

Patients' Council

Royal Edinburgh Hospital

ANNUAL REVIEW

2002

The Council

The Patients' Council Annual General Meeting, held in November 2001, elected a Management Committee of eight user members which then co-opted three further members. Office bearers were ratified when the Patients' Council voted to adopt its revised constitution at an Extraordinary General Meeting on 21 May 2002.

A contract to provide management support to the organisation by the Consultation & Involvement Trust Scotland ran until April 2002. Staff continued to be employed by Lothian Primary Care NHS Trust.

Since the last Annual General Meeting:-

- The Patients' Council met eight times
- The Management Committee met thirteen times
- There were five 'Access' sessions and four 'Bring Your Ideas' sessions
- Five Workshops were attended by 28 members
- Management Committee members undertook training in
 - 'Authority and Leadership'
 - 'Getting the Best from User Involvement' and 'Advance Directives' with User Consultant, Laurie Bryant
 - 'Chairing Effective Meetings'
 - 'Presentation Skills'
 - 'Team Building'
- Four editions of the Patients' Council Newsletter were sent to over one hundred individuals and organisations

The requirement of independent advocacy was a priority during the year. The need for staff to be independently employed and managed, outwith the Trust, was a major consideration. A commissioning group for both individual and collective advocacy for the Royal Edinburgh Hospital has been meeting since July 2002 and is about to advertise for appropriate organisations to tender as employers.

The Collective

- ◆ Attending community meetings on acute wards and the forensic unit.
- ◆ Visiting the acute wards and day hospitals to hear from patients and to take up issues which are important to them.
- ◆ Hosting Access sessions and a weekly 'drop-in' to raise awareness of the Patients' Council
- ◆ Helping to move forward independent advocacy services at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Activists and staff have participated in the group which is commissioning individual advocacy services for patients. It is assisted by the new Advocacy Safeguards Agency
- ◆ Participating as members of the South East Project with staff from Ward 4. The Project has worked on changes in nursing practices, keyworking, the ward environment and communication between staff and patients. The plan is to roll-out these changes to other acute wards.
- ◆ Meeting with the Planning Team for the re-built Royal Edinburgh Hospital who have hosted open meetings for patients to bring views on
 - Bed numbers and ward layouts
 - Social and cafeteria facilities
- ◆ Meeting with the Clinical Standards Board for Scotland to let them know our views on its new report, 'Food, Fluid and Nutritional Care' in hospitals
- ◆ Regular meetings with hospital managers and clinical staff to represent patients' interest in proposed changes to psychiatric emergency services in Edinburgh, food and cold water provision in acute wards and safety/privacy issues.
- ◆ Getting involved in a consultation with people using Occupational Therapy Rehabilitation Unit Projects and looking at how these projects fit with planning for Employment Services in mental health.

Other activities

Summer Picnic - 24th June

Christmas Party with the New Church Centre - 17th December

Conferences attended by staff and/or service-users:-

- Advocacy 2000 Conference (February 2002)
- A National Conference on Services for Mentally Disordered Offenders in Scotland – May 2002
- Launch of Advocacy Action Plan (June 2002)
- A Conference to launch the Greater Glasgow Advocacy Project
- User/Carer Representative Forum – part of the Lothian Primary Care Trust public involvement strategy (September 2002)
- 'Caring in Mental Health' (October 2002)
- Launch of the Scottish Advocacy Alliance (February 2003)