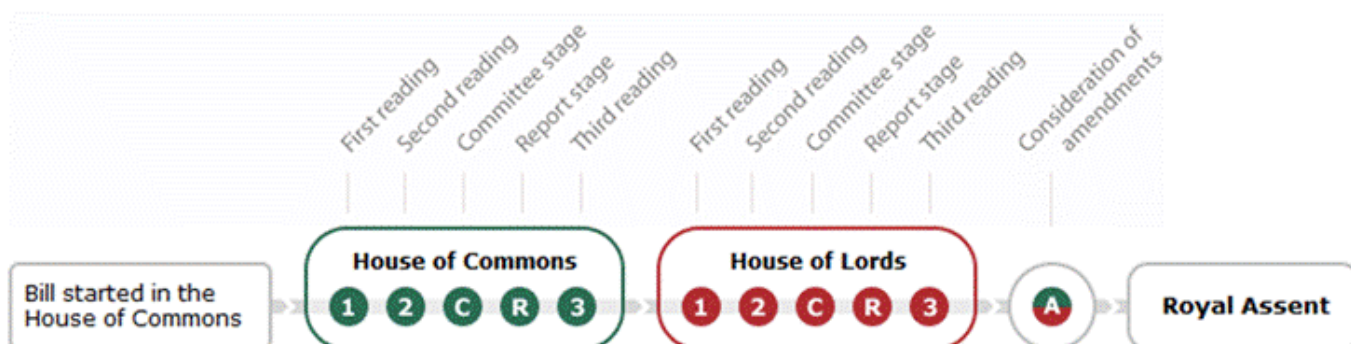


North of England Mental Health Development Unit

This month we bring you news of a new project in South Tyneside and Sunderland looking at the physical health needs of people with severe mental illness. We are also promoting the service user and carer leadership programme in Durham and Teesside which is due to begin this summer—the leadership programme for Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland will be advertised very soon and will feature in our next newsletter. Our spotlight feature this month focuses on Non Executive Director Oliver Wood, and of course there's our usual round-up of policy news.

Throughout the month we have continued to keep a close eye on the progress of the Health and Social Care Bill, with the Lords amendments being considered on the floor of the House on 20th March, and the final stage of Royal Assent being granted just as we go to press. The diagram below, taken from <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/healthandsocialcare.html> shows the progress of the Bill through parliament. We'll bring you a summary of the new Act in our next edition now that it has gained Royal Assent.

Progress of the Bill



Supporting better mental health

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As promised in our first issue, we continue our 'Spotlight' feature this month with another of our Non-Executive Directors.

Spotlight on...

Oliver Wood has been a mental health service user for many years and has been part of the disabled people's movement for over 10 years. Oliver started out in 2003 as an elected member of the NUS Disabled Students Campaign committee, a position he held for 5 years and during which time he worked closely with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) campaign. During this time Oliver was also a governor of both Newcastle College and Tyne Metropolitan College.



Between 2007 and 2009 Oliver was a member of the National Learner Panel, a further education reference group set up to advise government and key stakeholders on further education policy; Oliver chaired the panel in 2008/09.

From July 2008 to March 2010 when its powers were transferred to its successor bodies Oliver was a member of the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) North East Regional Council, sitting on its audit committee. The LSC was a non-departmental government body responsible for planning and funding further education in England.

In late 2009 Oliver was elected as a governor of Northumberland and Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, a mental health and learning disability trust. Oliver sits on the governor's audit, quality and membership sub groups and is vice chair of a group set up to improve the patient experience of care.

In early 2011 Oliver was appointed as a trustee of Mind in Gateshead, which became Tyneside Mind in March 2011. He is presently vice chair of Tyneside Mind and active in both quality and strategic planning sub groups.

Oliver has been an active member of the Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Service User and Carer forum for since 2010 and firmly believes in service users making decisions about the issues that affect their lives. In August 2011 Oliver was appointed as an Ambassador for the Disabled Peoples User Led Organisations (DPOLO) programme run by the Office for Disability Issues. The programme aims to increase the capacity and sustainability of user led organisations.

Of his decision to join the NEMHDU Board Oliver said:

"It's really important for any organisation that can influence service commissioning and provision to have service users truly involved. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to join NEMHDU's Board and I see my role as making sure the organisation remains grounded with a continuing focus on what is best for local people who are using the services that NEMHDU works to improve. Seeing the organisation set up as a social enterprise with one of its main aims being to work alongside service users and carers is a really exciting new approach for mental health development across the North of England."

Physical and Mental Health

NEMH DU, in partnership with locality service user and carer groups, has been commissioned by NHS South of Tyne to assess the physical health needs of people with severe mental illness and provide recommendations and training in response to the findings.

The physical health of people with mental health problems is one of the six key themes detailed in ¹*No Health Without Mental Health* (DH, 2011), the cross-government mental health outcomes strategy.

People with diagnoses of severe and enduring mental illnesses (SMI) such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder are at increased risk of a range of physical illnesses and conditions, including:

- coronary heart disease
- diabetes
- infections
- respiratory disease
- greater levels of obesity

They are almost twice as likely to die from coronary heart disease as the general population and four times more likely to die from respiratory disease.

Working in partnership with local service users and carers in Sunderland and South Tyneside NEMH DU will:

- Describe the physical health and well-being needs of people with severe and enduring mental illness, with a particular focus on users' views;
- Provide recommendations for commissioners and service providers about services and interventions that will meet these needs;
- Develop training for professionals, with a focus on working with people with SMI around their physical health;
- Deliver the training to a range of front line professionals, including lifestyle service providers (eg. smoking cessation), housing officers, library workers, primary care nurses, Children's Centre workers.

