

Mental Health News

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Produced by



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*Looking for
encouragement?*

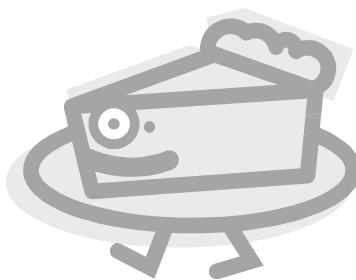
*Sit under a cow,
and get a pat on
the head*

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Open Forum—summer event



*The next Pembrokeshire Open
Forum event will be on*

**Tuesday 15th July, The Lord
Nelson, Milford Haven,**

12-3pm, refreshments at 1pm.

*Information on the current proposals to changing the
mental health services in Wales will be discussed
(see pages 2/3), and there will be a workshop on future
plans for the Open Forum event.*

Complaints -Putting Things Right

*Do you know how to complain about mental health
services?*

*Did you know that the procedures to complain are
changing?*

*Eiriol—the Carmarthenshire Mental Health Advocacy
Service— is organizing a day workshop on*

**3rd July 2008 10.30—4.00 at
Ferryside Education Centre, Carmarthen**

*There will be speakers from Hywel Dda Trust, welsh
Assembly Government, the Community Health Council
and service user representatives. It should be an
informative and interesting discussion.
Transport can be arranged for service users, but you
will need to book before Wednesday 18th June.*

New review of Mental Health Services

The new review by Michael Williams was requested by the Minister of Health and Social Services, and is now out for consultation. It is the second such review, the earlier Burrows-Greenlaw not being in line with what the minister was thinking.

Its principle recommendation is that a single statutory body responsible for mental health and well being in Wales is established, called "Iechyd Meddwl Cymru - a mental health and well being service for Wales." [IMC]. There would be three regional planning boards.

A recent survey of health leaders in Wales indicated that a majority felt that Wales' mental health services were not as good as those provided in England. The survey also noted that there is no robust evidence base to recommend any particular structural arrangements for the delivery of mental health and social care services.

The view taken in the report is that current providers must be made to provide a better service.

The IMC needs to unite primary care, community mental health services, social services, and acute services in a common code and purpose to provide service users with care that is seamless. Care should not be adversely affected by organisation boundaries, age or budgetary controls.

The new body will involve the voluntary sector and the private sector in the best interests of the service user. The funding of both needs to be addressed in commissioning terms and the wide span of funding sources for the voluntary sector needs to be simplified.

The IMC will be both service planner and provider. Commissioning with the voluntary sector should follow a service planning approach to replace the current competitive tendering process.

*A cannibal
had been
invited to a
wedding but
was feeling
quite
disappointed,

until he
heard they
were going to
toast the
bride and
groom*

- Iechyd Meddwl Cymru

Voluntary sector services and statutory services are often closely linked, so commissioning and service planning with the voluntary sector needs to be approached as a partnership in the best interests of the service user.

The IMC will be driven by the needs of the service users and their carers, with clinical leadership, staff expertise and commitment. It will have a teaching and research status and ethos. A cohesive approach with clearer policies and procedures should lead to a better service. The combined skills of the NHS, Social Services and the voluntary and private sectors will be crucial to the success of a community service. With goodwill and co-operation a new service could be established within a year without reducing the service being provided.

There is much to recommend in this review. However we have had previous reviews and reorganisations, why should this one be different? We would be concerned at how exactly the service user voice is represented at all levels of planning as stipulated in the National Service Framework. How exactly would our local planning structures affected, would Pembrokeshire's voice be lost in a larger region?

The report can be seen at

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/healandsoccarecurrcons/iechydmeddwlwymru/?lang=en>

The deadline for response has been set for September 2nd and you can send them to:

E-mail: mentalhealthyourviews@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Post it to;

*Mental Health Your Views, Mental Health Policy Branch,
Department of Health & Social Services. Welsh Assembly
Government, Cathay's Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ*

I was feeling unwell, so I went to the doctor and told him I felt like I was shrinking. He calmed me down and told me I'll just have to be a little patient.

Pembrokeshire Open Forum



What A Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong

*I see trees of green, red roses too
I see em bloom, for me and for you
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.*

*I see skies of blue, clouds of white
Bright blessed days, dark sacred nights
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.*

*The colors of a rainbow, so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces of people going by
I see friends shaking hands, sayin.. how do you do
They're really sayin, i love you.*

*I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll never know
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world*

*The colors of a rainbow, so pretty in the sky
Are there on the faces, of people going by
I see friends shaking hands, sayin.. how do you do
They're really sayin... I love you.*

*I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
you know their gonna learn
A whole lot more than I'll never know
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world
Yes I think to myself, what a wonderful world.*

The Pembrokeshire Open Forum is funded by the Local Health Board in order to encourage user and carer involvement at all levels of planning. At our large events an average of 50 people have been attending, information is disseminated and views are gathered on local issues. It can be used to identify gaps in service and feedback on current levels of service. It is a meeting place for service users, carers and paid workers from a variety of service providers. It has also become established as a meeting place for those who are not associated with any particular service. The Open Forum event takes place four or five times a year with talks and workshops, lunch and refreshments, and pampering sessions in the afternoon.

*For more information contact Sue
or Tim at WWAMH*

**Don't compromise yourself,
You are all you've got**

Janis Joplin