health criteria for these minimum services on its own, but there are many groups in Leeds which are user led, or may need some support to develop user led status, and which may be interested in being part of a consortium.

If you belong to such a group and would like to know more or be involved please contact Linda Boadle at the Physical and Sensory Impairment Network, tel: 0113 2977942 or email: linda.boadle@val.org.uk



www.mentalhealthleeds.info ... but not as you know it

We talk about more “joined up” thinking, about transparency, and being connected, about personalised services, empowerment, wellbeing. Well here at Information for Mental Health we can announce **the launch of our new, improved, website** which is designed to support this “revisioning” of mental health in Leeds, the development of a wellbeing city and the changes and challenges that the next few years will bring.

The present website grew out of the directory and is enormously popular (864,278 hits and 91,257 visits, Oct-Dec 2009). These statistics can give us a better idea of who is using us, maybe where they came from and where they go next. The new website will build on “The Directory online”, as we called the last website.

So what's new?

Well as always it will be *the* place to find out what is available in Leeds, drawing from a database of over 800 organisations. This covers not only health, social care and voluntary sectors but the wider remit of wellbeing that includes employment, housing, harassment, stigma and many other areas of living in Leeds that make up a wellbeing Leeds. We are heartened by how the wellbeing agenda is developing with the Vision for Leeds, Narrowing the Gap taking a wellbeing perspective. Information, as we know, is a key component.

The new website will have up to date information but also information that is constantly changing. As always IMH keeps abreast of changing technologies and so information will come in many formats from downloadable official documents, videos, podcasts, visual and verbal media and looking towards building in interactivity. So now it is much broader than a directory. It is a

constantly refreshed pool of information, local and national, that can be connected to in many ways. It will enhance current work and give people using services a much richer access to the issues, resources, organisations, events and training available. There will now be one place you can go to for issues and information that promotes mental health, aid in prevention and recovery from mental health problems and support wellbeing.

What else? ... And an invitation...

Now anyone can be enabled to input into the website. This could be to promote your service, advertise your training, event, an issue, the opening of a new service.

We would like to invite those people who would like to work with us on how to use the website to put on their own data, in any format, to promote themselves or advertise events. It is possible to connect up other information resources you may have developed with the new IMH website. Let us know if you would like to explore the possibilities offered to use the new IMH website for your own ends.

In the first instance, the new website will have its soft launch on 24th March. Later in the year we will have a bigger celebration of the website and Information for Mental Health in its 20th year. There will be plenty of publicity and promotion of the event, so watch this space or keep an eye on the website.

Ruth Steinberg, IMH manager
ruth.steinberg@imhleedsmind.org.uk
www.mentalhealthleeds.info

Care Programme Approach is changing

Volition is working with LPFT and other partners to make sure Leeds implements Department of Health guidance on refocusing the Care Programme Approach (CPA). This is being embraced as a positive opportunity to make sure CPA is applied consistently across the city.

New guidelines for care coordinators and other staff working with CPA in Leeds are available from Volition. A citywide CPA policy for all sectors is being agreed. Further information and training sessions will be developed.

Contact me at Volition or Donna Kemp, CPA Development Manager at LPFT for more information on 0113 295 2391 or email: donna.kemp@leedspft.nhs.uk.

It would also be really good for Fiona Barber (fiona.barber@commlinks.co.uk, tel 0113 200 9176), and me, the Volition representatives on the Citywide Care Planning Quality & Development Group, to hear your experiences, concerns or comments so that we can represent you.

Pip Goff, Volition

Working Groups

Mental Health Programme Board January 2010

NHS Leeds (PCT) restructure - Philomena Corrigan has been confirmed as Executive Director, Strategic Commissioning. Two Assistant Commissioning Directors have been appointed: Nigel Gray for mental health, learning disabilities and offenders and Sarah Sinclair for children, staying healthy (drugs and alcohol) and sexual health. Heads of Integrated Commissioning Teams including mental health and learning disabilities are being appointed. The Board expressed sincere sorrow that both Carol Cochrane and Jane Wood are leaving NHS Leeds and recorded thanks to both for all that they have achieved in driving forward service improvements in mental health. Concern was noted about ongoing championing of mental health within NHS Leeds.

A progress report of work streams and partnership groups - Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) and Rehabilitation and Recovery are priority areas. It is hoped that a joint mental health commissioning plan (agenda item for March's Programme Board), will be signed off by NHS Leeds, Adult Social Care and Supporting People. Employment support is also a priority and two bids are being submitted as part of PSA 16.

Joint service reviews - the final one (LPFT Carers service) is underway. Volition raised concerns about the letter sent by Carol Cochrane to members who currently hold contracts with the PCT, which includes Volition. The issue is about introduction of the NHS Standard Contract

for community mental health and learning disability services and NHS Leeds' proposals for managing this. Volition has since received written reassurance that provides that organisations will not be forced into having contracts subsumed.

