



Adult Social Care Commissioning Prospectus launched

Adult Social Care (ASC) launched their first Commissioning Prospectus in June. The prospectus is aimed at individuals and organisations providing care and support services to people in Leeds, and was presented at the launch by Mick Ward, Head of Commissioning. It provides an overview of ASC's scheduled activity, which providers can use as part of their own business planning and business change programmes. For providers who have a current funding relationship with ASC, it should clarify and support that relationship. For other providers there should be sufficient information on the kind of services ASC are keen to develop.

As well as outlining the key policy drivers, the prospectus shows how changing demography, the current and future economic climate and increasing public expectations of services are shaping the commissioning response.

The prospectus also highlights areas where ASC shares commissioning interests with others. The importance of partnership in commissioning is highlighted throughout. Other speakers at the launch, Pip Goff of Volition and Andrew Dangerfield from NHS Leeds' Strategy and Commissioning Directorate, picked up on the importance of partnership working. Pip emphasised that the voluntary sector are keen and ready to work in partnership, but need to be fully involved in decisions and developments in commissioning, particularly when efficiencies need to be made.

Andrew Dangerfield apologised for the way NHS Leeds has communicated with the sector about existing contracts, but reminded delegates that significant savings must be made. Tackling health inequalities remains the priority for NHS Leeds, but Andrew warned that new government policy will bring changes to health structures, with a further shift towards practice-based commissioning.

Mental health is one of the priority areas for commissioning, and the prospectus outlines plans for joint reviews of all third sector provider contracts (which will be completed this year), costed service level agreements for local authority mental health services, compliance with the Mental Health Act and partnership working with Leeds Partnerships Foundation Trust.

There was opportunity at the launch to discuss priorities for mental health and key issues for the sector with commissioners. The importance of engaging the sector in the change process, keeping people who use services at the centre, commissioning for outcomes and joined up planning were all raised.

The prospectus is available at: www.leeds.gov.uk/Health_and_social_care/Adult_Social_Care_Commissioning_Prospectus.aspx, plus some copies available from Volition.

A session is planned for Volition members to look in detail at the prospectus—please see Noticeboard section.

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Contact us at:



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**Deadline for
next edition of
Volition:
Noon, Thursday
5th August 2010**

Around Volition and City

People

Farewell from Sharon Allen, and welcome to new Volition chair – Rebecca Weinberg

As many of you know, I am leaving St Anne's Community Services after eight years to take up the post of Chief Executive Officer with Skills for Care. This means that I have stood down as chair of Volition. I wanted to say a public thank my colleagues on the Volition Board of Directors for their invaluable support, wisdom and guidance during the time I have been chair. I am delighted to tell you that following the AGM, Directors elected Rebecca Weinberg, Chief Executive of Leeds Jewish Welfare Board as the new chair. Rebecca's grasp of strategic issues facing our sector together with her hands on experience of quality service provision and her being a general all round great gal make her the perfect choice and I wish her all the very best as she takes on this great role. Please give Rebecca your unstinting support as you have me over the years. Huge thanks also go to the staff team, Gill, Liz and Wendy, ably led by Pip, who I have had

the privilege of working very closely with. I have constantly been impressed by how much this small but utterly dynamic team achieve and I will miss working with you all.

It's also been great to work with our wider membership and colleagues in the statutory sector, even when we have had different ideas about how things can best be achieved.

None of us can doubt that we are facing uncertain and challenging times; hardly an hour passes without an announcement about further changes that will impact on the provision of health and social care, including mental health. To paraphrase someone famous, let's not waste a good crisis – adversity is the mother of invention. So let's seize the moment, look to our strength as a group of person centred mental health service providers and make sure that the people of Leeds continue to get the best we can provide.

I wish you all the very best for the future.

With love, Sharon

Philip Bramson has left Touchstone after nine years, moving to learning disability charity, KeyRing. As Operations Director, Philip has led the development of the life wheel, a service user friendly assessment and support planning tool, as well as leading on the recent joint review of services by ASC and the PCT. He will be missed greatly by Touchstone and also by Volition, as he was an active and supportive contributor to the citywide mental health agenda.

John White will start as Operations Director at Touchstone in July tel: 0113 271 8277.

Mental Health/Learning Disabilities Integrated Commissioning Team - This team is now established, headed up by Richard Wall (0113 305 7558, richard.wall@nhsleeds.nhs.uk). The full list of members of the team is included with this newsletter, and is available by email from Volition.

