

continued from front page

Penny McVeigh, NORCAS Chief Executive, welcomed involvement in the Programme from services such as Gt. Yarmouth College, Business in the Community, MIND, Job Centre Plus and The Prince's Trust, which will provide improved access to their services and a range of learning and support to participants. This partnership approach brings individuals into contact with a wide range of services beyond the substance misuse world.

She said: "The Programme aim is to provide intensive community based support and rehabilitation through a structured programme of activities and looks past the substance use to the person – only by working with the whole person can real progress be made and sustained."

For more information contact Sarah Nunn, 01603 660070.

email: p.square@norcas.co.uk

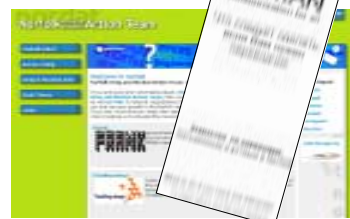
## Student Drug and Alcohol Awareness Booklet



A booklet aimed at giving information and raising awareness with students has been produced by Norfolk DAAT, in association with key tertiary education establishments. The booklet highlights drug and alcohol related safety messages and provides national, local and campus based contacts to assist students who may need further information, advice or assistance. This partnership approach has enabled the tertiary education providers to adapt a generic booklet design to suit the needs of their students. This has directly involved: University of East Anglia; City College Norwich; College of West Anglia; Great Yarmouth College; and Easton College. It is anticipated that this collaborative piece of work will act as a foundation for further joint working to promote the welfare of students in Norfolk.

Please contact Daniel Harry, CDRP Liaison Officer at the DAAT, if you require any copies of the generic booklet or if you have any queries. email: daniel.harry@norfolk.gov.uk.

## Website news – visit [www.nordat.org.uk](http://www.nordat.org.uk)



The Norfolk DAT website [www.nordat.org.uk](http://www.nordat.org.uk) now has a substantial multilingual section focusing mainly on resources in Portuguese and Russian. Resources include:

An introduction page in Portuguese accessible from the home page, explaining who we are and what we do. There are links from this page to a Hepatitis C leaflet, both in Portuguese and English, a Portuguese translation of our leaflet 'Do Your Children Know More About Drugs Than You Do?' and an introduction to the Needle Exchange Service. There is also a copy of the leaflet 'Do Your Children Know More About Drugs Than You Do?' translated into Russian.

Further resources are due to be loaded onto the site in the very near future. This will include multi-lingual information on drug profiles and the British Drug Laws.

We are continually working towards making our website more accessible to people from diverse cultures and with diverse needs and if there is anything that you would find particularly useful on our website please contact the DAAT Diversity Officer: debbie.carr@norfolk.gov.uk.

### Advertise your job vacancies on [www.nordat.org.uk](http://www.nordat.org.uk)

Job Opportunities can be advertised on the Nordat website free of charge for members of the DAAT partnership. If you wish to take advantage of this facility, please send a copy of the advertisement, either in Word or pdf format, to: lynn.preston.dat@norfolk.gov.uk

## Drug and Weapon Amnesty Safes

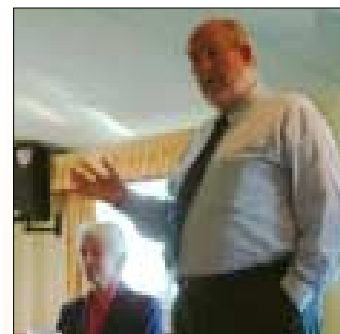
The DAAT has funded the purchase of a number of drug and weapon amnesty safes in hospital accident and emergency departments in Norfolk. This is an extension of the best practice highlighted in the Home Office Safer Clubbing guidance and builds upon work already undertaken by Operation Enterprise in Norwich and NightSafe in Great Yarmouth with night clubs and bars. The amnesty bins allow illegal drugs and weapons to be safely and securely deposited by people attending accident and emergency departments. This will help to reduce the risk of harm faced by hospital staff, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. The keys to the safes are controlled by the Police. The safes are regularly emptied and the contents appropriately disposed of by a named Police Officer.

