

# Leeds Dual Diagnosis Network: Newsletter

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## Contact Us:

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Information on the project and the general field of Dual Diagnosis can be found on our web-site:

<http://www.dual-diagnosis.org.uk/>

## Newsflash

### Forensic services:

A scoping of Dual Diagnosis needs within Forensic Services is currently under way. Staff training needs and care models for this client group are being looked at by a dedicated team.

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### Older people's services:

Older people's services have taken an interest in current developments in the field. Anecdotal information has it that a proportion of people cared for within this directorate present alcohol dependency and co-existing dementia, cognitive impairment, severe depression and other mental health needs.

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### Children & young people's services:

A consultation team have been commissioned to explore local resources and to propose a service improvement plan for children & young people affected by Dual Diagnosis. A dissemination event will be held in March.

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E-mail us with any queries on the above news.

## Care Pathways & Protocols

A Dual Diagnosis Care Co-ordination Protocol has been produced in consultation with service users, managers and practitioners from across 15 services.

The Protocol proposes a framework for collaboration between Drug & Alcohol and Mental Health services in Leeds. It integrates the elements of assessment, risk management, holistic care and co-ordinated service delivery.

The care models proposed are intended to improve access to care and to ensure that both substance use and mental health related needs are addressed through a single care plan.

## Service User & Carer Involvement

Two mental health workshops were run for service users who access drug & alcohol treatment in September. This enabled the opportunity to involve service users in the formulation of 'principles of care', which have informed the drafting of Terms of Reference for the DD Network.

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A service user consultation event was run on 10th October, World Mental Health Day. People who use a wide range of Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol services across Leeds attended. Discussions at the event raised issues in relation to: accessibility, efficiency in referral systems, practice development in relation to drugs awareness & person-centred care, consistent and holistic care delivery, advertisement of services and sources of support. A summary report was produced and is available from the electronic bulletin. The Care Co-ordination Protocol mentioned above is essentially a strategic response to the issues highlighted by service users.

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Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health sessions for carers were offered at *Leeds Carers* in January 2008.

Up-coming service user and carer events will be advertised through our partner services.

## Provider Network

14 practitioners from across 9 services have completed the Oct-Nov 2007 training course and currently attend monthly supervision / practice development sessions. Practitioners from 6 more services have been nominated to join the next training cohort in February 2008.

Current partner services contributing to the development of the project are:

NFA Health Service, Aspire, Touchstone, Community Links, St. Anne's, Leeds MIND, CMHT, AOT, CT&R, LAU, Multiple Choice, BARCA, CDTS, DIP, Forensic Services.

A detailed partnership directory will be produced and circulated during the next quarter.

## Training & Development

The application procedure is now open for the 6 day training course commencing in February 2008.

**Deadline for application:**

**Friday 1st Feb.**

Dates, guidance and application forms can be downloaded from the web-site.