Leeds Involving People Nora Everitt left the organisation in June. Nora has really enjoyed working in mental health involvement in Leeds and found it both challenging and rewarding. LIP is undergoing a staffing restructure. Contact the Leeds Mental Health Watch via info@leedsinvolvement.org.uk

Sylvia Shatwell is the new manager at Willow Young Carers.

sylvia.shatwell@barnardos.org.uk
0113 240 8368.

Correction In the last edition we welcomed **Julie Bootle** to Adult Social Care, but gave the wrong job title and contact. Julie is Head of Service Access and Inclusion, South; Health Partnerships; and Mental Health. Contact her direct on: julie.bootle@leeds.gov.uk t. 0113 214 1739 or via her PA julia.yarrow@leeds.gov.uk t. 0113 214 1655.

Touchstone: increased flexibility, increased capacity

Touchstone has recently reconfigured its management structure to enable it to achieve the aims of its 10 year Strategic Business Plan. The new structure makes Touchstone more flexible and we will also make long term savings, an important step as the voluntary sector prepares for public spending cuts. We are very pleased to announce that we now have three service areas, with leadership as follows:

Jan Thackray has been confirmed into post as the Housing Services Manager.

Jon Beech has become the Community Development Services Manager. Jon is also overseeing Touchstone's health and wellbeing work through East Leeds Health for All. Stephanie Lewis is the BME Community Development Service Coordinator.

Rosslyn Medford is Mental Health Day Services Manager.

NHS Leeds Update

As previously reported in this newsletter, the Mental Health Programme Board and Expert Advisory Group have been suspended since the start of the year. The new Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Integrated Commissioning Team has now been established; Volition directors met with Richard Wall and Jane Williams in June to discuss plans for a future mental health planning and communication forum and new structures based around the priorities for mental health.

We will update you with more information as this is finalised, but we are keen to work constructively with NHS Leeds and appreciate the open and transparent approach being taken by the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Integrated Commissioning Team.

As many of you may know, a blanket letter was sent by

Matt Ward, Associate Commissioning Director at NHS Leeds to many voluntary sector providers giving notice on existing arrangements and outlining a process of review. While the way in which this was communicated was unfortunate, some of the organisations concerned may have anticipated the changes planned as part of ongoing programmes of work, such as day services and psychological therapies.

The full implications are still to be clarified and Volition will continue to work closely with NHS Leeds, Leeds Voice and other infrastructure organisations on this. We will be raising our concerns about the impact of changes on people with mental health needs and on the sector during our meetings with NHS Leeds representatives. It is worth noting that all sectors, not just the voluntary sector, are affected.

Pip Goff

The Compact for Leeds 2010

The Compact for Leeds is an agreement between public and third sector partners. Its purpose is to strengthen working relationships in order to deliver the best possible outcomes for the people of Leeds.

First launched in 2003, the Compact has now been renewed and was launched at a well-attended event in June. Amongst the presentations at the event, Multiple Choice talked about how the Compact has helped them develop their volunteering programme.

Chief executives of Leeds City Council, Leeds Partnerships Foundation Trust and NHS Leeds made commitments on behalf of their organisations to work within the Compact principles. John Lawlor, chief executive of NHS Leeds, referred to challenging times ahead. He also said:

"We have not particularly followed the spirit of the Compact for Leeds with some of the decisions we've had to make over contracts for organisations in recent months. If anyone wants to talk to me on an individual basis about that, I'm quite happy to. This agreement is a helpful reminder to me about how we should be doing business."

The seven principles of the Compact for Leeds 2010 are:

- working together
- involving communities
- sharing information
- allocating resources

- building communities and third sector capacity
- promoting volunteering
- promoting equality, fairness and good community relations.

These provide a framework to guide relationships, along with partner commitments that can be used by all partners to plan specific actions and assess progress towards implementing the Compact.

Third Sector Leeds (TSL) will lead and promote implementation of the Compact across our sector. As a member of the TSL leadership Group, Volition will play a part in raising awareness of the Compact amongst our members.

For now, further information is available on the Leeds Initiative website; go to the section on the Compact for Leeds: www.leedsinitiative.org/compactforleeds/



Third Sector Leeds Vision 2030 first steps

The Vision 2030 First Steps Event in April was widely attended. Participants evaluated a draft Vision which was developed from an earlier event. The draft includes three key areas of activity that TSL would like to support the contribution of in the Leeds vision:

- people matter
- quality of life
- welcome and open city.