Please contact Daniel Harry, CDRP Liaison Officer at the DAAT, if you have any queries or require any further information. E - mail: daniel.harry@norfolk.gov.uk.

# DAAT news

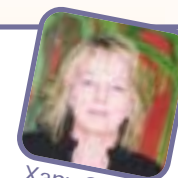
News from the Norfolk Drug & Alcohol Action Team Autumn 2005 Issue 9

## NORCAS to provide Structured Day Programme



The Structured Day Programme is a 12 week programme for people aged over 18 who have, or have had, an alcohol and/or drug misuse problem. NORCAS has won the contract to deliver the Structured Day Programme in Norfolk and The Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke, Home Secretary, was the guest of honour at the recent launch in Norwich.

### Welcome to the Autumn edition of DAAT News



Xany Oliver

This is the last edition of the DAAT newsletter which I have the privilege of editing. I want to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed the past three and a half years, which has seen a remarkable period of growth in service provision, thanks to the arrival of the Adult Pooled Treatment Budget and Young People's Partnership Grant.

The overall aim of the full DAAT membership, commissioners and providers alike, has been to improve availability, range and quality of service provision for service users in Norfolk. This has been achieved, to the benefit of young people, adults and new services for people coming through the Criminal Justice System.

I am very grateful to the DAAT Commissioners and all the service providers who have embraced the hard work generated by these developments. However, there is no room for complacency, especially in relation to developing improved alcohol service provision, improved access to housing and support to families, just a few of the areas where the DAAT has yet to make an impact. I am particularly grateful to the DAAT team, who have been responsible for driving these changes forward and who will continue to develop better provision across the county. I am very pleased to introduce you to the new Strategy Manager – Tony Oram – who will take up his post in early January 2006. Thank you all for your support and very best wishes to Tony in his new post.



Tony Oram

Xany Oliver

The Programme is divided into three modules of four weeks duration, covering relapse prevention, communication, problem solving and social skills. In addition, clients also participate in other sessions which include one-to-one support and counselling, health and welfare, a "what next" programme, recreational activities, employment, education and training and an exit support group.

At the launch, Mr. Clarke emphasised the importance of working in partnership to ensure services are in place to support individuals back into the community, allowing them to gain self-respect and confidence.

He said it was important that initiatives are coherent and linked rather than piecemeal, and that only by affecting lasting change can the harm to individuals and society from alcohol and drugs be reduced. He also stressed the importance of housing in supporting sustained integration into the community.

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## Enhanced Drug and Alcohol Services in Great Yarmouth

As a result of increased investment by Norfolk DAAT, Great Yarmouth PCT and mainstream Health money, two expanded services have been established to meet the service needs of drug and alcohol users in East Norfolk.

Mr Tony Wright, MP for Great Yarmouth, officially opened NORCAS and Trust Alcohol and Drugs Service (TADS) in Great Yarmouth on Friday 26th August 2005. There was a good attendance for the opening of both services.

A ribbon was cut to signify the opening of the NORCAS service, which will provide non-clinical Tier 2 services (such as advice, information and counselling, Structured Day Programme and Needle Exchange) from 59, North Quay.

These newly refurbished premises are light, spacious and welcoming.

A (willow) tree planting ceremony was held at the opening of the Willow Centre, Northgate Hospital to mark the opening of the Norfolk & Waveney Mental Health Partnership Trust TADS service. The Willow Centre has also undergone a total refurbishment and Tier 3 clinical drug and alcohol services are provided by doctors, nurses and social workers. The new location has an increased number of interview rooms, better office and clinical space and is centrally located to ensure easy access for clients.

For more information contact Denise Hockridge (TADS) on 01493 337980, or Andrew Cleveland (NORCAS) on 01493 857249.

## Alcohol, Prescription Medicines and the Over 65's – a workshop

On the 3rd October, Norfolk Adult Social Services and Norfolk DAAT ran a workshop entitled, "Alcohol, Prescription Medicines and the Over 65's."

In Norfolk, 54,377 pensioners live alone and being a largely rural county, many pensioners live outside the main centres of population.