The work will include

- Focus group consultations with service users and carers
- Research questionnaire for service users and carers
- Interviews with service providers and commissioners

We will continue to work in partnership with local service users and carers to deliver this project, building on our partnership work to develop the initial proposal during the tendering process. The project is due to complete in the Autumn.

¹. No Health without Mental Health; a cross-government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages; Department of Health; February 2011.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_123766



Introduction to Leadership for Mental Health Service Users, Carers and Advocates

Leadership programme for Durham and Teesside
August 2012—March 2013

About the programme

The focus of the programme will be to :

- Support and encourage users, carers and advocates to be effective in influencing and contributing to service improvements
- Work together to develop leadership skills - to share ideas and experiences and learn from each other
- Empower users, carers and advocates within their own local services
- Encourage participants to create and sustain a self supporting network

The programme sessions are highly participative with opportunity for discussion and small group work. In addition to the programme tutors we will be joined by local and national speakers. Participants will have the opportunity to influence the content of the sessions throughout the programme.

The programme begins with a Taster Session on 28th August, which is an opportunity to meet with others interested in the programme and also discuss with tutors what the programme has to offer. It will help you to decide if the programme is really for you, and then whether you would like a place on the full programme. Upon receipt of your application form, full details of the taster session will be sent to you.

Certificate of Accreditation

Through a partnership agreement with Teesside University, participants will have the opportunity to gain a Certificate of Accreditation upon completion of the programme. This is not a requirement of the programme so it is a personal choice whether to do this or not. However, anyone who wishes to will be supported by the programme tutors to complete the work required.

How to apply

For further information and an application form please contact:

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Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
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Email: joyce.porter@tewv.nhs.uk

Telephone: 01642 516423

Deadline for applications: 21 May 2012.
This programme is free of charge to all participants.

Policy News

The next few pages give a quick round-up of recent Department of Health policy announcements and publications, with links to the relevant pages on the Department of Health and partner organisation websites.

Health and Social Care Bill gains Royal Assent

27 March, 2012

Today the Health and Social Care Bill gained Royal Assent to become the Health and Social Care Act (2012). Andrew Lansley, the Health Secretary, said:

'The Health and Social Care Act will deliver more power to clinicians, it will put patients at the heart of the NHS, and it will reduce the costs of bureaucracy. We now have an opportunity to secure clinical leadership to deliver improving quality and outcomes; better results for patients is our objective.'

The implementation of the Act will enable clinical leaders, patients' representatives and local government to take new roles in shaping services.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/royalassent/>

Prime Minister's challenge on dementia

26 March, 2012

The Prime Minister has launched a programme of work which aims to deliver major improvements in dementia care and research by 2015. The Prime Minister's challenge on dementia builds on the achievements of the existing National Dementia Strategy.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_133170

Alcohol Strategy published

23 March, 2012

The Government's Alcohol Strategy, which includes a package of health measures, has been published today. A minimum unit price for alcohol, which will target the cheapest products and help reduce drinking in those who drink the most, will be brought in. In the meantime, multi-buy discounts will be banned.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/alcohol-strategy-published/>

Report on evaluation of integrated care pilots

22 March, 2012

The Department has published a report on a two year independent study of integrated care pilots. The evaluation which commenced in 2009 looked at 16 sites across England who undertook different ways of integrating care, for example, between general practices, community nurses, hospitals and social services.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/report-on-evaluation-of-integrated-care-pilots/>

Step by step guide to calculating the Payment by Results national tariff published

20 March, 2012

The guide to calculating the national tariff is published as part of the confirmation of the arrangements for Payment by Results (PbR) in 2012-13.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/step-by-step-guide-pbr/>

Continued on next page...

Policy News—continued

Eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare Funding guidance

15 March, 2012

The Department has published guidance on the time limits starting from 1 April 2012 for individuals or their families and representatives to request a review of an eligibility decision for NHS Continuing Healthcare funding by the local PCT or responsible NHS body at a local level. These limits will only apply to eligibility decisions notified after 1 April 2012 and not before

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/continuing-healthcare-funding/>

The NHS Constitution for England

The 2012 edition of the NHS Constitution for England, along with an accompanying Handbook to the Constitution, were published on 8 March 2012 and can be downloaded from:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132960

Evaluation report of the Youth Justice Liaison and Diversion Pilot Scheme

9 March, 2012

This final report will inform the National Liaison and Diversion Programme, as part of the Government's commitment, to ensure that liaison and diversion services for all ages should be available on a national basis from 2014.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/youth-justice-liaison-and-diversion-pilot/>

Implementation of the Right of Disabled People to Independent Living

Report ordered by the House of Lords/House of Commons Joint Committee on Human Rights and published 1 March 2012.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201012/jtselect/jtrights/257/257.pdf>

£22 million for ground-breaking children's mental health programme

29 February, 2012

Up to £22m will be pumped into a pioneering programme to give children with mental health problems access to the best available services in a wider range of places. The new investment in the Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) project will be spent over the next three years to expand state-of-the-art psychological therapies and extend training for people working with youngsters outside of health settings, such as in schools or youth groups.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/02/22-million-for-ground-breaking-children%E2%80%99s-mental-health-programme/>

Dame Fiona Caldicott to lead confidentiality review

23 February, 2012

Dame Fiona Caldicott has agreed to lead an independent review of the balance between protecting patient information and its sharing, to improve patient care. The Department expects to respond to the panel's recommendations when the review publishes during 2012.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/02/dame-fiona-caldicott-to-lead-confidentiality-review/>