The focus of Leeds' third sector is ensuring the development and sustainability of harmonious, thriving communities and neighbourhoods. To see the full draft of the vision contact Volition.

Participants considered next steps over three years towards the vision bearing in mind the feasibility of actions, the current financial situation and the post election situation. Working together, partnerships, good communication and lobbying were seen as important.

Jane Stageman, Leeds City Council, spoke about the Total Place initiative, which aims to:

- make changes to services that can improve the lives of local residents and deliver better value
- develop a body of knowledge about how effective cross-agency working can deliver this.

For more information about Total Place go to: www.localleadership.gov.uk/totalplace/others/yorkshire-and-humber/

Jane highlighted the current priorities for action in Leeds: safeguarding, burglary, worklessness and health inequalities.

Some of the ideas from the discussion, "What actions must the third sector take next to make the Vision happen?" were:

- Cooperative non competitive third sector
- Proactive/positive attitude to opportunities as they arise
- New non financially based solutions to effects of poverty and deprivation
- Planning from need
- Find ways of influencing decision making around priorities
- Developing a strong voice for the third sector
- Profiling innovation and added value in the sector.

The information will be developed further by the TSL leadership group, so expect to see more on this in coming months.

Thanks to Susan Cox at LAF for letting us adapt her original article.

GATE: Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange

Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange (GATE) is a community members' association for Gypsies and Travellers who live in, or resort to, Leeds. They have recently joined Volition, and have provided us with this information.

Gypsies and Travellers are one of the most deprived and isolated ethnic minority groups in the UK. Service provision and work done on behalf of Gypsies and Travellers is often done with little or no appropriate consultation with the community itself. Leeds GATE's management committee (the majority of which are Leeds-based Gypsies and Travellers) work in partnership with professional workers.

GATE are developing dialogue with service providers and others whose work impacts on the lives of Gypsies and Travellers. They working to promote positive understanding and appreciation of Gypsy and Traveller culture, and to share skills and experiences, among other UK communities. Workers provide non-patronising information, advice and advocacy support particularly for people with poor literacy. GATE enables community

members to develop projects aimed at overcoming social isolation and exclusion.

Research suggests that Gypsies and Irish Travellers have worse health than other ethnic minority and deprived communities in the UK and there are high rates of infant mortality, miscarriage and stillbirth (Parry et al 2004). Within these communities many people report anxiety and depression, although discussing 'mental health' is taboo and people will talk about being 'bad with their nerves' instead.

Often both mental and physical health worsens when people move into bricks and mortar accommodation. Causes of poor mental and physical health include constant exposure to discrimination and marginalisation and poor access to education, health services and appropriate accommodation.

Leeds GATE
0113 240 2444
info@leedsgate.co.uk

Leeds successful in PSA 16 employment bid

In December 2009, organisations across Yorkshire and the Humber were invited to bid for a total of £1.2 million for projects to support the implementation of PSA 16 or the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) plan in their locality. PSA 16 is a public service agreement to increase the proportion of socially excluded adults in employment, education or training and settled accommodation.

Leeds has been successful in a bid for a twelve month project to improve delivery of employment support to people with mental health problems. The project value is around £50,000 and it will be delivered by Working Minds (Leeds Mind) and started in April.

The purpose of the project is to improve the employment outcomes for people using secondary mental health services through:

- improving the effectiveness of the working arrangements of existing employment support providers and secondary mental health services

(Community Mental Health Teams) through the development of a streamlined assessment process and single point of access to employment support providers

- improving the knowledge and awareness of mental health issues in generic employment support agencies
- specifically developing new employment opportunities within key public sector organisations in Leeds that contribute to at least 10 people being employed or offered traineeships within the public sector, as part of existing initiatives being developed in Leeds City Council, Job Centre Plus and NHS Leeds
- working with service users to look at improving client pathway experience through services
- improving links between debt/benefit agencies and employment specialists and CMHTs to help improve clients' access to debt and benefit advice.

Contact Project Manager Vanessa Lendzionowski for more details:
vanessa@workingmindsleeds.org.uk
 tel. 0113 274 5165.

Working Minds Think Positive programme

Leeds Mind's Working Minds project has a new contract and welcomes new referrals. Working Minds can now work with any client who is on Job Seekers Allowance and has a mental health need or learning difficulty, and would like to engage in work focussed activities.

