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news

ESSENTIAL READING FOR THE LONDON DRUG AND ALCOHOL SECTOR

Hep C – the challenge for London

A powerful new report from the London Joint Working Group for Substance Misuse (LJWG) and Hepatitis C has sought to turn around the poor levels of hepatitis C treatment for intravenous drug users in London. The document, *Tackling the Problem*, calls for a nominated lead for hepatitis C and substance misuse in each of the new clinical commissioning groups, and an appropriate multi-sector working group in every public health locality.

Chaired by Professor David Nutt, LJWG came together in 2009 to review and address the issue of service provision in London for patients with hepatitis C who have a history of injecting drug use. The disease can be transmitted through shared needles, leaving intravenous drug users more at risk from infection. According to the Health Protection Agency, over 90 per cent of those infected have a history of intravenous drug use. An estimated 34,000 people in the capital with a history of injecting drugs have hepatitis C, but only 800 – 2 per cent of the total – receive treatment each year.

The report calls for immediate action to avert a 'major public health crisis', setting out a framework to address the epidemiological, clinical and financial challenges. The authors warn that London faces particular challenges due to the size, diversity and transient nature of its population as well as, they argue, the disjointed nature of existing service provision.

Many people might not be aware they have contracted the virus, with hepatitis C symptoms not necessarily showing in the carrier until years after infection. The report warns that if rates of diagnosis and treatment are not improved, London could



see a dramatic increase in hepatitis C related liver cirrhosis in the next 10 to 20 years.

However, the report argues that while tackling lifestyle factors such as alcohol consumption and obesity presents a significant political challenge, hepatitis C infections are both easily prevented and largely treatable. The authors recommend that every patient attending a drug service in London should be tested for blood borne viruses and, if negative, repeat tested every six months, while anyone referred to hepatitis C services should be assessed for drug treatment needs. The report also calls for closer liaison work between drug treatment services, hepatitis C treatment centres and prisons.

Prof. Nutt said: "We formed the LJWG in order to share best practice in the development of effective joint working care pathways for the treatment of hepatitis C in injecting drug users in London. The consensus document outlines a clear set of guidelines that will ensure the latest treatment can be delivered efficiently to all

those likely to benefit.

Its success will depend on high levels of awareness among workers, clear guidance on what to do, and good communication between services.

We are confident that with increased public awareness, better integration of services, and increased funding and support, the result will be that hepatitis C in London will be dramatically reduced, saving the lives of thousands of Londoners."

David Badcock, Head of Research and Development at the drug treatment provider Addaction, added, "We know that socially excluded and vulnerable patient groups, such as drug users, find it difficult to access traditional secondary and tertiary care services. As a result, patients are not being treated for hepatitis C, impacting not only on their all-round health, but also affecting their recovery from substance misuse."

The report can be found here:
http://www.ljwg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/ljwg_consensus_document.pdf



Editorial MARTIN BARNES

“ With the London Olympics weeks away, I do hope that the ‘health dividend’ promised in Britain’s bid is starting to have a positive impact on drug and alcohol services in London, and is translating into support for projects that are using sport creatively to engage people with substance misuse problems.

The success of the Paralympics is testimony to the ability of sport to break down barriers, promote inclusion and support recovery. Yet sport has been largely absent from the literature on recovery. London 2012 provides a real opportunity to get the world of sport engaged with our sector. So, what, if anything, is happening? We’d be interested to hear about your experiences.



London Councils Announce New Funding Priorities

Homelessness, violence against women and girls, poverty and sectoral support to London’s voluntary and community sector organisations are the main funding priorities of London Councils’ two year borough grant scheme to run from 2013.

The decision, which was made at the Leaders’ Committee on 12 June, followed the third of four consultations which the body has run in the last two years. The fourth, looking at service specifications arising from the funding priorities decision, ran from 15 June for three weeks, ending on 6 July.

A decision has also been made on continuing funded until March 2013 for projects that would otherwise have seen their funding ended within this financial year. While London Councils has agreed to extend the funding of 83 commissions until March next year, 21 have been cut from the scheme, including projects managed by the HIV charity Terrence Higgins Trust and the Tower Hamlets Law Centre. LDAN currently runs two of the extended projects. Both the Domestic Violence and Homelessness Forums have run since 2009, and support pan-London cross-sectoral networking through quarterly meet-ups.

