

Combating Homelessness In Northern Ireland



Networking

Training

Informing

Researching

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CHINWAG
INFORMATION UPDATE FOR CHNI MEMBERS



CHNI would like to welcome Julia Abrol, who has recently been appointed as Youth Participation Officer (BUZZ Project). Julia has a wealth of experience working with vulnerable young people and makes a welcomed addition to the team. We are sure her time here will be both enjoyable and a success! If you have any questions, suggestions or kind words for Julia, please feel free to contact her at the Belfast Office, or julia@chni.org.uk

North West News

As many of you will know, the North West Office recently suffered from flooding. The flooding caused extensive damage to the office—both structurally, and in terms of computer and other office equipment. But true to form, the North West Team speedily set about rectifying the damage, and within days were close to fully operational! Even when affected by floods, Bernie and Majella continue to fly the CHNI flag in the North West!

TRAINING Spring / Summer Training Calendar has ended. The Autumn / Winter Calendar should arrive on your desk in the near future! Please contact Yvonne or Lesley if you have any queries about future courses, or wish to discuss your organisation's training requirements. Phone: (028)9024 6440, Fax: (028)9024 1266, or e-mail: training@chni.org.uk

Homelessness Statistics 2004-2005

Currently, George is working on a summary of the latest Homelessness Statistics (2004-2005), received from NIHE, and it is hoped that these will be issued to all members in the coming days. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact George at info@chni.org.uk



Multi-Disciplinary Homeless Support Team: An interagency Project.

On Monday 27th of June 2005, at the King's Hall, Extern unveiled a unique new service for homeless people in Belfast. The Multi-disciplinary Homeless Support Team is the first of its kind in the British Isles. It is an interagency project funded by the NIHE, EHSSB, North & West Belfast HSST, South & East Belfast HSST and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland. As recorded in a NIHE press release, Liz Cuddy CEO of Extern said: "Extern believes that the development of this new team will make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable homeless people in Belfast. We look forward to working with our colleagues within statutory and voluntary agencies to ensure that a comprehensive service is delivered to those who need it most."

The new Homeless Support Team is staffed by social workers and nurses who will work with homeless people with multiple needs across a range of disciplines. These include family and childcare, addiction, mental health, learning disability, physical disability, offenders, older people, and young people between 16 and 18 years old. The role of the team is to work closely with the relevant statutory and voluntary agencies, to assess and support homeless people with multiple needs. The team also has a floating support role which means homeless people will receive on-going support even after they have been found accommodation. Joe who is a client of the Multi Disciplinary Homeless Support Team praised the help he had received from Team member Mal and said: Mal helped me through a lot of stuff- I wouldn't have coped with that on my own and he was there for me." **For further information** contact the team at 153 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HR; tel: 90330433; fax: 90331658; or email: hst@extern.org. Referrals can be made to the team from Homeless people, voluntary agencies, i.e. hostel staff, housing providers, statutory agencies, probation, hospital staff, GPs, and the PSNI. Hours of work: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm Monday - Friday.



Want to share your organisation's achievements with others? Want to get your profile out there to other CHNI members? CHNI are inviting members to write a few paragraphs about themselves, their history & activities to be included in each edition of CHINWAG to be shared with other members. Interested groups should e-mail their "piece" to George info@chni.org.uk, or telephone (028) 90246440.

Supporting People

Draft Funding Agreement—Consultation: CHNI previously distributed copies of this document by e-mail, and notified members through previous minutes, and last months CHINWAG. If you have still not received the information please do not hesitate to contact Malcolm at Belfast Office. Alternatively the documents and guidelines are on the NIHE website at: www.nihe.gov.uk/sp/spwhatsnew/. **Please forward any comments on the draft document** either directly to the SP Team or to CHNI. We will be collating a response by the end of the month based on service providers' concerns. **The Executive has indicated that they hope to begin rolling out these agreements from July onwards.** Contracts will be issued on a scheme-by-scheme basis, but will be subject to organisational accreditation, and successful scheme review first.

Please Note!! New Performance Measure from July 2005: Throughput, Length of Stay, and Departures. The SP Team plan to introduce this measure from the start of the next quarter, 2nd July 2005. This measure will initially be applicable to short-term schemes only. It may be introduced for long-term schemes at a later date. Guideline information is available from the SP Team or from CHNI. Providers need to ensure they start collecting the appropriate data from the beginning of July. You will be expected to report on it to the SP Team from the beginning of October, and thereafter on a quarterly basis. Template record-keeping workbooks are available from:

www.spkweb.org.uk/Subjects/Quality_and_monitoring/Quality_and_monitoring_workbooks/

CHNI would be happy to facilitate a short workshop on the new measure, if there is sufficient interest. If you would be interested in this please contact Malcolm (Belfast Office) or Bernie (North West Office)

Care Leavers—changes to funding: Children (Leaving Care) Act 2002: in keeping with the provisions of the above legislation, they would no longer be responsible for funding housing support for eligible care leavers from autumn 2005. From then on it is the responsibility of the DHSSPS. You should now be reviewing access and referral procedures to ensure funding from Social Services after this date. It is the understanding of CHNI that funds have been ring-fenced by the DHSSPS, but that implementation planning by the Boards and Trusts is still at a very early stage. The SP Team is also currently in negotiations with the Boards regarding handover. The SP Team would continue to have responsibility for funding housing support for eligible non-care leavers.

Supporting People contd.

Changes to PECS Requirements (Pre-Employment Consultancy Service) Under The Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003, Child Care organisations are now **obliged** to undertake pre-employment checks before appointing to *child care* positions. This came into operation on 1st April 2005. Article 46 of the legislation, which deals with the requirement to check for care positions with *vulnerable adults*, will start at a later date: care providers for vulnerable adults are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the requirements. The Department will facilitate checks for care positions in the interim. A guide has been provided by the DHSSPS to all relevant organisations in the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors. Staff in the POCVA team based in the Child Care Policy Directorate at the DHSSPS will assist with any queries. (Tel No: 028 9052 2559 or 028 9052 2951). Providers are reminded that PECS checks are in any event a mandatory requirement of the SP Quality Assurance Framework.

Meetings, June - August

JUNE: **Small Providers Forum**, 02nd June -10.30am, the Training Room, NICVA. **Focus Group**, 15th June, 10.30am, Conference Room B, NICVA;

JULY: **Floating Support Forum**, 01st July, 11am, Greenvale Hotel, Cookstown

AUGUST: **Small Providers Forum** 03rd August 2005 2.00pm, Meeting Room 4, NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast; **Focus Group** 24th August 2005, 2.30pm, Conference Room 'B', NICVA

Youth Unit News

In **September**, the Youth Unit at CHNI intends to launch a new bimonthly news & Information bulletin for staff working with vulnerable young people.

It is hoped this bulletin will highlight and promote new and existing service provision for young people affected by homelessness.

If you, or your service / organisation :

- Works with young people,
- Have any ideas, views or suggestions as to what you would like included in the bulletin
- Would like to promote the current work of your service

Please contact Kathy, at the Belfast Office, or at kathy@chni.org.uk