Through the Think Positive project, individuals can access one to one support, group work activities, work placement opportunities, post employment support and a signposting service. Experienced staff make the transition from benefits to work easier for clients.

Working in Leeds for over two years, the project has already supported over 250 people to achieve their vocational goals. The project is voluntary but clients are expected to attend for a minimum of 10 hours (including any work placement or educational activities). Clients can expect a meeting with their worker each week with a range of subjects covered at group work such as job seeking skills, confidence building and vocational resources.

For more details call 0113 274 5165
 or email workingminds@workingmindsleeds.org.uk

The development of a user led organisation for Leeds

The government's expectation is that every local authority with adult social care responsibility will have in place by the end of 2010 a user led organisation running 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 for the implementation of the Disability Equality Duty by public sector organisations in the area –

including consumer audits.

There is no one organisation in Leeds – user led or not - that can meet the Department of Health criteria for these minimum services, but now a group of organisations are coming together able to offer these services. The four organisations are Connect in the North, D.I.A.L., Leeds Centre for Integrated Living and the PSI Network (Leeds).

If you want any more information please contact Linda Boadle at the PSI Network.
 Tel: 0113 297 7942
 Email: linda.boadle@val.org.uk

IN!
Inclusion Now !

The PAT Project

The PAT (Parenting Apart Together) Project offers free, confidential information and support for any parents who are struggling to get on with each other, due to either separation or divorce. The project focuses on supporting families in Leeds 8 and 9.

This partnership project is made up of six agencies offering a range of support:

Relate Leeds – Free counselling for individuals, couples or families. Family Advisors can help untangle complex family situations and direct to appropriate support services, deal with referrals and make home visits.

Home Start – Support families with at least one child under 5 years. Trained volunteers can provide weekly home visits and offer practical and emotional support in response to each family's needs.

Shantona Women's Centre – Support BME women, especially from the Bangladeshi community in Harehills. One to one sessions and a person centred approach to

ensure families with children under 18 years can make informed decisions about the future steps they want to take.

West Yorkshire Family Mediation Service – Support with practical issues around the breakdown of relationships. Help for separated parents in discussing arrangements for the children, home and finances. Aim to minimise upset and reach fairly negotiated agreements between both parents.

Leeds CAB – A comprehensive service to help people resolve their problems on a wide range of issues including debt, benefits, housing, legal and immigration.

Families Forward – Provide a safe neutral space where children can enjoy supervised contact with the parent who does not live with them. Specialised support with families where there is a dispute about seeing children.

For more information contact the PAT Project on 0113 380 6524 / 380 6968.



Support After Rape and Sexual Violence

Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL) supports women and girls who have been affected by sexual violence at any time in their lives,

promoting their needs and working towards the elimination of sexual violence. For the past year the SARSVL Steering Group has been developing a completely new support service for Leeds, and, as the first stage, a telephone helpline has now been launched.

The helpline number is 0113 2021844 and opening hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 6 – 8pm, with plans to extend these in due course.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for SARSVL or to make a donation should get in touch.

SARSVL is looking for affordable premises in central Leeds and is happy to share with other organisations. SARSVL's needs include 24 hour access, full accessibility, approximately 700 sq feet, space for a confidential helpline service and a private counselling room.

If you're interested in volunteering, or can help with premises, email info.sarsvl@googlemail.com For further information on SARSVL visit www.SupportAfterRapeLeeds.org.uk

Mind Your Head student website launched:

www.mindyourheadleeds.com

This student led campaign aims to raise awareness of mental health issues and encourage students to seek help when necessary. The site has links to self help materials including resources in a range of languages, and an innovative blog aimed at promoting positive well-being. It even has an interactive student bedroom so users can access mental health info in a more creative style...click on the mirror for information about self confidence, or the wine bottle to find out more about drinking!

The site was designed by students from Leeds Metropolitan University and funded by NHS Leeds as part of the Leeds Student Mental Health Group. This group works in partnership across the three universities in the city with input from statutory and voluntary sector agencies. The site will be kept up to date by Information for Mental Health (www.mentalhealthleeds.com)

World Mental Health Day in Leeds: Who Am I?

The Carriageworks is delighted to be partnering with mental health organisations, professionals and service users for World Mental Health Day in October. We will present a day of performances, participatory arts, arts therapies and music to explore, celebrate and profile the issue of mental health in our community.

