

S. U. News

The newsletter for Ealing Service Users

Veterans and Service Users Unite to

SAVE OUR MAX GLATT UNIT

The Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust have recently announced the proposed closure of the world famous Max Glatt Unit based at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

The closure of the Max Glatt unit will result in this specialist 15 bed detox unit shutting its doors to some of London's and the South East's most complex and vulnerable addicts who rely on the Max Glatt Unit to medically detox them from alcohol and or drugs.

Over the past few years, staff at the Max Glatt unit have seen a steep rise in the number of patients being referred for treatment with Physical or Mental Health complications, which many other facilities may find challenging.

As a result of the recent announcement by the Trust to close this world famous facility, many service providers, voluntary organisations and Service Users have begun a campaign to save the Max Glatt Unit.

Paul Doyle who is an ex Service User from the Max Glatt Unit, started the campaign "Veterans and Service Users Unite to Save Max Glatt Unit"

In a statement Paul Doyle said "The Max Glatt Unit treats hundreds of patients per year where their medical condition is so complex that other services may struggle to treat these patients. The staff at the Max

Glatt Unit, have a wealth of knowledge within addiction, both from a clinical angle and also psychological one.

The staff's knowledge, encouragement, advice and care that they provide is world class, and has helped me overcome my addiction and has allowed me to live a healthy, balanced, substance free lifestyle. The staff is without doubt, the best. To come into work day in, day out and deal with 15 highly strung, ill patients, and have a short time (up to 21 days) to get them back on their feet before discharge, is unbelievable. I am shocked after 52 years of doing such an excellent job that the Trust have proposed such a valuable facility like the Max Glatt Unit to close, and to lose staff who have so much knowledge and dedication, is shocking for me. Such a valuable service should be getting more funding, not facing the risk of closing. At a time when services are focusing on recovery, how are people meant to be able to recover from their addiction when they we are closing the first step in the recovery process for hundreds of people?"

Please sign our Petition via

www.savemaxglattunit.com

The effect on Ealing Service Users will be far more wide reaching than the mere loss of this world class facility. There are two detox units in London that specialise in more complex, high risk treatments. Max Glatt unit is one and the more expensive South London and Maudsley

NHS Foundation Trust (SLAM) is the other. The reduction of capacity brought about by the closure of Max Glatt will inevitably drive the cost of residential detox higher.

Cabinet member for Public Health, Cllr Hitesh Tailer has already indicated that the Public Health budget is likely to be subject to the same huge cuts facing the rest of the Council in the next 3-4 years.

Pressure will therefore be put on treatment providers to cut costs by either placing clients in cheaper facilities that are not suitable for their complex medical or physiological needs or using home detox's in situations where clients will not have the environment or support to be treated safely.

The support of service users is vital to fight the planned closure of the Max Glatt unit but we should not forget that all drug and alcohol services will be coming under pressure in the coming years.



The festival aims to celebrate and promote recovery from substance misuse dependency.

They'll be showcasing short films about people affected by addiction, living in recovery and meeting the challenges of finding a place in society. Come on down and have a watch...

For more information visit

www.recoverystreetfilmfestival.co.uk

and to book, contact

recoverystreet@phoenix-futures.org.uk

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:

- 9th September
- 14th October
- 11th November

Free Social Activities

QPR tour of Loftus road 21 August 2:30 pm at White City Station

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

About Your Newsletter

If you would like to contribute articles on what's happening to drug and alcohol services in Ealing or help edit the newsletter please let us know. Contact details below.

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