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NSUN news

NSUN goes Sky high

Last week NSUN made its debut on the national Sky News channel. We were talking about the impact of poor finances, made worse by pay-day loans, on mental health. It is well documented that money worries can lead to mental health distress or make it worse. Pay-day loans, which often charge thousands of per cent in interest, target the poorest and most vulnerable and should be more tightly controlled.



Come to our Hackney event

NSUN is hosting a mental health event for people in the London Borough of Hackney at the beginning of July. Similar to our recent events in Lambeth, Suffolk, Newcastle and Leicester the new health and social care commissioners and providers for the area will have the chance to meet mental health service-users and find new ways of involving them in designing and delivering services. Email [Naomi James](#) for more details and to book your place.

Website review

We are reviewing our [website](#) in order to improve it. If you have any views on how easy it is to use or what other features you would like to see please [email](#) us.

First ever policing and mental health conference

Health minister Norman Lamb MP will be speaking at the first national conference on policing and mental health organised by leading agencies from the UK's African Caribbean communities scheduled to take place at the Molineux Conference Centre in Wolverhampton, on Thursday 27 June.

Entitled 'Policing and mental health, coercion or care?' The Black Mental Health UK (BMH UK) and African Caribbean Community Initiative (ACCI) conference event offers the first ever public forum where the most senior political figures in both mental health and policing will be able to discuss this issue with leading professionals across the West Midlands and beyond.



This forms part of BMH UK and ACCI's ongoing work to ensure that this issue becomes a matter of priority for the present government, the new clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and police authorities up and down the country.

More information [here](#).

Guardian article on defining mental health conditions

Mary O'Hara writes an interesting article in the Guardian about the row over the publication of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

the guardian

Suggesting it 'is more than just a spat between psychiatrists and psychologists' O'Hara says that when the harsh realities of cuts to mental health services and the rise in mental distress linked to austerity are crying out for attention we should be concerned as to what constitutes a mental health "condition"?

Read the article [here](#).

Job: Kindred Minds post

[Kindred Minds](#) - a Southwark-based black and minority ethnic (BME), user-led mental health project is recruiting for a women's group co-facilitator.

The co-facilitator to assist in running and developing some of our Kindred Minds activities, which will also include promoting the project around the borough amongst BME mental health service users in the community.

The deadline for applications is 12 June with interviews the week beginning 17 June.

[Email](#), text or call 07809 701 434 text or call to receive messages of Kindred Minds events.



Volunteering: Hackney advisory group opportunities

Please help develop and strengthen user-led services in Hackney.

Choice in Hackney are looking for people to join their dynamic and proactive advisory group that will be taking forward our strengthening Disabled Persons Organisation programme.

They are looking for disabled people, or people with an interest in the social model of disability, with skills in one of the following:

- Communications / digital inclusion strategy
- Business or social enterprise
- Fundraising and bid writing
- Content information systems
- Quality assurance systems

Email [Jackie](#) at CHOICE in Hackney for more information or visit the [website](#).



Job: Together opportunities

[Together for Mental Wellbeing](#) is now recruiting for two posts: a project co-ordinator and trainer and a project trainer.

If you have experience of mental distress as well as project co-ordination and/or developing and delivering training and want to work on a research project in secure services, these roles might be for you!

For more information please email [Daniel Eichner](#) or call 020 7780 7316

Deadline for applications: 12pm, 17 June



Job: Time To Change

Time to Change is recruiting for a number of new roles across their programme of work. They are looking for people with skills in various different areas, from communications through marketing to programme management and community engagement.

The new posts have been created because of the additional 3.6 million in funding that they have just received from the Big Lottery Fund.

Much of the new work started with the help of this funding will focus on addressing stigma and discrimination within specific communities, including African and Caribbean communities, so some of the jobs also require experience in these areas.

Are you interested, or do you know of someone who might want to apply? More information about the roles is the [Time To Change website](#).



Mental Health North East news

[Mental Health North East](#) has a variety of training opportunities on their website. MHNE is a consortium of Voluntary Community Sector organisations working to improve service provision for people suffering mental distress.

Personalisation report published

The 'Chaos or Empowerment?' report from the MHNE Personalisation project has been published. Project Leadteve Nash says *'Whilst there have certainly been some successes, when it comes to making personal budgets and direct payments work well for people with mental health problems, many challenges still remain - to say nothing of the ultimate challenge of creating truly personalised mental health services wherever someone comes in to contact with them.'*

Download the full report [here](#).



Support for The North East Mental Health Voluntary Sector

London events

Mad Pride

Mental health action group

[Mad Pride](#) is holding an anti-benefits cuts fundraiser featuring live bands and entertainment. A Feast of Midsummer Madness!

Date: Friday 7th June

Time: 8pm

Venue: Chances, 339 Tottenham High Road N17 6QN

Dragon Cafe

Today Monday, 3 June from 2.30pm til 8.30 there will be a variety of mental health themed poetry event at the Dragon Cafe.

Also don't miss the Dragon Radio Special on London's Arts radio station Resonance 104.4fm. You can also check out the latest Dragon Radio podcast by clicking [here](#).



Department of Health news

The DH has produced a new [guide](#) explaining the changes to the NHS under the Health and Social Care Act that came into effect on April 1. The guide sets explains the roles of NHS England, Public Health England, the NHS Trust Development Authority and Health Education England which took on their full responsibilities on that date.

Locally, clinical commissioning groups – made up of doctors, nurses and other professionals – will buy services for patients, while local councils formally take on their new roles in promoting public health. Health and wellbeing boards will bring together local organisations to work in partnership and Healthwatch will provide a powerful voice for patients and local communities.



Inside Government

New website

By 2014, websites of all government departments and many other public bodies will be merged into the Inside Government section of <https://www.gov.uk>. Some have already moved, and more will be joining soon.

Government announces details of post Work Programme support

Work Programme leavers targeted by specialist advisers as part of a tough approach to get them into a job. Read more [here](#).