Research - There will no longer be a planned work programme with Leeds University Research office. NHS Leeds will instead commission specific pieces of work as required.

The group worked through a **Commissioning Peer Review Framework**, which NHS Leeds has been asked to complete by the SHA as part of a commissioner audit tool and peer review framework on behalf of the Y&H PCT collaborative. The audit tool criteria relates to the mental health pathways within Healthy Ambitions, the SHA output from the NHS next stage review, and aims to assist PCTs to achieve the aspirations within Healthy Ambitions through baseline assessment.

Delivering Race Equality - Jon Beech from Touchstone presented a review of progress and led discussion on further action required. The main issue is ensuring organisations take responsibility for integrating and evidencing race equality. This is not just a challenge to the statutory sector but also to all voluntary sector providers.

Expert Advisory Group February 2010

Race for Health Peer Review – Looked at the IAPT procurement process including the impact on smaller voluntary sector providers.

Dual Diagnosis – a worker has now been appointed to replace Jaime Delgado in a slightly different role, due to start in April.

BME Advisory Group – March meeting will discuss refugee and asylum seeker issues.

Volition – welcomed positive response from NHS Leeds re contracting issues.

A question was raised about ensuring providers and service users are updated about work being done to establish an outcomes framework. Volition requested an update on the work that was done following the consultation events last year. Commissioners confirmed

that they will produce a summary, and confirmed that in future the focus will be on outcomes which reflect the seven 'Our Health, Our Care' outcomes; using tools such as the Recovery Star and narratives (i.e. individual service users' stories) to monitor outcomes. A summary of progress will be produced as an update, but it was noted that forthcoming service specifications will have a combination of overall outcomes expected from mental health services as well as individual service outcomes. It was also noted that there is a proposal to embed the Recovery Star into CPA but this has not yet been finalised.

Children and Families – From 1st April children, ie under 18s, cannot be admitted to adult wards. Alternative provision is therefore being tendered.

Service User and Carer Reference Group – looking at a new name and working through required changes from

their review. Ron Sweeney has stepped down; thanks were given for all the work he has done.

Public Health – MH Needs assessment report due in April. MH public health posts will become part of the Integrated Commissioning Team, which will also have some public health consultant input from Dr Victoria Eaton.

Accommodation Discharge Project – very positive impact with no recent delayed discharges due to housing and no-one discharged to emergency accommodation. Extended from Becklin to include Rehabilitation wards.

Information Sharing – The 2005 citywide MH information Sharing Protocol is variably used and needs reviewing and updating in line with DoH guidance published recently. Many different information sharing documents

with relevance to MH exist. It was agreed that a short-term task group should be set up to look at this and make recommendations. The importance of information sharing within CPA and other training was noted.

Personalisation – work is being done by the Service User Involvement Network around social inclusion, using money left at the end of i3.

Events between April and October 2010 will showcase different approaches people with MH issues have taken to recovery, including use of personal budgets, with the intention encouraging the exploration of new options and possibilities.

*Sharon Allen and Pip Goff
Volition representatives*

Self directed support forum

The voluntary sector providers' self directed support (SDS) forum goes from strength to strength. This is a group made up of members of all the voluntary sector forums (Volition, Older People's Forum, Learning Disabilities Forum, PSI Network and Leeds Voice Health Forum) who have an interest in and want to keep up with developments in SDS.

One of the aims of the forum is to share information and good practice. At the last meeting Jo-Anne Lewis-Middleton, Service Manager at the Richmond Fellowship in Rotherham, gave a really interesting presentation about how their mental health services have been transformed to provide flexible, personalised services. This has been a necessity as Rotherham Social Services (their funders) are cutting their entire budget over 3 years, so they will go from being commissioned by social services to being entirely commissioned by individuals.

This sparked off a discussion about how to market services, which will doubtless be revisited again.

The group acts as a reference group to the SDS Board, led by Adult Social Care. Regular meetings with Emma Lewis, Business Change Manager at ASC allow Volition and the other forums to give feedback from the sector, as well as Pip representing us on the SDS Board.

Current concerns and issues raised include detail around implementing individual service funds (where an organisation manages a personal budget on someone's behalf); care management; supporting culture change; and making sure services are still provided if an individual misses payments.

Please contact Gill or Pip at Volition if you would like to join this forum.

LINK takes on mental health services

Leeds LINK is the local involvement network for Leeds, to give people a say about improving health and social care services. Following a poll of members, they have decided that mental health services should be a priority, so a mental health work group has been set up.