This free event will be called, *"Who Am I?"*, and will take place on Saturday 9th October at The Carriageworks from 12 noon and until 6pm.

There will be two commissioned pieces of theatre from local companies in rep:

1in4 Theatre Company will present a new piece, *"Taking Care"* with an additional workshop session.

Out of Character Theatre Company will present their current piece of work and deliver an accompanying workshop.

The event will showcase a wide range of other art forms, including visual arts, music, singing, arts and crafts and poetry. There will be workshops run by practising artists, with many activities repeated for those who wish to stay all day. Visitors will have access to plenty of information,

stalls from a range of organisations, a chill out room, and a chance to chat to a mental health professional in private if they need to.

After the success of Creative Personalities, presented by Personality Plus in January 2009, Community Links is taking the opportunity to showcase more of the fantastic work of service users, ex-service users and service deliverers. This will include visual art, live art and performance poetry within the exhibition space which will be open all day.

Tickets will be free, however there will be a donation box for the performances to support the work of the artists.

The Partner Organisations include (in no particular order): Community Links, The Carriageworks, Time to Change, NHS Leeds, Arts and Minds, Volition, Touchstone, 1 in 4 Theatre Company, Out of Character Theatre Company, Leeds Carers, Giving Voices, Leeds Survivors Poetry, Well Being Centre, Connect in the North, Mental Wealth.

For more information contact The Carriageworks Team on (0113) 247 4746, carriageworks@leeds.gov.uk or check the website: www.carriageworkstheatre.org.uk (after July).

St Vincent's hits the mark

St Vincent Support Centre has secured two quality standards for exceptional service delivery.

Firstly, the debt service has had its Community Legal Services quality mark renewed after an in-depth audit towards the end of 2009. The Quality Mark demonstrates that the service continues to operate professionally and that all our systems are in place to ensure the very best support service to our clients. The audit covered areas such as training and development of debt staff, organised casework, regular quality advice reviews and coherent and relevant policies and procedures.

Many of our clients have mental health and other problems which can further exacerbate and complicate a debt problem and we often have clients needing our support for many months, sometimes years. It is great to have our quality mark status renewed as recognition for the hard work to ensure our clients receive the very best care.

The second success St Vincent's is celebrating is the renewal of its Investors in People status – a quality standard recognising the value placed on staff and volunteers and the importance placed on training, development and support, plus involving all stakeholders in the delivery of services and the future direction of the project. We underwent a gruelling assessment in February and passed with flying colours.

Anyone working within the voluntary sector, and particularly within mental health, knows that it's not always easy work. Receiving these awards has motivated the staff and volunteers and reminded us that the hard work is worth it. Ultimately it is our clients who benefit from our professional standards, and that's what it's all about.

Charlotte Walton, Centre Manager

Leeds says 'balls' to stigma

Men make up three quarters of suicides in the UK. This is the most common form of death for under 35s (Mind YouGov poll, 2009). Men have traditionally been seen as 'tough', 'resilient', with the attitude of 'big boys don't cry'. These stereotypes add to the stigma which stops many people from admitting when they need help.

NHS Leeds and Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust recently joined forces with Time to Change and local partners including Ringways Motor Group, in a bid to tackle the stigma around men's mental health. We concentrated our efforts at Leeds United FC football games, on specifically male focussed websites and we held an outdoor, interactive event on Briggate, Leeds.

The latest strand of the Leeds campaign, 'balls to stigma', aims to reduce stigma around men's mental health. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Judith Elliott; National Director at Time to Change, Sue Baker, Men's Health Professor, Alan White and Julian Turner from Leeds Mind on behalf of Volition expressed their support for the campaign at the event in May.

The fun-filled day featured the chance to pledge against

stigma and add a pledge to giant mosaic board and video montage. There was a football challenge activity facilitated by Leeds United Football in the Community, with players from the Leeds United Ability Counts Programme. The team showcased their footballing techniques and encouraged members of the public to get involved to win a signed Leeds United Shirt.

The strong partnerships across different sectors and the invaluable input from dedicated service users helped make this event a huge success. Sue Baker (director of the national Time to Change team) was very impressed and said:

"The number of people who volunteered to be there – slap bang in front of the public – was amazing and what I liked the most of the sense of joint strength from us all working together and supporting each other. You've set a very high standard for others to reach, thank you".