The announcement comes off the back of a tense period for the body. The overall budget for funding for projects has been reduced by 70 per cent, falling from £26.4m in 2009/10 to an estimated, though not guaranteed, £8m for 2013/14. One of the



four consultations, which ended in November 2010, was deemed to be unlawful following a judicial review.

Speaking at the Leaders’ Committee meeting, Bromley Council leader Stephen Carr said “we need to move quickly to remedy the loss of confidence in us of our VCS partners and to address issues that have undermined our relationship with the VCS.”

Mayor Steve Bullock, then chair of the London Councils Grants Committee, said ‘this report doesn’t reach the aspiration of any individual borough but I hope that it goes far enough for all of us that we could agree it’. Mayor Bullock stepped down as Grants Committee chair at its meeting on 11 July and has been replaced by Councillor Paul McGlone from London Borough of Lambeth. Applications for the 2013-15 programme will be open from August with a deadline of 15 September 2012.

Royal College of Psychiatrists Publishes New Practice Standards

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has published new practice standards on the care of young people with substance misuse problems in partnership with Alcohol Concern, DrugScope and the Royal College of General Practitioners. With a foreword from Martin Barnes, Chief Executive of DrugScope, the standards propose investing in the psychosocial development and well-being of young people with substance misuse problems. The guidance states that services should look to engage with both the young person and their family, where possible, and seek to analyse the wider issues, including

mental disorders, development problems such as learning disability, and life circumstances.

While the number of under-18s accessing specialist services for drug and alcohol misuse has, on the whole, risen in the last few years, climbing from 17,000 in 2005-06 to 24,000 in 2008-09, this fell to 22,000 in 2010-11. However, as the report states, it is not clear what accounts for trends in treatment participation.

The guidance can be found here: <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/press/pressreleases2012/substanceusepracticestandards.aspx>

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WWW.LDAN.ORG.UK

London Homelessness Charity Challenges Daily Mail

The Press Complaints Commission has launched an investigation into an article on the Daily Mail website after the London based homelessness charity Thames Reach filed a complaint accusing it of being 'inaccurate' and 'discriminatory.'

The original piece, written by Mail columnist Allan Mallinson, alleges that homeless ex-servicemen were waiting more than a week for hostel places, with shelters filled with homeless Somalis and Poles. Mr Mallinson admits in the article that he has no evidence to support the claim while also suggesting that

ex-servicemen make up 25 per cent of all homeless people in London. The correct figure is closer to 6 per cent.

Responding to the article, Jeremy Swain, the chief executive of Thames Reach, said that he "strongly supported efforts to help British armed services veterans to escape homelessness, but this article misrepresents and distorts what is really happening in respect to the total number of homeless veterans and who is entitled to live in hostels for the homeless, whilst inciting racial hatred."

LDAN policy update



SUE CHRISTOFOROU
Senior Policy Officer

There were suggestions from the Prime Minister this month that the Government is considering abolishing housing benefit (HB) for people under 25. David Cameron believes that people can be 'nudged' into adopting different behaviour via economic policies, such as drastically cutting welfare spending. Underlying 'nudge' is the assumption that there are alternative behaviours that can be adopted. In the case of under 25s struggling with drug or alcohol issues denied HB, and unable or unwilling to live with their families, this would have to be either homelessness or sofa-surfing – which carry very real risk of prompting relapse – or securing work that pays enough.

A quarter of London's under 25s are currently unemployed, whilst only 13 per cent of London Job Seekers Allowance claimants aged 18-24 are mandated to the Work Programme. Under 25 year old JSA claimants must join the Work Programme if they have been unemployed for nine months. This suggests that there are thousands of young Londoners unable to secure more than short-term work. Hardly a tenable situation in which to commit to regular rent payments.

Will things get better? The CBI suggests the future will bring ever more intense competition for a shrinking number of entry level jobs – the very jobs that serve as labour market entry points for unemployed people. Over the next three to five years, employers expect to slightly cut numbers of lower-skilled workers by three per cent.

Ultra deep benefit cuts may bag headlines, but if government is to honour its commitment to recovery, it must secure the stability needed for recovery to flourish.

Sue Christoforou left DrugScope/LDAN in June to take up the post of Policy and Research Manager at One Society, which is part of the Equality Trust. We all wish her well in her new role, which is addressing key social issues that impact on our sector and client group.

