

## **SERVICE USER ADVISORY GROUP: Supporting people who use Services for Mood, Anxiety & Personality Disorders, through collaborative work with Service Managers**

The Service User Advisory Group is part of the Mood, Anxiety & Personality (MAP) Clinical Academic Group - an organisational structure which manages services for mood, anxiety & personality disorder across the South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM). Most advisory Group members have experience of using mental health services or of being a family member/carer of someone who does. Other members include senior managers. We meet every month and our aim is to keep the views of service users at the heart of all service developments and improvements. To make sure that people know what we are discussing in our meetings we have developed this short briefing sheet:

- 1) Ten service user/carer consultants were present at the April meeting, plus the Service Director, the Public & Patient Involvement Lead, the clinical governance project officer, the MAP service manager from Southwark and the Service User and Carer Involvement Theme lead from the Biomedical Research Centre.
- 2) We welcomed the new members and reflected on the wealth of experience & skills identified at the induction meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> April.
- 3) We heard that the issues we raised with regard to the review of the involvement register had been passed on to the staff group which is devising a set of proposals.
- 4) Steve Davidson (Service Director) introduced himself to the new members and outlined key areas where he hopes the advisory group will play a key role –
  - a. ensuring stakeholder involvement in discussions about the proposed merger of the Trusts that make up Kings Health Partners.
  - b. working with a new Academic lead to develop better pathways for people with bi-polar disorder. We welcomed the intended focus on relapse prevention and identified a number of group members interested in this work.
- 5) We heard about Consent for Consent – a campaign to increase service user participation in research. We were also invited to get involved in the work of the Biomedical Research Centre.
- 6) We discussed roles for advisory group members on a steering group to review pathways into and through services for personality disorder. We acknowledged the continuing stigma attached to the diagnosis.
- 7) We identified the need to link the training needs of service user consultants with the training plan for the Clinical Academic Group.
- 8) We heard updates from group members who are involved in a range of activities
  - Developing a focus group for service users of the Centre for Anxiety Disorders and Trauma
  - Governance Management meeting overseeing quality of services
  - Developing an information leaflet for psychological therapies services
  - Developing quality indicators for service user experience of psychological therapy services
  - Improving the experience of people in reception areas

***Views and comments from SLaM service users and carers on any of the above issues, as well as feedback on how you would like the 'Mood, Anxiety & Personality Clinical Academic Group (MAP CAG) Advisory Group' to develop its strategic work with SLaM, are welcome. Please contact Alice Glover, Patient & Public Involvement Lead on 0203 228 0959 or email [alice.glover@slam.nhs.uk](mailto:alice.glover@slam.nhs.uk)***