



## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE Mark Hemming Manager of Mental Health Services

- I'd like to thank all staff for their warm welcome and support during the first six weeks of being here and wish them and their families a **very merry Christmas and a peaceful new year**. I know that there are still a number of staff that I have yet to meet and I'm still making my way around trying to meet everyone.
- A consultation paper will soon be presented regarding **management arrangements within the mental health service**. MaryAnn Thomas, who has been Acting DMHOP Team manager since the Spring leaves on December 31<sup>st</sup> and Sue Bennison will take up post as interim DMHOP Manager. Further discussions about this arrangement, proposals related to the rest of the service and the mental health decision making structure will be contained in a paper to be made available for widespread consultation. The paper will initially be presented to the Mental Health Operational Group (MHOG) and then forwarded to the rest of the service. I will be looking forward to receiving comments from all involved in our service.
- **“Agenda for Change:** Unfortunately it has not been possible to get Agenda for Change outcome letters to Stonebow and DMHOP staff in December, but we will get them to people in January. December is a "short month" because payday is earlier, and it was not possible to complete all the checks necessary on all the individual information before letters could be sent out in time to notify people before payday. Our apologies and please
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bear with us - we will get letters out next month **Julie Thornby: Director of Corporate Development**”

- A very big thank-you to **MaryAnn Thomas** for holding the fort in DMHOP for much longer than she thought she was going to. As stated earlier, MaryAnn leaves her Acting Manager role at the end of the year but will not be lost to the service because she will be involved in some project work related to opportunities/possibilities of establishing a specialist Home Care/Home Support Service for Older Adults with mental health problems.

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### ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE Rob Cunningham Operational Manager

- My thanks to staff in all areas of the service for their support and guidance through the first six months of my post. I look forward to building on this very positive start throughout 2004 and send my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.
- Interviews for the new A&E Liaison/Deliberate Self Harm post are taking place over a few days but will be completed by Christmas.
- The first Dual Diagnosis Training event took place in November. Feedback has described the training as valuable and successful. Further training will be made available in the New Year.

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### MENTAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS Sue Bennison Mental Health Development Manager

➤ Information from November **Acute Care Forum:**

- Feedback from visit to Sandwell Inpatient Unit with particular relevance to proposed Psychology post based within the Herefordshire Acute Service. Draft job description and person specification for this post to be presented to December meeting.
- A number of policies related to various in-patient service activities were distributed. Some discussion and a request for comments/updates to be made available to Dr Allman.
- Agreement in principal that time needs to be made available for all policies to be made available in a consistent style with timed work plan with review dates.
- Discussion about use of “sniffer dogs” in the Stonebow Unit .
- A request for Stonebow Unit involvement in the City 128 Study Observation and Outcomes on Acute Psychiatric Wards has been made.

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
FOR OLDER PEOPLE  
MaryAnn Thomas  
DMHOP Team Manager

- Cheryl Poole, Community Mental Health Nurse in DMHOP South Team and Sarah Bennion, presently an Approved Social Worker employed by the Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership Trust, take up posts as Senior Practitioner/Team Leaders in the DMHOP South and North Team respectively on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2004. Best wishes in these new posts.
- Sandra Hudson, Older People’s Lead with the South Strategic Health Authority will be spending the day in Hereford on January 30<sup>th</sup> and visiting DMHOP and partner services. More information about the programme for the day will be made available in the New Year.
- The National Service Framework for Older People’s Local Implementation

Team (LIT) met on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Reports for the LIT relate to the NSF Standards and copies of that report can be obtained from Sue Bennison

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SOCIAL CARE AND STRATEGIC  
HOUSING  
Stephanie Canham  
Head of Social Care (Adults)

➤ **Adult Service Staff Briefing November issue** provides more detailed information on the following matters:

- Older Peoples’ Care Homes
- Best Value Review Updates including Sensory Impairment, Physical Disabilities and Home Care
- Delayed Discharges Bill
- Hillside Intermediate Care Centre
- SSI Inspection of Older Peoples Services in Herefordshire
- Performance Indicators
- Staff Reference Group

**Copies of the Briefing are available from Sue Bennison**

HEREFORDSHIRE USER GROUP  
Phil Pankhurst  
General Manager

- **HUG AGM:** The turnout of HUG members and HUG colleagues was excellent! There were no empty seats that *we* could see! HUG now has its new Executive Committee made up of David Walwyn (Chair), Steve Rayson (Vice-Chair), Robin Woodward and Fiona Mirylees. It’s nice to have a new member and a lady on the Executive Committee again. Welcome to Fiona!
- The new Chair gave a robust and rousing message to the HUG membership emphasising that members must give as well as receive. “Help us to help you”, he said. Indeed it is true that active involvement in constructive activities can aid recovery from mental health

problems. Members obviously took this message to heart – see below!

