



**Patients' Council, Royal Edinburgh Hospital**

# **NEWS**

**March 2008**

**Welcome to the Patients' Council newsletter.  
All regular and new readers can find  
information, events and reports in this edition.**



The next full Patients' Council meeting is on

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March** from 2.00-3.30pm

In Ward 11 Seminar Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,

Mackinnon House, Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

David Hewitson, Social Work Manager in the hospital, will be joining us at 3pm to speak about a Review of Social Work in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

*All patients and former patients of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital are welcome to attend.*

*Refreshments provided.*

If you want to get involved with mental health issues from the service-user's viewpoint, please come to our meetings, or contact us at:

**The Patients' Council, Royal Edinburgh Hospital,  
Morningside Terrace EH10 5HF**

Tel. 0131 537 6462 E-mail [maggie.mcivor@patientscouncilreh.co.uk](mailto:maggie.mcivor@patientscouncilreh.co.uk)

Website: [www.patientscouncilreh.co.uk](http://www.patientscouncilreh.co.uk)

*Our offices are situated off the Link Corridor in the Andrew Duncan Clinic.*

## **What happened at the last Patients' Council Meeting?**

14 members attended the last Patients' Council Meeting on 31 January 2008.

- We elected David Davies and Craig Ireland to the two remaining places on our Management Committee.
- We looked at our advert in the Edinburgh Evening News for a Collective Advocacy Support & Development Worker. We are also advertising through Good Moves, the Scotsman, Scotland on Sunday, EVOC, SIAA, JobCentrePlus, Penumbra and Health in Mind. The recruitment pack is available on our website.
- We received feedback from activists and a report on the work of Circles Advocacy Project. We received information about the Designers for Mental Health Care Settings Network. We agreed to contribute to a response for the Mentally Flourishing Scotland event.
- Tim Montgomery, Director of Operations, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, joined us for a discussion about reprovisioning plans for the hospital's services and refurbishment in the interim. The discussion included:

### **DISCUSSION AT MEETING**

- **Money is available for new windows, boiler and roofs.**
- **This year's programme will include painting, IPCU, bathrooms in Swanston ward, the canteen and Kinnair ward.**
- **An annual refurbishment programme is being established.**
- **Regular meetings will be held with our new worker, when appointed, to provide a route for raising problems and issues**
- **We made a number of suggestions for improvements in the meantime**
- **Various models were discussed for provision of services in the new hospital**
- **We need to identify what services are needed then decide where to provide them**
- **Hospital bed numbers can be reduced only if adequate resources are available in the community to keep people safe**
- **The need for people to be able to access the services they need is of paramount importance**
- **The new hospital's location MUST enable patients to access 'high street' services e.g. library, cafes.**
- **We agreed to have another meeting with Tim to continue the discussions.**

We held another meeting with Tim Montgomery on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. We learned about the improvements that are already starting to be implemented on the acute wards as a result of Kaizen week. These include a painting programme, pictures, replacing missing furniture, staff photo-boards, newspapers, using the Star Wards model, improved therapeutic facilities, welcome packs, and the introduction of discharge co-ordinators, housekeepers and receptionists.

Plans are also being developed to reprovide services in new community and in-patient facilities in future years. Each service is currently looking at the needs of their own patients and their carers. Then the REH Campus Review Board, which includes patients and carers representatives, will look at the options to work out where it would be best to provide each service. Commonalities will also be taken into account e.g. access to community facilities, activities for patients, therapeutic environment, spiritual care.

The hospital is also setting up a group to look at improving the use of the hospital's grounds and celebrating its bicentenary.

### At the next Patients' Council Meeting on 27 March

- We'll find out what our member activists have been doing on our behalf
- You can raise new issues at the meeting
- We'll receive an update on recruitment of our new Collective Advocacy Support and Development Worker
- We'll hear more about plans for the future of the hospital
- We'll hear from Circles Advocacy about individual advocacy in the hospital.
- Dave Hewitson will join us at 3pm to speak about a Review of Social Work in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

## Safety, Privacy and Dignity in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital

**New members are always welcome at the two working groups on 'Health & Wellbeing' and 'Respectful Behaviours'. The groups meet once a month and are both informal and productive! A mixture of service-users and hospital staff attend. If you are interested, contact Susan Tennyson, Planning Team, Royal Edinburgh Hospital.**

### Management Committee News

Charlotte Mitchell (Chair), Patricia Whalley (Vice Chair), Lesley McDade (Convenor of the Management Committee), David Davies, Elaine Dobbie, Shirley Gowers, Craig Ireland, Irene Molloy, Albert Nicolson, Alison Robertson, Andrew Shaw and Malcolm Xavier.  
Cathy Robertson is a co-opted member.

At the Management Committee Meeting on 27 February, we talked about our current recruitment campaign, we looked at the latest financial statements and discussed future management committee activities. We learned about the Kaizen week which some of our members attended as part of the hospital re-provisioning programme.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

- Circles Advocacy** - an individual advocacy service for in-patients of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital **Tel 0131 537 6004**
- AdvoCard** - an individual advocacy service for mental health service users who live in the community. **Tel. 0131 554 5307/475 2340. [advocard.org.uk](http://advocard.org.uk)**
- Edinburgh Users Forum** - a collective advocacy service for people who use, or have used, mental health services. **Tel. 0131 538 7177 [edinburghusersforum.org.uk](http://edinburghusersforum.org.uk)**
- Legal Services Agency** - employs a solicitor to work with people who use mental health services. **Tel. 0131 228 9993**

### About the Patients' Council

We are an independent collective advocacy organisation, based in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Our members are people who are using or have used the services of the hospital. We provide a forum for common issues on mental health treatment and care and represent patients' interests in order to improve services.

**Join Us - come to our regular meetings, or simply add your name to our mailing list to receive information about events and activities.**

#### Patients' Council Meetings 2008

Because our usual venue is no longer available, please note the following changes to times and venue:

**New Venue = Ward 11 Seminar Room**

<b>27 March</b>	<b>2-3.30pm</b>	<b>22 May</b>	<b>1.30-3pm</b>
<b>24 July</b>	<b>1.30-3pm</b>	<b>25 September</b>	<b>2-3.30pm</b>

- 20 March** Safety, Privacy & Dignity Working Group on 'Physical Health & Well-being, 3.30pm, Thursday 20 March, Training Room 5, Midmar
- 27 March** Patients' Council Meeting, 2.00pm, Ward 11 Seminar Room
- 27 March** 'Oor Mad History', 2pm, CAPS offices

Supported by Circles Network



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