

Report for England Committee Mental Health Reference Group May 2012

The group has continued to be very active. Key activities are headlined as follows:

- March 26th Teleconference. At that conference it was proposed that we invite TCOSW Mental Health leads to discuss the work of our respective organisations and to explore how we could potentially work together. A meeting has been organised at Kent Street for May 22nd
- There have been participating in on-going work to set up a multi-disciplinary Mental Health Senate, with the Royal Colleges and DH. BASW key player in this initiative
- Professor Anne Davies attended the Promoting the Social Model of Mental Health Meeting May 3rd London on behalf of BASW
- The group are going to pick up attendance of the MH Alliance Network Meetings
- Joined National Survivor User Network
- Planning a seminar at Kent Street about the mental health needs of social workers
- Working with leads of College of Psychiatry on issues to do with Winterborne view
- Signed a joint agency initiative on confidentiality and suicide prevention. (Saying that it is good practice to share concerns with relatives if a service user is at risk of suicide)
- Became signatories to Call to Action –regarding the Government’s outcome strategy for mental health - No Health Without Mental Health:
- Contributed to “A Cross-Government Mental Health Strategy for People of All Ages”- implementation framework
- Advised several social workers on complex mental health social work issues
- Contributed to Guardian on line debate on mental health
- Four members of the group are acting as mentors to NQSWs
- Spoken at length to a new reporter at Com Care on MH issues
- Linked and contributed to Suicide Prevention Strategy in relation to family carers and carers needs when a friend / relative has committed suicide
- Undertaken detailed input into the draft of the community mental health services descriptor, in relation to commissioning strategy for community mental health services. (This was very frustrating as our input appeared to have no impact on a very medical model). Following representation from us and a number of others a meeting is planned to address the commissioning guidance in a more holistic way the date is not yet finalised but BASWs consistent representation of service user and carer needs has taken considerable energy and positive challenge.

Faye Wilson (Chair) and Joe Godden, Professional Officer, BASW