St Mungo's Launches Rebuilding Shattered Lives Campaign



A new St Mungo's campaign, Rebuilding Shattered Lives, has already scored some success after the Housing Minister Grant Shapps promised to put women and homelessness on the ministerial agenda. Mr Shapps, who will broach the issue at a future cross Ministerial Working Group on tackling homelessness meeting, was speaking at the launch of the campaign in parliament.

Focussing on nine themes, including substance use, mental health and wellbeing, and women involved in the criminal justice system, the 18 month campaign will look to raise awareness, showcase good practice, and improve services on behalf of homeless women in London.

The latest findings from CHAIN, a

London database of rough sleeping, indicate that 658 women are currently homeless within the capital, a rise of 284 from last year. However, the statistics don't necessarily reflect the full extent of homelessness, with many women sofa surfing, or staying in abusive relationships, crack houses and squats rather than coming forward to services for support.

Martin Barnes, Chief Executive of DrugScope, will be sitting on the expert group, and providing expertise on substance use and drug issues relating to women involved in prostitution.

You can find out more about the Rebuilding Shattered Lives campaign here: <http://rebuildingshatteredlives.org/about-us/>

HOMELESSNESS FORUM

The latest LDAN homelessness forum was held on 18 June at Guildhall in the City of London. Jack Edgecome of Thames Reach, Paula Bennett of No Second Night Out, Sarah MacFadyen of Crisis, and Rachel Coffey of Homeless Link all came along to present at the meeting.

Michael Simpson, LDAN and DrugScope's Policy Officer, kicked off the forum with a brief policy update. Attendees were informed of the 2010 Drug Strategy annual review, and the new specifications arising from a recent London Council's grant consultation. Jack and Paula were next up. Members at previous sessions had asked questions on how outreach services functioned in the capital and Jack, senior practitioner at Thames Reach's Street Rescue Team, was on hand to answer. Paula Bennett, manager at the London Mayor's flagship pilot rough sleeping initiative No Second Night Out, set out more in the way of context,

outlining the priorities of the programme and some of the learning and challenges since its launch in April 2011.

Sarah Macfadyen, Policy and Parliamentary Officer at Crisis, continued with the Mayoral theme, outlining some of the future big issues for homelessness in London following the May elections. She explained how the capital faces the multiple challenge of rising homelessness in the context of welfare benefit cuts and the erosion of the safety net for many Londoners. The final presentation came from Rachel Coffey, Research Manager at Homeless Link, who looked at some of the findings from the organisation's annual Survey of Needs and Provision (SNAP). Rachel looked at level of access for homeless service users with substance misuse issues.

All of these presentations can be found on LDAN's webpage at www.LDAN.org.uk.

SENIOR MANAGERS GROUP

LDAN Senior Managers Group met on the 22 May at Guildhall. Following introductions from the chair, Marcus Roberts started proceedings with a brief policy update, outlining the alcohol strategy and its key aspects of minimum unit price and the crime and anti-social behaviour aspects associated with alcohol while noting the relative lack of references to treatment in the strategy. Marcus also discussed other recent developments, including the Putting Full Recovery First document published by the Government, the Putting Public Health First document published by the UK Recovery Federation, Harm Reduction International, and Release, and the launch of the eight drug and alcohol recovery pilots.

Mark Harris of Jobcentre Plus presented on the Work Programme. Issues discussed included the relationship between sub-contractors and prime contractors, and the difficulties in providing a sustainable service on the basis of the contracts being offered. David Mackintosh of the London Drug and Alcohol Policy Forum and GLA followed on, updating on the alcohol related work of the London Health Improvement Board (LHIB). He informed the group that the LHIB was looking to receive input on the strategic ambitions of alcohol policy. While the LHIB will not receive public health funding until April 2013, David explained that some funding has been made available to LHIB this year by NHS London, and this is being invested in development of brief interventions and on improving licensing by local authorities.

The final two speakers were Dezlee Dennis of the London Probation Trust (LPT) and Alison Blackwood of the London Voluntary Service Council (LVSC). Dezlee outlined the functions of the LPT, and the issues affecting offenders managed by the service with drug and alcohol problems. Issues were raised around what role elected Police and Crime Commissioners will play in allocating a third of the Drug Intervention Programme budget. Alison finished by explaining how LVSC was working with the charity Clinks to develop a Safer Future Communities network in London. DrugScope/LDAN is a partner in the Safer Future Communities initiative, which is being funded by the Home Office to ready the voluntary sector for the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners.