To find out more about the work being done locally to combat the stigma around mental health go to www.stopstigma-leeds.com or contact charlotte.hanson@nhsleeds.nhs.uk

New housing support service at SignHealth

SignHealth Leeds Housing Support Service was developed in April from an existing service. The service now provides support to people living in the community who are Deaf, Blind, Deafblind or Blind Deaf. Professionals can refer individuals to the service or individuals can refer themselves.

Outreach workers do an initial assessment of the individual to find out their current situation and what support they need to maintain or improve their independence. Outreach workers can support with issues around communication, physical or mental health, medication, problems with housing and equipment, work life, social life and hobbies, money including budgeting, paying bills and sorting out benefits, administrative jobs including letter reading and writing and they can also offer emotional support and motivation.

A person who receives support from the service can be visited at home, or somewhere nearby, up to three times a week depending on their support needs. Some individuals may only need one visit every two weeks. Support offered can be ongoing or specifically focused on one area for a short amount of time. When the individual is satisfied with the support they have received the outreach worker will disengage and close their file. Files can be opened again if a support need arises in the future.

Contact details for more information or referrals:
Phone (Voice) 0113 245 7991
Minicom 0113 245 7992
mobile (SMS only) 0797 378 2442
Fax 0113 245 7993
email constanceway@signhealth.org.uk

Older people's guide on offer

A brand new guide featuring activities and events for older people is now available in Leeds. The free guide has been put together by Leeds Older People's Forum, supported by Leeds City Council and NHS Leeds. The guide can be picked up from local libraries, health centres, museums and community centres and is packed full of topical stories and details of events.

Contributions are welcome from the public for future editions, which are expected to be quarterly. To download a copy of the guide or for further information visit: www.opforum.webeden.co.uk

Strategic Groups

Volition risk assessment training in response to Serious Incident Review

Serious and Untoward Incident Reviews are conducted on behalf of the Strategic Health Authority following a death or very serious injury. Volition was required to respond to specific recommendations published in June 2009 relating to a Serious and Untoward Incident (reference 2005:2880). This was the first time the voluntary sector was recognised formally in a serious case review as having a part to play in improvements. Themes running through the three reports were: communication, information sharing and recognition of the role of voluntary sector organisations. The review relating to risk assessment stated:

"All third sector agencies registered with Volition who work on a regular basis with Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust should be using the FACE risk assessment. Ideally where possible these third sector agencies need to fund their staffs' attendance at Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust's risk assessment training workshops."

Volition ensured that members working most closely with Leeds Partnerships Foundation Trust (LPFT) were involved in deciding how to take the recommendations forward and LPFT, through Lyn Parkinson, have been very positive in working with us on these recommendations. It should be noted (as it had been to the independent investigators) that Volition has no jurisdiction over its members and can only support and encourage individual organisations to make changes.

We found out that many voluntary sector organisations are doing risk assessment and understood its importance, while some organisations who have less contact with people with serious mental health issues did not. LPFT and some voluntary sector organisations use the FACE (Functional Assessment of the Care Environment) risk profile. FACE is not as client centred as we might wish and not necessarily geared to voluntary sector settings. However, we agreed that using the same tool across the city could greatly improve identification and management of risk. We felt that a service user perspective needs to be incorporated into training and that FACE should be completed with the service user, following discussions with carers and colleagues. Use of FACE could improve joint working and empower voluntary sector workers at

times of increased concern, and help raise the quality of risk assessment across the mental health community.

It was recognised that some voluntary sector workers (notably within Community Links' aspire service) would lead the completion of FACE, and that many organisations have an important contribution to make by inputting to a multi-agency completion of FACE; supporting service users through the process and very importantly receiving completed FACE assessments and being in a position to understand the implications and possible limitations of the process.

In the interests of shared language and understanding Volition encourages members who work closely with LPFT to use FACE. We held 3 training sessions earlier this year with support from LPFT, NHS Leeds and Touchstone. LPFT's Cheryl Armstrong did a fantastic job leading the sessions with support from Francis Denning, John Thorpe and Volition. 55 people from 15 different organisations attended. Generally the feedback was very positive and many participants left with greatly increased knowledge and understanding of risk assessment and a commitment to discuss within their organisations. Issues in relation to acceptance of FACE by Supporting People were raised as a consequence of the sessions.

