

S. U. News

The newsletter for Ealing Service Users

Veterans and Service Users Unite to

SAVE OUR MAX GLATT UNIT

For the last month CNWL have been holding public consultation meetings the comments made are broadly outlined on the following webpage.

<http://www.cnwl.nhs.uk/news/max-glatt-consultation/>

If you don't have access to a computer there is a transcript available at the 131 Social Cafe.

The meetings were fairly well intended and took the format of opening statements from the panel followed by questions from the floor. The panel comprised CNWL's Annette Dale-Perera, Lorna Payne (Divisional Director) and Dr Karim Dar (Medical Director of the Max Glatt Unit).

The Questions from the audience were wide ranging and sometimes hit their target. Curiously though the panel, who were presumably there to answer peoples queries and explain in more detail the three options out lined in the consultation paper , deferred to Gaynor Driscoll (Commissioner for Westminster, Kensington and Hammersmith) to answer most of the questions and were not forthcoming about any details of how the three options might work in practice.

However, the following facts emerged:

Ealing, Brent, Hounslow, Hillingdon, Westminster, Kensington and Hammersmith provide over 95% of the

income to the Max Glatt unit.

- The Unit loses £600,000 per year and has done so for many years (presumably before it moved from Ealing hospital)
- The shortfall in funding has been financed from CNWL's cash reserves - which is clearly unsustainable).
- The unit generally charges £349 per bed per night for contracted purchases and £399 for "spot" purchases. Although there is not necessarily uniformity across their clients.
- To break even, at the above prices, the unit would have to operate at 92% occupancy, at all times. The Unit has never operated at more than 70% occupancy.
- There appears to be massive inconsistency in the use of "medically monitored" and medically managed" residential detox units across London and we have asked Public Health England (London) for more information on this. (Max Glatt is in the highest category, that of "medically managed" residential detox facilities).

A cynic might reasonably conclude, from the public consultation meetings, that CNWL have no intention of saving the unit and are merely "going through the motions" of offering three options, one of which is on the face of it an attempt at a rescue plan. For a number of years their business strategy and financial plan has created a financial crisis that entirely justifies the closure of the unit. If their intention had been the long term provision of residential detox facilities to clients with complex medical needs they surely would have acted sooner to seek the co-operation of London Commissioners generally and their current customers

specifically to establish a sensible relationship of supply and demand that was sustainable into the future.

CNWL say they will analyse all consultation responses and write a report by mid November 2014. They say that they will consider the results of the consultation and discuss them with the Max Glatt Unit Commissioners at the end of November. They will then write a report with a summary of the consultation and their conclusions by the end of December 2014 which will be made available on the CNWL Trust website. They do not say when a final decision will be made.

The position of Ealing's Commissioners is that they support option 2, to "Keep the Max Glatt Unit open with a sustainable funding strategy supported by commissioning bodies and others" and are negotiating with CNWL to try to make this happen.

131 Social Club now open 7 days a week

On Monday to Friday the social club is open between 10am and 3pm for refreshments and, depending on the day, drama, quizzes, meditation and reflexology.

On Saturday and Sunday it is open 12am to 4pm for refreshments with art on Saturday and music on Sunday.

Various mutual support groups meet outside these times.

This is an amazing achievement. A year ago the Club was only open for three days each week. Now it has three managers and is open every day. Congratulations to Linda and her staff and to BoB for making it happen.

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:

- 11th November
- 9th December
- 13th January 2015

There will also be a Service users meeting at **Featherstone Terrace** in the Group Room on the last Thursday of every month 2-30pm to 3-30pm (£5 voucher for attendees).

The next three dates for your diary are;

- 30th October
- 27th November
- 18th December

Free Social Activities

31st October 7:30pm
London Assurance - A madcap Regency Comedy

18th November - Afternoon
Cinema - Park Royal 16 places

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 provide articles on what's happening to drug and alcohol services in Ealing or help edit the newsletter 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.

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Ealing Service Users Newsletter

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