



Patients' Council, Royal Edinburgh Hospital

NEWS

May 2008

**Welcome to the Patients' Council newsletter
for information, events and reports.**



**The next full Patients' Council meeting is on
Thursday 22nd May, 1.30-3.00pm
In Ward 11 Seminar Room,
Mackinnon House, 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
Staff: Dave Budd – Collective Advocacy Support & Development Worker
Maggie McIvor-Admin. Worker**

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

**We are delighted to welcome Dave Budd, our new Collective Advocacy Support &
Development Worker. Since joining us on 17th April, Dave has already met a wide
variety of people and started to get to grips with the work of the Patients' Council.**

What happened at the last Patients' Council Meeting?

10 members attended the last Patients' Council Meeting on 27 March 2008.

- We were delighted to learn that our new Collective Advocacy Support & Development Worker, Dave Budd, would be starting work with us on 17th April.
- Our member activists told us about their very useful meeting with the Mental Welfare Commission on 5th March – action has already been taken to address issues around mattresses in North Wing!
- Several of our members attended the very successful Kaizen Week, part of the hospital's reprovisioning programme. Some of the ideas which are being taken up through Kaizen came originally from our own Safety, Privacy & Dignity groups.
- Our members have attended a wide variety of events, including Integrated Care Pathways, Hive Redesign, VOX, Napier University, Strategic Development Group, Nutrition, Adult Forum and Scottish Recovery Network Conference.
- We received a written report from Katie James from Circles Advocacy Project. We noted issues concerning assaults on wards and boarding out.
- David Hewitson joined us to speak about the review of the Social Work team at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

Carol's magazine

Would you like to be involved in a local magazine about people with mental health issues? If you would like to contribute your own personal stories or experiences, please contact Carol at cag060548@yahoo.co.uk

Work Directions

There is now a Work Directions Pathway in Edinburgh. From 3 December 2007 any new person on incapacity benefit must attend 5 compulsory interviews which will assess health and benefits via Jobcentreplus. Anyone who is already on IB before 3 December can volunteer to attend a Jobcentreplus interview with a view to obtaining assistance concerning employability. Whilst some people may be "Job Ready" and able to go back into the employment market, others may need a supported pathway to assist them to acquire soft skills prior to engaging with the Work Directions Pathway via Jobcentreplus which may include accessing the voluntary sector job market. Assessment is specific to "what you can do". Incapacity Benefit is due to change in October 2008 to Employment Support Allowance. It is wise to obtain a "better off calculation" if going back to work and assistance is available at the Advice Shop and at Citizens Advice Bureau."

Look out for the 'Sunflower Leaflet' which gives details of a "supported employment pathway" in the mental health sector to assist patients/ex-patients (service users) to enter employment under the proposed Government Welfare Reforms on notice boards in the hospital or you can pop into the Patients' Council offices to access a copy or request a copy from an Occupational Therapist.

Contact details:

Advice Shop: 0131 225 1255

Citizens Advice Bureaux in Edinburgh:

Edinburgh Central - 0131 557 1500

Leith - 0131 554 8144

Portobello - 0131 669 7138

Gorgie/Dalry - 0131 474 8080

Pilton - 0131 332 9434

Sheriff Court - 0131 247 2865

The website is <http://citizensadviceedinburgh.co.uk>

There is also a Citizens Advice Direct service: call **0844 848 9600** for free, confidential advice on any matter, **Monday-Friday 9am-8pm, Saturday 10am-2pm: www.citizenadvisedirect.org.uk**

At the next Patients' Council Meeting on 22 May

- We'll hear what our member activists have been doing on our behalf
- You can raise new issues at the meeting
- We will try to fill one vacancy on our Management Committee
- We'll find out more about hospital reprovisioning.
- We'll hear from Circles Advocacy about individual advocacy in the 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.

Patients' Council Meetings 2008

Ward 11 Seminar Room, Mackinnon House

Thursday 22 May - 1.30-3pm

Thursday 24 July - 1.30-3pm

Thursday 25 September - 2-3.30pm

**Annual General Meeting: Thursday 4 December
1.30 - 4pm, Board Room - Christmas-themed buffet!**

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 and 0131 475 2340.
- Edinburgh Users Forum** - a collective advocacy group for people who use, or have used, mental health services. **Tel. 0131 538 7177**
- Legal Services Agency** - employs a solicitor to work with people who use mental health services. **Tel. 0131 228 9993**

Management Committee News

At the Management Committee meeting on 23 April, Lesley McDade was elected Chair of the Patients' Council and Craig Ireland became the new Convenor of our Management Committee.

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

The New Royal Edinburgh Hospital

NHS Lothian have organised workshops to help decide on the site for a new Royal Edinburgh Hospital. They will be held at the Hibs Football Stadium from 11am to 4.30pm as follows:

Adult Psychiatry : Workshop 1 - Monday 2 June

Workshop 2 - Monday 28 July

Rehabilitation Psychiatry : Workshop 1 - Monday 9 June

Workshop 2 - Friday 1 August

Older People: Workshop 1 - Wednesday 4 June

Workshop 2 - Wednesday 30 July

Substance Misuse: Workshop 1 - Thursday 5 June

Workshop 2 - Thursday 31 July.

To book a place contact Claire Hedges by 22 May on 0131 536 9411 or claire.hedges@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Coming Events

24 June Safety, Privacy & Dignity Working Group on 'Physical Health and Well-being', 3pm, Patients' Council offices

A 30 minute ecumenical service, with tea/coffee and biscuits afterwards, is held every Sunday in the Hive at 10.15am. Relaxed and friendly. Open to everyone. Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month.

Supported by Circles Network



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