Recommendations following the training:

- Ongoing plan for training and awareness around good practice in risk management for individual voluntary sector organisations
- Individual organisations to review risk management policies and procedures
- Commitment from LPFT and Volition to provide two days' training in early 2011 – Volition to co-ordinate and LPFT to provide trainer at cost price
- Work towards citywide multi-agency training from 2011/12.

A full list of the recommendations specifically for Volition and those for LPFT with relevance to Volition members is available from Volition.

Please contact Pip at Volition if you would like more information or to discuss implications for your organisation.

Reports

The Can Do Guide To Getting Into Work

This user-friendly book is aimed at people with mental health conditions or who are experiencing emotional distress, who are not working but would like to.

It's been written by Neil Coulsen and produced by Leeds Mind for Yorkshire and Humber Improvement Partnership. In particular it aims to provide information about Individual Budgets and how someone might use these to support their ambition to get a job.

It is designed to provide practical information, advice and guidance to help people to think about what you need to do to get into work and, more importantly,

encourage you to begin the journey. It's full of useful tips, pointers, personal stories and space to make notes, jot down ideas, or keep track of progress

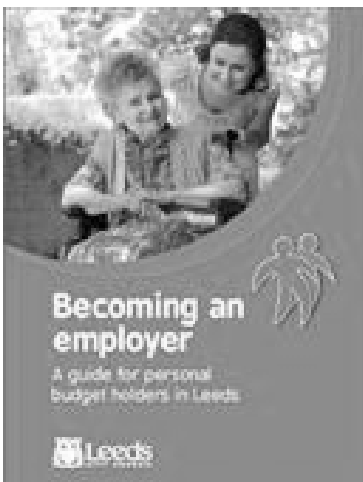
The book is in three sections:

- Starting out
- Making the most of your money, a guide to personal budgets, individual budgets and direct payments
- Moving forward, practical advice and information on getting work.

The guide is available on the YHIP website: www.yhip.org.uk or from Leeds Mind.

New guide for people employing their own personal assistants

Employing a PA can be a great way for someone to start living their life more independently - to take control of their time and the way they spend it. Some people use agencies to find a PA, but many others prefer the extra flexibility of recruiting and employing someone themselves. Employing privately, you can usually offer a better rate of pay - possibly leading to you being able to attract more highly skilled candidates, take charge of the interview process and choose someone who suits your needs.



If you work with anyone who has decided to recruit and employ their own PA, there are a few things they will need to consider to make the most of the experience, and some legal rules they will have to comply with. That's where 'Becoming an Employer - a user's guide for people in Leeds' comes in! This is a friendly, easy-to-use reference guide which leads people through every step of the process, from advertising and interviewing PAs to knowing what to do about sick leave and dealing with any problems. The guide should not be used in isolation - it's a useful resource for people

to look at with their care manager, broker or anyone else who might support or advise them. There are example forms and letters in the back, which people can copy and use if they want to. Everything is also on the Leeds City Council website at www.leeds.gov.uk/personal_budgets

Copies are limited, and are available for people who will definitely be recruiting and employing a personal assistant themselves - or those who have just begun to do so. If you know someone in this situation, they can get a copy through their care manager, or Volition members can collect a copy from the Volition office – get in touch if you want to do this.

HIV in Mind

According to a recent survey, *HIV in Mind*, four out of five people with HIV have experienced depression. The survey was carried out by NAM, the organisation provides independent, accurate and up-to-date information on HIV and AIDS.

87% of the sample (318 people) considered themselves to have, or have had in the past, at least one of a list of mental health problems. The most common was depression, experienced by three quarters of all respondents, and anxiety, experienced by two thirds. 60% had had suicidal thoughts, with 23% having attempted suicide at some time in the past.

Most people had sought help or information about mental health, such as counselling or internet research or talking to a GP or health worker. But 92% said more information and support was needed, especially on how HIV might contribute to mental health issues.

More information on NAM at: www.aidsmap.com

National issues

Control for people with mental health needs

The Centre for Welfare Reform, along with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, Yorkshire and Humber Improvement Partnership and the Care Pathways and Packages Project, have published a new model for how mental health services might work in the future called Personalisation in Mental Health.

The model provides a framework for development in mental health services. It sets out how people who use mental health services can take more control over their support and treatment, by using personal or individual budgets.