- **Christmas Market** : HUG had a stall in High Town, Hereford, on Saturday 29th November. Despite the appalling weather, driving wind, rain and cold, six HUG volunteers turned out to help run the stall. Well done those people! Our sincere and grateful thanks must also go to HUG Patron, Sue Gill, for the very long hours of hard work she put in preparing items for sale. Her packaging and presentation were immaculate and certainly drew people to buy things! In fact, Herefordshire Voluntary Action gave a particular commendation to HUG on the high standard of the stall! Items for sale donated by Sue Gill and members of HUG included jewellery, candles, china, cuddly toys and ornaments.
- For the record, *this Christmas market raised £207 (and HUG's sponsored walk in October raised over £400). In addition, on 6<sup>th</sup> December, Sue Gill ran her own market stall in the village of Grosmont, Monmouthshire, where she lives. She raised another £200!* So, these events really do raise useful money and are well worth the effort!
- HUG will be involved in regular fundraising events in the future including holding more of its own! Success means to be pro-active! So, well done again to everyone and keep up the good work!

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01432 370283  
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HEREFORDSHIRE MIND  
Andrew Strong  
General Manager

- **Tony Hodder** : Tony, Ch@t Co-ordinator, is leaving his post on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2004. Thank you for your work with Herefordshire MIND and best wishes in your new post.

**Contact: Andrew Strong on 01432 271643  
andrew.strong@herefordshire-  
mind.org.uk**

#### GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS AND CONSULTATIONS

- **Mental Health Act Commission:** *Placed Amongst Strangers*, the Commission's Tenth Biennial Report, covers two years' (2001-03) monitoring of mental health services by the Mental Health Act Commission, and is published in the parliamentary session during which a redrafted Mental Health Bill is expected. This 300 page, 100,000 word Report reviews comprehensively the operation of the Act, and makes over 70 recommendations. Download from [www.mhac.trent.nhs.uk](http://www.mhac.trent.nhs.uk)
- **A Window of Opportunity:** A practical guide for developing early intervention in psychosis services has been produced by the Sainsbury Centre for mental health. The executive summary can be downloaded on [www.scmh.org.uk](http://www.scmh.org.uk)
- **NHS Update:** "Mental health services have been praised for their user-friendly culture by the Commission for Healthcare Improvement (CHI) The review found that there were signs of improvement in mental health care although there were still staff shortages. Services were praised for involving service users more effectively than in other parts of the NHS and for forging good links with voluntary organisations. More information on [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)
- **"Draft Mental Health Bill to undergo scrutiny":** It has been announced by the Health Secretary that a revised Bill will be brought forward for pre-legislative scrutiny as soon as possible. Watch this space.

#### CARERS

**Herefordshire Carers Support -Carers Rights Day:** Thanks to the members of the

DMHOP team who staffed the stall at the Carers Rights Event on Friday 5th December. Unfortunately it was a very quiet day but a good opportunity to meet colleagues. Thanks to all for your input.

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➤ **Information from Carers Action: National Study On Information Sharing Between Carers And Professionals In Mental Health Survey Seeking The Experiences & Views Of Carers, Service Users & Professionals:** Patient confidentiality and difficulties obtaining vital information to support caring responsibilities have been identified as problems for carers in mental health. This collaborative project between Rethink and the Institute of Psychiatry funded by the Department of Health will identify good information sharing practices between carers and professionals and make recommendations for change.

- The survey is available online and in paper format. Separate versions have been designed for carers, service users, professionals and carer support workers. It should only take about 10 minutes of your time to complete. To participate in the survey online please go to:
- <http://www.mentalhealthcare.org.uk/surveys/informationsharing/>

To obtain a paper copy for you or others or for further enquiries about the research please contact Sophie Bellringer: 0207 848 5092 or [s.bellringer@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:s.bellringer@iop.kcl.ac.uk)

**Contact Jill Jones at Carers Action on 01432 272724**

**Any comments or items for inclusion in the Newsletter please send to:**

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THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM WOULD LIKE  
TO THANK EVERYONE THAT WORKS  
WITH US IN PROVIDING OUR SERVICE  
AND SENDS SEASONAL GREETINGS  
AND BEST WISHES FOR 2004

MaryAnn Thomas, Department of Mental Health Team Manager  
Margaret Reilly, Senior Sister, Stonebow Unit  
Mark Hemming, Mental Health Service Manager  
Rob Cunningham, Adult Mental Health Operational Manager  
Sue Bennison, Mental Health Development Manager