This group now wants to hear from people, particularly those who have used mental health services, about things that could be improved in Leeds. For example, is there enough information about crisis services? The LINK will take up issues that nobody else is acting on, if there is

some evidence or strong concern that changes are needed. These don't need to be huge policy changes – making small changes to the way services are organised can make a huge difference. Please contact Gill at Volition (contact details on the front of this newsletter) with any suggestions for the mental health work group's action plan.

For more information and news about Leeds LINK, including how to join, go to: www.leedslink.org.uk

Reports and National Issues

Working our way to better mental health: a framework for action

This is the cross-government (the Health, Work and Wellbeing initiative) national mental health and employment strategy. Led by Dame Carol Black and a team of expert advisors from across the mental health and employment fields, it takes a 'dual approach' in addressing wellbeing at work for everyone and better employment outcomes for people with mental health conditions, both in and out of work.

It sets out the government's ambitions for mental health and employment and is a practical framework that gives a series of commitments from government and what it

expects from health professionals, employers, organisations and individuals.

It identifies six key areas for action:

- changing attitudes to mental health
- improving health and wellbeing at work
- early intervention
- tailoring support (individualised) in and out of work
- building resilience from early years
- coordinating action across government

www.workingforhealth.gov.uk

Realising Ambitions: better employment support for people with a mental health condition

Requested by the then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, James Purnell, this is an independent review of services, led by Rachel Perkins of South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust and supported by Paul Farmer of Mind and Paul Litchfield at BT. It has been welcomed by the government and features in its strategy (Working our way to better mental health) as the government intends to respond positively to many of the key recommendations.

The recommendations for action can be summarised under three main headings:

Increasing capacity and dispelling myths: make low-cost changes to existing services quickly through better joined-up working of frontline health and work staff (Jobcentre Plus etc) and improving welfare-to-work services.

More support: implement individual placement support, based on the extensive evidence base. Embed employment specialists in all mental health and social

care teams, across primary and secondary care and adapt Access to Work to make possible both internships for people who have been long-term out of work (in parallel with job search) and enabling people to gradually build-up their working hours over time. The reform of Access to Work will also ensure that people can know whether they are eligible for support from the beginning of the job application process. The suggested adaptations to Access to Work have been particularly endorsed by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Effective monitoring and drivers for change: health and social services should routinely monitor employment outcomes and employment services, and the DWP should routinely monitor outcomes for people with a mental health condition whom they serve. The aim is that performance indicators should demonstrate a year-on-year decrease in the gap between the general employment rate and that of people with a mental health condition.

www.dwp.gov.uk/realising-ambitions

Work, recovery and inclusion

This incorporates the PSA16 (Socially Excluded Adults Public Service Agreement) Delivery Plan and forms part of the government's response to the Perkins Review (Realising Ambitions). It endorses the recommendations of the review for a more 'joined-up' approach to service delivery across the Department for Work and Pensions and health and social care services.

It commits the government to improving the employment chances of people in touch with secondary services, with the long-term vision being a large increase in the number of people in employment by 2025, and to narrow the gap between their employment rate and that of disabled people generally.

The plan covers supporting people to build skills to compete for jobs, enabling people to get jobs, and supporting employers and employees to keep people in work. The plan will be delivered on a local scale by a 'broad spectrum of providers' and the new Mental Health Coordinators in Jobcentre Plus form part of the government's commitment to strengthening partnerships at a local level.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/psa/supporting_delivery/work-recovery-exclusion.aspx

The Marmot Review – Fair Society, Healthy Lives

Fair Society, Healthy Lives, the Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010 (Marmot Review) was published in February 2010. The aim of the Review was to propose an evidence based strategy for reducing health inequalities from 2010. The strategy includes policies and interventions that address the social determinants of health inequalities.

- Recommendations with a focus on mental health and social inclusion include:
- Implementing guidance on stress management and the effective promotion of wellbeing and physical and mental health at work
- Encouraging and incentivising employers to create or

Slimmed-down national Compact

A slimmed-down version of the national Compact was published in December. The new version of the agreement, which sets out how public and third sector organisations should treat each other, is 22 pages long, compared with more than 160 in the old version and its five codes of practice.

The old codes of practice have been removed and the document has been broken down into three areas covering policy development, resource allocation and equality.

The new agreement says:

- Any organisation subcontracting public service delivery contracts to third sector groups should abide by the Compact's principles.
- Public bodies should make payments to third sector organisations within 10 days of an invoice being received.
- Compact principles should apply to the distribution of EU funding.
- Third sector organisations should be actively involved in policy development rather than just consultation exercises.

The Commission for the Compact has published a short guide, *An Introduction to the Compact*, aimed at people who are unfamiliar with the agreement.

Sir Bert Massie, Commissioner for the Compact, said the refresh process had been challenging.

