

Welcome to the first edition of *Better Health!* the newsletter of Debra Moore Associates

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## Events & Training

We provide training and consultancy services to commissioners, providers, self advocacy organisations and family carers.

Our focus is on promoting person centred and inclusive health services for everyone including people with learning disabilities, mental health needs and older people.

We do this by providing bespoke support, training events and conferences to share the latest thinking and good practice.



## A busy landscape!

*In recent months we have seen an unprecedented number of publications relating to the health of people with learning disabilities. Additionally, march marked the closure of the consultation period of Valuing People Now which placed 'health' as one of its top priorities.*

*In this edition we hope to provide our readers with a focus and overview of the key documents we feel are particularly relevant to the commissioning and delivery of specialist learning disability health services. We know you are all busy so we have designed the newsletter to be as short and snappy as possible!*

*In future editions we will be looking at issues relating to primary care and acute hospitals and we welcome contributions and ideas. Best Wishes*

*Debra*

[www.debramooreassociates.com](http://www.debramooreassociates.com)

## Reports 'Round Up'

In this section we aim to provide readers with an 'at a glance' review of recent reports that we think are particularly significant to the theme of this newsletter



### A life like no other

Describing specialist in patient settings as 'cinderella services' in the Healthcare Commission Audit Report, *A life like no other*, reiterates a view that in some localities there has been a lack of both investment and leadership. Anecdotal evidence would suggest that many localities have found it very difficult to get to grips with what is often a complex health picture of increasing demands and costs, a rising number of out of area placements and poor access to mainstream NHS provision.

I know that many staff working in such services feel frustrated by the pace of change and will join me in welcoming the attention and potential levers for modernisation generated by this report.

For the full report go to <http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/serviceproviderinformation/reviewsandstudies/studies/learningdisabilitiesservices/standardtext.cfm>



### Count me in census



Last month the Healthcare Commission repeated its annual census of inpatient mental health and learning disability services in England and Wales. Count Me In is one of the building blocks of Delivering Race Equality (Department of Health 2005) and provides valuable information to help providers take practical steps to tackle discrimination.

A key finding of the 2007 report revealed that in learning disability, seventy two per cent of patients had been in hospital for one year or more compared with 30% in mental health services. The remaining 38% of patients in learning disability services had been in hospital for over five years.

The report also revealed problems in the provision of single sex accommodation for learning disability patients.

For the full report [http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/\\_db/documents/Count\\_me\\_in-2007.pdf](http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/_db/documents/Count_me_in-2007.pdf)





## On the 'frontline'

### Working In Community Teams

We recognise that working in a community team within this current climate of change can be both exciting and daunting. The move to reduce reliance on bed based services and out of area placements, to close NHS Campuses and the demands to support the mainstream NHS have had a massive impact on role and expectations.

To support these changes we will be delivering a series of events for commissioners and providers to explore the issues, share good practice and work on the practical changes that need to happen locally. We will also be launching an in service training and development programme available later in the year to support individual teams.

For further information about the events and the in-service training programme contact [info@debramooreassociates.com](mailto:info@debramooreassociates.com) or ring 07950 888334

## A Life Like Any Other?

### *Human Rights of Adults with Learning Difficulties*



This important report by the Joint Committee on Human Rights details clear evidence of the social exclusion, poverty and isolation experienced by many people with learning disabilities and their families. As expected, concern is expressed about the health of people with learning disabilities and parallels are drawn between their poor experiences and those of older people in health and residential care settings.

The report calls on the government to remind all public authorities (including NHS Trusts) of the binding obligations of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Disability Discrimination Act and states '*We consider that this would send a strong message to mainstream services that implementation of this policy is not optional*'.

For the full report <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200708/jtselect/jtrights/40/40i.pdf>

Lastly, I am sure most of you have read the following reports as they all came out before Christmas - however here is a quick reminder with links just in case!

October 2007

Department of Health - Commissioning Specialist Adult Learning Disability Health Services

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_079987](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_079987)

November 2007

Department of Health - Services for people with learning disability challenging behaviour or mental health needs (Mansell2)

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_080129](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080129)

December 2007

Department of Health - Good Practice in Learning Disability Nursing

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_081328](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081328)

Coming Soon.....