DRUGSCOPE CONFERENCE

**A question of balance:
delivering an inclusive
treatment and recovery
system**

Tuesday 6th November 2012
Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street,
London WC2B 5DA

**For preliminary programme
and booking form go to:
[www.drugscope.org.uk/documents/
conference2012.pdf](http://www.drugscope.org.uk/documents/conference2012.pdf)**

**BOOKING
NOW OPEN**

Drug Strategy Annual Review

The government has recently published its Annual Review of the Drug Strategy 2010, with a foreword from the Home Secretary, Theresa May (pictured right). Assessing the Government's progress in meeting the commitments set out in the Drug Strategy 2010, the review outlines national priorities for the next 12 months and is divided into four main sections covering 'Recovery', 'Restricting Supply', 'Reducing Demand' and 'An Action Plan to Tackle New Psychoactive Substances'.



While the report acknowledges that drug use in the UK is currently at its lowest since 1996, the changing nature of the market, with the internet ushering in a global marketplace, has resulted in easier access to and distribution of new substances. The Drug Strategy 2010 addressed the issue of new psychoactive substances (often referred to as 'legal highs'), however the update gives this phenomenon much closer attention, devoting an entire section to emerging markets.

The strategy highlights the government's continued intention of bringing new substances under control of the Misuse of Drugs Act. However, it also acknowledges the need to look at the issue more strategically, with the improvement of early warning systems providing one avenue. The government states that since January 2011, 17 new substances have been identified by the Home Office's Forensic Early Warning System. There are also proposals on enforcement, including the Serious Organised Crime Agency working with industry partners to take action against 120 websites, and police and trading standards to gather intelligence and tackle sales from head shops and the internet.

Plenty of scope is also given to restricting supply. Parts of the government's approach ties in with combating emerging markets. The

Temporary Class Drug Order, which came into effect in November 2011, is designed to work in conjunction with early warning systems to identify and ban new substances for 12 months until full consideration of their potential harms can be made by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. Other efforts to restrict supply of new substances mentioned in the review are internationally focussed, including building consensus through such efforts as sponsoring a UN resolution.

The reducing demand sections sets out measures the Government has taken to deal with the risk factors associated with drug use, and divert vulnerable groups away from risky behaviour. The FRANK website re-launch is mentioned, however other aspects, such as the development of the Drug Intervention Programme, are not elaborated upon. Other initiatives, such as the commitment to 'turn around the lives' of 120,000 troubled families, or investing in Family Nurse Partnerships and Children's Centres, are part of broader government initiatives. The section mentions a consultation on Personal, Social, Health and Economic education, though does not state how prominently drug prevention figured in the responses.

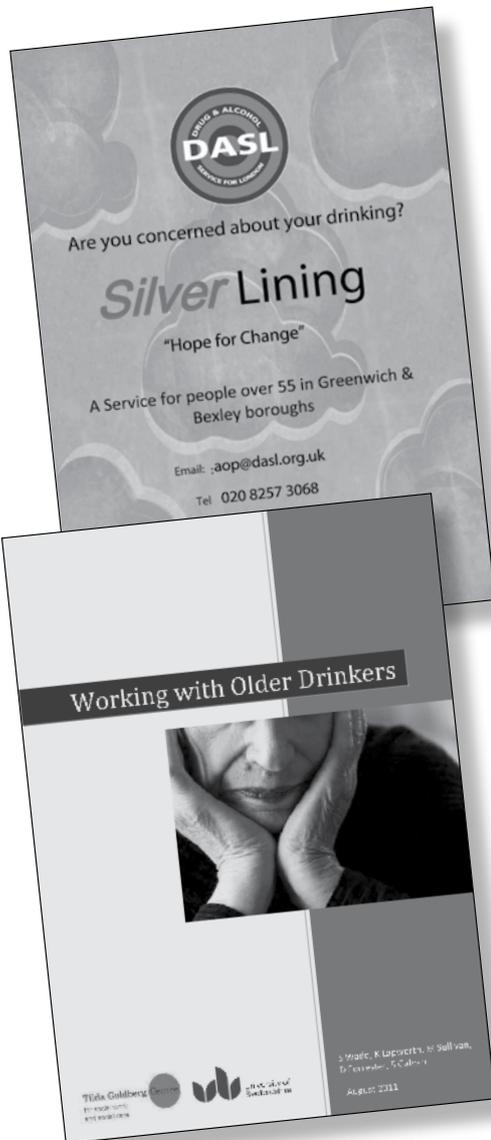
On recovery, the document states 'last year we worked with treatment

professionals to change the ambition for the recovery system to one where being drug free is now the clear end goal'. The review does not include detailed progress reports, policy announcements or financial commitments.