"This Compact places a greater emphasis on government and public bodies explaining and justifying the decisions they make," he said. "It reaffirms the independence of third sector organisations and their right to campaign and comment on government policy."

www.thecompact.org.uk

- adapt jobs that are suitable for lone parents, carers and people with mental and physical health problems
- Developing the school-based workforce to build their skills in working across school-home boundaries and addressing social and emotional development, physical and mental health and well-being.
- Support locally developed and evidence-based community regeneration programmes that remove barriers to community participation and action and reduce social isolation.

Download the review or summary from: www.ucl.ac.uk/eg/marmotreview

Mental health inequalities

The Sainsbury Centre published *Mental health inequalities: measuring what counts* in February 2010. The report calls for better information to be collected and used to measure inequalities in mental health and the life chances of people with mental health problems. It argues that public services do not routinely collect data on mental health inequalities and that the information they do collect is not used to its full potential.

Download the report from: www.scmh.org.uk/publications/mental_health_inequalities.aspx?ID=606

'Count me in' census 2009

The Care Quality Commission published this report, the fifth of its kind, in January 2010. It is designed to promote equality in healthcare and to monitor the ethnicity of inpatients and people subject to the Mental Health Act. As in other years, this census shows people from black and white/black mixed groups are three times more likely than the average to be detained under the Mental Health Act.

Available to download from www.cqc.org.uk or <http://tinyurl.com/y9hf8wc>

NHS Standard Contracts

The NHS Standard Contracts, including those for mental health & community services, and guidance notes for 2010/11 were published in January 2010. The contracts cover agreements between PCTs and all types of provider delivering NHS funded services. The contract will apply to agreements from April 2010.

Download from:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/

|| DH_111203



Notice Board



LJWB and LJCS Merger

Leeds Jewish Welfare Board (LJWB) and Leeds Jewish Care Services (LJCS) will merge their business and activities from 1 April 2010.

Whilst they are currently separate bodies, both organisations have operated from 311 Stonegate Rd, LS17 6AZ and have been managed by one administrative team. The merger will not have any adverse effects on services or service users and will help to streamline administrative systems.

From 1 April all services will be delivered under the auspices of Leeds Jewish Welfare Board (Charity Number 1041257; Company Registration 2923217), so any correspondence or documentation relating to LJCS is to be referred to Leeds Jewish Welfare Board.

www.ljwb.co.uk

Group for disabled LGBT people

LIP's work with disabled lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people is gaining ground.

The group has given good feedback to New Generation Transport on the proposed trolleybus scheme in Leeds, to the Gay Police Association and to a group developing a DVD for LGBT people with learning disabilities.

The group is now working on updating itself on current legislation and what can be expected of health and social care services, also on assisting the Crown Prosecution Service on the low reporting rate for LGBT hate crime. The group's next meeting is 31 March. The group welcomes people who use mental health services.

There is now a separate group for lesbians and bisexual women; their next meeting is 4th March.

Please ring Catherine or Amy at Leeds Involvement Project on 0113 237 4508 for more information.

Mind Mental Health Media Awards

The Mental Health Media Awards celebrate the best portrayal of mental distress and reporting of mental health in broadcast media. The awards cover a wide range of programmes. Nominations for the 2010 awards are now open; for more information visit: www.mind.org.uk/mediaawards

Oblong has moved

In December, Oblong Community Resource Centre moved to Woodhouse Community Centre on Woodhouse Street, Leeds 6. The centre provides advice, support and facilities for local people who want to make a difference through volunteering and community projects.

For more information see www.oblongleeds.org.uk

Decafeast dementia café

The Neighbourhood Elders Team (NET) is a local voluntary organisation working with and for older people and their carers in the east of Leeds. They have recently joined Volition.

Decafeast is a collaborative working partnership with NET, NHS Leeds and the Alzheimers Society. The café provides an informal and welcoming environment where people with memory problems and their carers can socialise, make friends, support each other and exchange ideas. They meet on the third Thursday of the month 2-4pm.

For further details contact:

The Neighbourhood Elders Team
62c Main Street, Garforth, Leeds LS25 1AA
Tel: 0113 2874784

e-mail: info@netgarforth.org

Information desk open Monday - Thursday 10am - 4pm.

New website dispels psychosis myths

www.mentalhealthcare.org.uk aims to help relatives and friends of people with psychosis - including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder - navigate through the many myths and misinformation about psychosis.

Written in clear and simple language, the website explains mental health terms, provides information about medication and other treatments such as talking therapies and sets out how mental health services work.

All information on the website is based on research carried out to learn more about the causes of psychosis in order to develop better treatments or improve existing ones.

**Deadline for next edition of Volition:
Thursday 8th April 2010**