## Confirm & Challenge - the 6C's

We have been busy developing a resource pack to support the development of specialist learning disability health services. Aimed at NHS and Independent Sector providers, including secure services, it contains standards and metrics for good practice, service review and a self assessment tool.

We hope it will help commissioners and providers to interpret current policy and respond to the challenges contained in recent relevant guidance and reports and, in particular, the Healthcare Commission Audit.

We will be publishing Confirm & Challenge - the 6C's within a few months so watch this space! In the meantime if you would like further information please contact Debra Moore [debra@debramooreassociates.com](mailto:debra@debramooreassociates.com) or ring 07950333884

## Learning Disability Nursing Events

In December we saw the publication of the keenly awaited DH *Good practice guidance on learning disability nursing* which, along with the NMC consultation, has prompted lively debate and discussion. We are working with Inclusion North to provide opportunity for learning disability nurses to come together at 3 events:

8<sup>th</sup> May - Leeds    13<sup>th</sup> May - York    22<sup>nd</sup> May - Newcastle

The aims of the day are to:

- Increase understanding of the policy context and in particular the DH Guidance on Specialist Learning Disability Services, Mansell 2 and the DH Good Practice Guidance for Learning Disability Nurses.
- To consider the impact current health and social care policies in relation to the role and function of learning disability services now and in the future.
- To reflect on the findings of the recent Healthcare Commission Audit of Specialist Learning Disability Services with specific regard to nursing practice.

To book a place for these events or if you want further information about running an event in your area, please ring Pip Franklin on 0113 2626 409 or email at [pip@inclusionnorth.com](mailto:pip@inclusionnorth.com) or visit the Inclusion North website at [www.inclusionnorth.org](http://www.inclusionnorth.org)

### Working In Secure Services

We have a programme of workshops scheduled for the autumn to specifically address the challenges of providing person centred care in secure settings.

Our aim is to take a practical look at how we can make best use of person centred approaches, health facilitation and health action planning to inform, support and enhance care planning within the CPA framework.

If you would like more information about these events or would like to discuss an event within your own service please email:

[info@debramooreassociates.com](mailto:info@debramooreassociates.com)

Finally....

I hope you have found this newsletter helpful - we welcome comments and feedback. If you would like to include an article or news item in our next edition please contact us on [info@debramooreassociates.com](mailto:info@debramooreassociates.com) or visit our website [www.debramooreassociates.com](http://www.debramooreassociates.com)



### 'Consultation Corner'

Some of the key live consultations relating to health....



A consultation on the framework for the registration of health and adult social care providers - *Closing date 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008*

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_083625](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_083625)


The key proposal in this important consultation document is that there be a single set of registration requirements across health and social care providers that come within the scope of registration. Standards will be monitored by the new Care Quality Commission which will be formed from the merger of the Healthcare Commission, Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act Commission.



Private and voluntary healthcare: Care Standards Act 2000. Regulations and national minimum standards consultation document - *Closing date 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008*

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_083519](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_083519)

Within the context of the changes to health and adult social care regulation, this document contains the proposed changes to the regulations governing the independent healthcare sector, and proposed changes to the associated National Minimum Standards (NMS).

 CSCI review of eligibility criteria - *Closing date 9<sup>th</sup> May*

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is carrying out a major review of the eligibility criteria that councils use to decide whether or not a person receives help from the council with social care services (Fair Access to Care FACS). As many of you will be aware, most councils are only serving those determined to have 'substantial' or 'critical' needs. This can have many obvious implications both for the person and their family carers who are left to meet needs as well the impact on other local services such as health. In particular, there is growing concern about the people for whom 'preventative' support would mean a reduction of later and more serious situations such as 'offending behaviour', in patient units or admission to residential settings.

You can contribute views by taking part in an online survey or sending a written submission either individually or from your organisation by going to :

[http://www.csci.org.uk/about\\_us/news/review\\_of\\_eligibility\\_criteria.aspx](http://www.csci.org.uk/about_us/news/review_of_eligibility_criteria.aspx)