

S. U. News

The newsletter for Ealing Service Users

Is drug and alcohol services funding secure in Ealing?

Until a year ago the funding of drug and alcohol services came to the service providers (the RISE consortium) from the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) who were part of the NHS. This funding came from the Home Office, because of the impact of drugs and alcohol on crime, and the Department of Health. The money could only be spent on drug and alcohol services (known as being ringfenced) and was allocated on the basis of a "local needs assessment".

However, according to the British Medical Journal (BMJ) a year after responsibility for public health services was diverted from the NHS to local authorities, councils across England are diverting ringfenced funds for public health to wider council services to plug gaps caused by government budget cuts.

The BMJ also found that public health staffing in some parts of the country is being scaled back to save money. Professional organisations have warned that public health's voice may be drowned out in local government and that its workforce is spread too thinly. The investigation found examples of councils reducing funding for a wide range of public health services, including those for substance misuse, sexual health, smoking cessation, obesity, and school nursing.

The BMJ found that many local authorities have deployed public health funds to support wider council services that are vulnerable to cuts, such as trading standards, citizens' advice bureaux, domestic abuse services, housing, parks and green spaces, and sport and leisure centres.

Public Health England, the national authority responsible for overseeing drug and alcohol services but also many other public health issues, said that it supported local authorities making

tough decisions and that it was right for public health grants, totalling £2.8bn across England for 2014 -15, to be used to achieve wider public health benefits across the far larger spend of local government.

But some doctors have warned that public health could be diluted and could suffer as a result of the cuts, with the overall pot being spent on public health services effectively shrinking. One leading clinician described the redeployment of public health funds to wider council services as "robbing Peter to pay Paul." "There is a long history of public health budgets being plundered by organisations that are having financial difficulties," said Gabriel Scally, formerly the Department of Health.



Last year Patricia Walker, Ealing Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health, demonstrated her commitment to drug and alcohol services in her speech at the opening of the Cafe in December. However, following the elections there may be a new cabinet member and we must ensure that (s)he is equally committed to maintaining and improving the high standard of drug and alcohol services Ealing provides now and in the future.

The little Bigger Art Prize

The theme of this year's subject is "the five ways to wellbeing", see below. For full details see the flyers in the Cafe or RISE buildings.

To summarise, your entry can be in any of the visual mediums, drawn, painted, photographed or a combination of media.

You can submit as many entries as you want but only one prize per person will be awarded. The work must be your own and must be submitted by Friday the 11th of July.

The prizes

First prize - £75 worth of art vouchers

Second prize - £50 worth of art vouchers

Third prize - £25 worth of art vouchers

SU choice - £25 worth of art vouchers

Will be awarded at the CNWL ENGAGE - 2014 Conference later in July.

Connect...

With the people around you. With family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. At home, work, school or in your local community. Think of these as the cornerstones of your life and invest time in developing them. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.

Be active...

Go for a walk or run. Step outside. Cycle. Play a game. Garden. Dance. Exercising makes you feel good. Most importantly, discover a physical activity you enjoy and that suits your level of mobility and fitness.

Take notice...

Be curious. Catch sight of the beautiful. Remark on the unusual. Notice the changing seasons. Savour the moment, whether you are walking to work, eating lunch or talking to friends. Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling. Reflecting on your experiences will help you appreciate what matters to you.

Keep learning...

Try something new. Rediscover an old interest. Sign up for that course. Take on a different responsibility at work. Fix a bike. Learn to play an instrument or how to cook your favourite food. Set a challenge you enjoy achieving. Learning new things will make you more confident as well as being fun.

Give...

Do something nice for a friend, or a stranger. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time. Join a community group. Look out, as well as in. Seeing yourself, and your happiness, as linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and creates connections with the people around you.

Thought for the week!

"The only person you should try to be better than, is the person you were yesterday."

Anon

Courtesy of Steve McGeorge

Service User Voice

The monthly Service User meeting for all Ealing RISE Service Users is held at the Social Café on the 2nd Tuesday of each month 2-30pm to 3-30pm (£5 voucher for attendees).

The next three dates for your diaries are:

- 8th July
- 9th September
- 14th October

Free Social Activities

June - 26th at 3:30 pm Bowling at Park Royal

July - QPR exact date tbc This has had to be put back but will hopefully happen in July.

Call Sean Kelly on 07858400543 for more details, to book a place and to get confirmation of dates and times.

About your Newsletter and Website

If you would like to provide articles on what's happening to drug and alcohol services in Ealing or on social events for service users, give us photographs poetry or artwork or help edit the newsletter or maintain the website please let us know, contact details below.

If you wish to be included on our e-mail mailing list, please e-mail "newsletter" to the e-mail address below, conversely if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, e-mail "stop" and we will remove you from our list.

Privacy Policy: At no time will your details be passed to a third party and if you wish to unsubscribe from the newsletter your details will be permanently removed from our database.

Ealing Service Users Newsletter

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