The Drug Strategy 2010 highlighted the importance of 'tackling housing needs' and 'helping people find sustained employment'. The progress claimed on these fronts is that the Jobcentre Plus Offer 'enables staff to recognise the needs of benefit claimants in recovery' and the Work Programme 'gives providers the freedom to offer more personalised support'. One commitment made for the next year is 'taking recovery beyond the treatment system with employers, landlords, educational establishments, social services and others who can impact on the success of recovery'. There is also a commitment to 'challenging the stigma that can be associated with dependence and that can act as a barrier to recovery', including to housing and employment.

You can access the update here: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/alcohol-drugs/drugs/annual-review-drug-strategy-2010/>

DASL's Silver Lining Project for older drinkers



Silver Lining is a service offered by Drug and Alcohol Service for London (DASL) that focuses on men and women in Greenwich and Bexley, aged 55 and over, and who are concerned about their drinking.

The General Lifestyle Survey 2010 showed that 13 per cent of those aged 65 and over drank every day (17 per cent of men and 10 per cent of women). 19 per cent of men and 9 per cent of women aged 65 and over report exceeding the recommended weekly drink limits (2012 Alcohol Statistics for England).

Despite making up only 17 per cent of the population, over-65s account for 44 per cent of all alcohol-related hospital admissions, and between 2000 and 2009 there was a 41 per cent increase in drink driving among people aged 65 and over.

The current stage of Silver Lining has been underway since securing Comic Relief funding in summer 2011, and a range of services are now being offered. Services include peer mentoring, with mentors from a range of backgrounds trained to support the specific client group, and community and therapeutic support, a weekly group that explores alternatives to alcohol and offers an experience of community. Community activities have included relaxation therapy, music exhibitions, health walks and visiting speakers.

In addition to these services, which are aimed at older people concerned about their drinking, Silver Lining also offer advice, consultancy and training for health and social care professionals, which can offer help with individual clients and include joint working.

Silver Lining are developing services in Greenwich by networking and distributing literature to increase access to the service, and will also now be offering half day training courses for professionals, working to increase knowledge and confidence in dealing with older people who may have problems with alcohol, and change attitudes.

Helen Gilbert, Project Co-ordinator of the Older People's Project, explained:

"One of the main challenges of this project is breaking through the stigma from professionals, as much if not more than older people and their families. In my experience we as a society do not place a high enough value on our older people or believe that it is possible to have a good quality of life in old age."

To refer a client or for more information, please contact Helen Gilbert on aop@dasl.org.uk or 020 8257 3068.

INTERESTED IN JOINING LDAN?

Find out about our membership package on the LDAN website at www.ldan.org.uk or call 020 7520 7550

The Core Trust Celebrates 28 Years of Success

The Core Trust, a specialist drug and alcohol treatment service based in Marylebone, celebrated its 28th year at the beginning of July with a garden party and the opening of a newly refurbished kitchen. Providing rehab in the community, the centre offers a range of quality and innovative abstinence-based, therapeutic treatments which are tailored to the individual, as well as direct support for their children and family members.

Lynn Turner, Service Manager of The

Core Trust commented, "Our annual garden party is a wonderful opportunity for us to reunite with former clients, staff and other professionals. It is an afternoon of fun and gives the wider community an opportunity to experience Core and celebrate our clients' success. Over the years we continue to see more and more former clients continue to do well and lead healthy lives; this is a great encouragement for the team who work at Core." For more information see <http://www.coretrust.co.uk/>.

Aurora Peer Mentoring Project Opens in Lambeth

The Aurora Project, a new peer mentoring service, has opened in the borough of Lambeth to help support individuals in or entering drug or alcohol treatment. Commissioned by the local Primary Care Trust, the service was set up in response to requests highlighted in a Patient Satisfaction Survey carried out by the Lambeth Service Users Council.