In outline the framework has the following elements:

1. Total Place commissioning - bringing together all the resources of a local area
2. Prevention - focusing resources on preventing or reducing need, rather than just responding to crises
3. Individual funding - shifting resources away from block, and towards individual funding, and using a shared framework that brings together NHS and local authorities
4. Self directed support
5. Co-production - professionals working in partnership with people
6. Community-based support - peer support, accessible information, making better use of existing services and communities
7. Outcomes-focus – enabling people to define positive outcomes that matter for them.

More information at: www.centreforwelfarereform.org

Mind campaign for better workplaces

Mind have presented compelling new evidence that the recession has had a devastating effect on the wellbeing of British workers. Since the recession 1 in 10 workers have sought support from their doctors and 7% have started taking antidepressants for stress and mental health problems directly caused by the pressures of recession on their workplace.

These findings launch Mind's latest national campaign 'Taking Care of Business', about mental health at work. To find out more, pledge your support or download free materials (for employers and employees) go to www.mind.org.uk/work

New ministers appointed

The new Minister for the Third Sector is Nick Hurd MP. Nick has held the shadow brief for several years so hopefully has a good understanding of the challenges which our sector faces.

The list of ministerial responsibilities at the Department of Health is as follows (a detailed list of portfolio areas will be available on the Department of Health website shortly):

Simon Burns MP - Minister of State for Health, portfolio includes NHS performance, reconfiguration of services, patient safety, NHS workforce mixed sex accommodation.

Paul Burstow MP - Minister of State for Care Services, portfolio includes mental health, dementia, long term care reform, adult social care, personal health budgets, safeguarding vulnerable adults, carers, end of life care.

Anne Milton MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health.

Earl Howe - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality (Lords), portfolio includes NHS Constitution, NHS commissioning reform, primary care.

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 brings disability, sex, race and other grounds of discrimination within one piece of legislation, and also makes changes to the law.

The main features come into force in October and include:

- Extending the Single Equality Duty, giving people the right not to be treated less favourably by public authorities because of their age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or transgender status
- Extending anti-age discrimination rules to include goods, facilities and services
- Requiring gender pay and employment equality publishing
- Protecting carers from discrimination
- Strengthening protection from discrimination for disabled people.

Full details of the legislation can be found on the Equality and Human Rights' Commission website: www.equalityhumanrights.com



Notice Board



ASC Commissioning Prospectus briefing

Thursday 29th July 2 – 4 pm
St George's Centre, Great George Street LS1

A briefing event for Volition members about Adult Social Care's new Commissioning Prospectus (see page 1). This will be a chance to find out what the commissioning

priorities are, and what support is available to the sector. It will be particularly useful for smaller organisations with limited experience of commissioning, but all are welcome.

We'll send more information out soon, but if you want to register your interest, contact Volition.

Mental health and employment innovation event

14 July 10 am – 3 pm
Hillside, Beeston Road LS11

This is a free regional event, sponsored by YHIP, for services to showcase how they are supporting people back into work.

As well as stalls there will be an interactive theatre presentation by the Dead Earnest Company. You can drop in at any point during the day.

Changes to CAB Mental Health Outreach

From 1st July Leeds CAB's mental health outreach service will provide advice appointments at the following new venues:

Touchstone Support Centre, LS7 and The Mount Hospital.

There will no longer be a service at Malham House Day Hospital or at Touchstone House. The service is still open to all mental health service users and their carers.

Telephone 0113 2816733 for an appointment.

VA-L new website: www.val.org.uk

Voluntary Action Leeds have updated their website. Go to www.val.org.uk - if the old site comes up you may need to refresh your browser.

There are lots of new features including online bookings for training, a list of VA-L members and new volunteering info.

For even more up to date information and current sector news/jobs/training you can also join nearly 1,500 subscribers and receive our fortnightly e-news bulletin - you can join in less than a minute via the VA-L website.

New website about Deaf mental health

Deaf Info is a new website which aims to be a central place for information about Deaf mental health. It has been developed by SignHealth with funding from the Department of Health.

You will find information about mental health, about deafness, and about the special services available to support deaf people who experience mental distress. Many pages have the information in both English and British Sign Language (BSL).

The content on the site is for everyone to use. The information will be updated regularly to build-up a library of resources.

Have a look at: www.deafinfo.org.uk

Leeds Older People's Forum have moved

Their new address is:
Suite 17D, Joseph's Well
Hanover Walk
Leeds LS3 1AB

Email remains the same: info@opforum.org.uk

**Deadline for
next edition of Volition:
Noon, Thursday 5th August 2010**