

Advonet

Supporting and Promoting Advocacy

Newsletter January 2013

All change!

It's the end of the line for the current structure of commissioning and contracts for Advocacy in Leeds, but, to continue using the analogy, a new train will be setting out in April 2013. And we'd like you to "save the date" of Wednesday 13 March for this new launch.

We are excited to say that Leeds City Council will be giving one contract to deliver short-term, issue based independent advocacy support and services in Leeds to Advonet, who will then sub-contract out to the existing individual provider organisations.

These organisations will include:

- Leeds Advocacy
- Advocacy Support
- Advocacy for Mental Health & Dementia (A4MHD)
- Age UK Leeds
- Cloverleaf (in Leeds), and
- Leeds Black Elders.

One of the requirements of the new contract is to provide a single point of access for advocacy in the city, so should anyone require independent advocacy there will be one central point for referrals. We will be revealing more about this on Wednesday 13 March.

To support these changes Advonet has changed its structure to form a consortium with Leeds Advocacy, A4MHD and Advocacy Support becoming the three core members.

This model of working has meant that we have been collaborating much more closely together, strengthening our relationships and increasing our understanding of how each other works. We will be sharing a new database that will be able to produce our monitoring reports and information clearly and easily.

Also on Wednesday 13 March we are pleased to announce that Martin Coyle, Chief Executive for Action for Advocacy, will be discussing a review and consultation on The Advocacy Charter in association with Advonet. Details will follow in due course but that's another reason to blank out 13 March in your diary!



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 13 March 2013

New launch of Advonet
and
Review of the Advocacy Charter with
Martin Coyle
from

Action for Advocacy in association with Advonet

New Manager at A4MHD

On 30 November Annie French left A4MHD to take a change of career. Annie has been at A4MHD for 4 1/2 years and has expanded the work, taking on new services such as IMHA and Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Trans-gender community project. Annie will be sorely missed by her staff, here at Advonet and in the advocacy world. However, we welcome Philip Bramson as the new manager and look forward to working with him. Philip has moved from Touchstone to take up this new post and has worked in the mental health arena for a number of years. Annie

will be providing support to Philip as he settles in to his role on the Advonet Board, so we are fortunate not to say our final farewells just yet.



TRAINING

Legal Processes in Childcare Procedures

Steve Dibbs and a colleague from Switalski's solicitors kindly donated their time to deliver an afternoon's training on Legal Processes in Childcare Procedures in November. This proved to be a popular session, attended by 23 trainees from 6 organisations. One attendee wrote: "Many thanks for the training. I found it a useful and well delivered refresher, and the new staff found it very helpful."



Effective Advocacy and Negotiation Skills



Demand for our Effective Advocacy and Negotiation Skills training is continuous.

The next session will be on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 January 2013. This course is close to capacity, so please contact Hilary at Advonet if you wish to book on (Hilary@advonet.org.uk)

We also have a course running on Saturdays 2 & 9 March. This is aimed at volunteers who work full-time though anyone is welcome to attend! The course is free to organisations based in Leeds.

Non-instructed Advocacy — Dementia Focused

On 4 December we had a full course for a day's training on dementia focussed Non-instructed Advocacy. Jan Kendall from the Dementia Advocacy Network took the training.



Additions to the Board

In light of the changes to Advonet, we have welcomed several new members to the Board: Ivan Nipp, Jacqueline Martin, Janet Maybury, Ralph Porter and Reinhard Beck. We are grateful to the time they give to Advonet and for the wealth of skills and experience they bring.

And Finally

We'd like to wish all our readers a very Happy New Year may it be a peace-filled year that brings new opportunities and fulfilment in all you do.

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