Acknowledging that certain activities such as form filling and accessing information can feel overwhelming, the project offers motivational support by matching clients with volunteers. Peers also support service users by accompanying them to meetings and social clubs, or supporting them at difficult appointments including meetings at the Jobcentre and housing providers.

After completing a comprehensive training programme, volunteer peer mentors with experience of the treatment system offer practical support to new service users who may feel overwhelmed, for instance by attending appointments with them or helping with form-filling.

For more information see www.auroraprojectlambeth.org.uk

Philips Pledges £60k to Centrepont

The young people's homelessness charity has announced that Philips, the health and wellbeing company, will be pledging £60,000 to the organisation to help tackle drug and alcohol misuse.

The charity, which Philips has supported since November last year while also counting the Duke of Cambridge as a patron, recently launched an appeal to find funding to support two new substance misuse workers. Phillips agreed to match every £1 donation. The full donation will see Philips supporting Centrepont's Health and Wellbeing Team into 2013 and beyond.

Peter Maskell, Chair of Philips Electronics UK Ltd, said he was delighted to be working with Centrepont to help increase the 'outstanding care' they provide.

'We have chosen to support Centrepont's appeal to raise £120,000 for two new substance misuse workers as we recognise how essential it is for young people to tackle these issues before they can successfully move on to independent living,' he said.

SNAPSHOT

Alexia Murphy, Director for New Business, St Mungo's

Alexia Murphy took a break from her work on new contracts and innovations at St Mungo's to talk to LDAN News.



Q&A

Q: What do you do?

A: Last year was my 20th anniversary working for St Mungo's. I started as a project and outreach worker in the early days of the Rough Sleeper Initiatives, before going on to manage housing, street outreach and prison services. I became a Director in 2004 and currently head up the New Business Team.

Q: What are you up to at the moment?

A: I'm involved in an exciting new 18 month campaign St Mungo's has just launched called Rebuilding Shattered Lives. A few years ago we reviewed how our services supported women and recognised that we could make improvements. That led to our Women's Strategy, which in turn led to the Rebuilding Shattered Lives campaign that aims to raise awareness about women and homelessness, share good practice across sectors and drive lasting change.

Q: What other exciting projects are you working on?

A: I'm excited about St Mungo's work on Psychologically Informed Environments, PIEs. We adopted the recovery approach about five years ago, and introducing PIE working into our hostels is about supporting staff as well as clients to tackle some difficult issues, using reflective practice, motivational interviewing, other tools. I'm also excited about our regional growth, being invited to share the expertise we've gained from over 40 years working with homeless people in London.

Q: Do you have any more upcoming projects related to the drug sector?

A: We are looking at alternative ways of funding innovative schemes such as Social Impact Bonds. I think they could really add capacity to the sector particularly when working with small specific groups of complex individuals who often fall below the threshold for more mainstream services. It is interesting working with the commercial sector in this context and seeing how they view the world.

Q: What inspires you professionally?

A: The most awe inspiring people are the women I have met as part of our Rebuilding Shattered Lives campaign. Women who have survived the most appalling experiences life can throw at them and yet they are still ambitious for themselves and often the children that they have lost to the care system along the way.

Q: What excites you personally?

A: I'm excited at the prospect of Andy Murray getting to the Wimbledon Men's Final. However, by the time this article is published that hope may well have been dashed!

Q: What do you think are the most important issues ahead for the drug sector/voluntary sector at the moment?

A: I'm constantly pondering how we best meet the needs of vulnerable people against a backdrop of closing services and decimated funding. We know that working in a personalised way with vulnerable people succeeds and yet there is a move to amalgamate lots of small specialist services into cheaper large generic ones – these things run contrary to one another. There are new and interesting funding initiatives like SIBs on the horizon, but whatever the payment mechanism, it is crucial that services for vulnerable adults receive sufficient funding so their needs can be met.

DIARY

SEPTEMBER

5 Club Drug Information Evening for Parents

Adfam and the Club Drug Clinic are running an information evening aimed at parents and families of people affected by club drug use. 'Club drugs' can include so-called 'legal highs', and illegal drugs commonly used in pubs, clubs and bars such as mephedrone, ecstasy (MDMA) and powder cocaine. This information evening will include a focus session where Adfam will listen to your experiences and concerns and use this learning to improve future support and information. There will also be a chance to ask Dr Owen Bowden-Jones, the head of the Club Drug Clinic and an expert on club drugs, any questions you may have about club drugs. For more information or to book a place please contact Oliver Standing on o.standing@adfam.org.uk or call on 0207 553 7656.

11 Whole Family Support for Drug and Alcohol Misusing Parents

This Drug and Alcohol Misusing Parents Conference is supported by Phoenix Futures and the College of Social Work and will feature a range of talks and question and answer sessions designed to promote effective joint working between adult care services, drug treatment providers and all those working in children's services to safeguard children of substance misusing parents and ensure they are not invisible to adults' services. This conference will help you to learn effective approaches to achieve joint and multi-agency working to provide whole family support and recovery for drug and alcohol misusing parents. The event will run from 9am to 4.35pm and will be held in central London.

You can find out more information and book a place at:

<http://www.communitycareconferences.co.uk/misusingparents2012>

13 LDAN Developing First Line Managers course – NOW BOOKING

This course is open to both LDAN and non-LDAN members. It is a programme of management development that has been developed to meet the training needs of people who have recently taken up positions of service managers and is particularly aimed at those who have moved from practitioner to management positions. It takes the form of a series of workshops, which run over four full days, covering areas such as Managing Yourself, Managing Staff, Managing Change and Managing for the future. Course dates are 13 September, 12 October, 8 November and 5 December. The venue will be a central London location to be confirmed on receipt of application.

Further information is available at <http://www.ldan.org.uk/latest.html#training>

Contact Carol Marsh on 020 7520 7550 or email carolm@drugscope.org.uk

19 Family Training Programme, Toynbee Hall, 28 Commercial Street, London E1 6LS

Alcohol Concern's Family Training Programme consists of four one-day courses, designed to equip practitioners with the skills to work effectively with children and families affected by parental alcohol misuse. Together the courses form a comprehensive training module, but they can also be accessed individually. The courses are: Working with families to increase engagement and motivation towards change, Building resilience – working with children affected by parental alcohol problems, Protective parenting – a realistic approach for alcohol misusing parents, and Alcohol misuse, parenting and risk assessment – collaborative approaches to safeguarding children. The dates for the four sessions in London are 19 September, 20 September, 26 September and 27 September, and there are further dates available throughout England, including in London again in December 2012 and February 2013. More information about this event is available at <http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/consultancy-and-training/consultancy-training/family-training>

Contact Anna Nagle on 020 7566 9806 or email familytraining@alcoholconcern.org.uk

24 Passion, skills and creativity: pathways to wellbeing, Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF

Homeless Link is running a one-day conference to promote the improvement of homeless people's wellbeing. The conference will explore what is meant by wellbeing, why it is important, how you can help homeless people to improve their wellbeing, and the role that sport, arts and outdoor activities can play in improving wellbeing. The event is intended to help people working with homeless people to set up and run a range of activities to improve the wellbeing of their clients. The event will run from 9.30am to 5pm. You can find out more information and book a place at:

http://homeless.org.uk/event-wellbeing#.T_wAO_UfjK5



By Marcus Roberts
Director of Policy
and Membership

Members' notes

It's now about eight months before Directors of Public Health employed by local authorities will become responsible for planning and commissioning drug and alcohol services. There will be a lot of demands on their resources, at a time when London Boroughs will have less money to spend. So it is a good idea for LDAN members to be showcasing their services and their positive impact on communities now by getting local councillors and other decision-makers along to hear about their work and meet their staff and service users.

I recently attended an 'Open Day' hosted by DASL in Stratford which did exactly this, and with a fantastic lunch prepared by service users thrown in too (see p. 7 for a profile of DASL's Silver Lining project). It was so packed that we had to be moved to a larger room, and local decision-makers attended who probably had little knowledge of the sector when they walked in the door, but will have left with a strong impression of the impact of DASL projects and the challenges of securing funding.

There are also opportunities to influence the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), which has an increasing say in how community safety and drug interventions programme money is spent across London. The LDAN Senior Managers Group meeting in May heard from Alison Blackwood of the London Voluntary Sector Council (LVSC) about the network they are co-ordinating as part of the Safer Future Communities (SFC) project to influence the MOPAC. You can find out more on the SFC website at www.clinks.org.uk/sfc

And if you are planning an Open Day or other kind of engagement activity, why not get in touch? We might be able to help.

Do get in contact with us.

E-mail: Michaels@drugscope.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7520 7550