We know from the Older People's Strategy 'Living Longer - Living Well' that between 10% - 15% of people over 65 will have depression. We also know from figures published by Alcohol Concern, the national alcohol charity, that in Britain "around 23% of men and 8% of women over the age of 60 (approaching two million people) endanger their health by regularly drinking above the recommended guidelines, with over two and a half million people drinking at least 5 days a week". The misuse of alcohol may accompany many mental illnesses.

Alcohol misuse among the elderly is often called a hidden problem, with signs of alcohol misuse missed or confused with general symptoms of ageing.

This workshop focused attention on alcohol and drug problems of people over 65 yrs to gather information from front line staff, raise awareness of possible issues and to develop suggestions for practical intervention strategies.

The target audience for the day was frontline members of staff whose work brings them into contact with older people, residential and home care staff, Age Concern, health visitors, sheltered housing schemes, social workers, GPs, housing with care, safety in the home coordinators, nurses, floating support workers, people with a service development role, drug and alcohol agencies and people over the age of 65.



## Norfolk Police sign up to new Ambulance Protocol

Norfolk Constabulary has signed up to a shared protocol with police forces in Cambridge and Suffolk, the East Anglian Ambulance Trust and the Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAATs) from all three counties. The protocol agrees that the police will not automatically attend a reported drug overdose incident in addition to an ambulance.

Richard Price from Norfolk Constabulary said: "The thinking behind the new protocol is in line with Government expectations that DAATs and key agencies will work towards a reduction in the level of drug related deaths in their respective areas. Nationally there is strong evidence that many drug overdose cases involving illegal drugs are not reported to the Ambulance Service for fear of police attendance and action. As a result there have been a number of



## Update on User Involvement Project by Nigel Munro

In the 10 months I have been in post, I have spent a considerable amount of time contacting and interviewing individual service users with a view to starting service user groups. This has been a bit hit and miss; dependent on staff pointing people in my direction, or me sitting in waiting areas and talking to individual service users.

Trish Turner, the Patient & Public Involvement Officer at West Norfolk PCT, has given me permission to adapt and use a survey document she has developed for use in consultation exercises. I am now using a questionnaire which asks service users if they want to get involved and what type of involvement they would like, which is enabling me to make contact with many more service users than I had previously been able to do.

One of the useful outcomes of this exercise will be to identify interested service users, who can be contacted as opportunities arise. Some service users want to get involved but don't want to do this by joining a group. For those people, there are opportunities to get involved on an individual basis and I can offer support and encouragement - after all, this was how I started off!

With the opening of new and expanded services, NORCAS and TADS Great Yarmouth seemed to

be a very good starting point and it seemed like the ideal time to ask service users what they wanted from their new services. With the help of staff, the questionnaire has started to be distributed and I will report back on the results in due course. I am planning to continue the exercise throughout the rest of the county and anticipate that we should have a number of interested people to draw on, who are willing to share their experience and expertise when needed.

## Norfolk Constabulary Police Gala Day

The Norfolk DAAT team were once again invited to participate in the annual Police Gala Day event which was held at the Norfolk Showground on Sunday, 4th September.



The DAAT stand was a colourful and informative area, featuring drug and alcohol harm reduction messages along with quizzes and games. We were visited by many of the 22,000 people who attended the event and as well as interacting with the public, the environment enabled us to link in with other agencies across Norfolk who were also involved in the show. It was a very enjoyable, sunny day and we look forward to the next one!



deaths that could otherwise be avoided through the swift actions of ambulance personnel."

There are some exceptions when it is important that the police attend an overdose incident; these will be in cases where the Ambulance Service feels that violence may be offered to staff, or when a serious offence accompanies the medical need and which quite clearly requires investigation.

The new protocol was launched across the region on 7<sup>th</sup> October and all Norfolk agencies are asked to ensure that the message is clearly understood among the using community and that they are encouraged to continue to phone for an ambulance in cases of drug overdose or other medical need.

## Festive Fun?

The DAAT "Think Safe - Drink Safe" campaign enters its second festive season. Building upon the success of previous events, the "Festive Fun?" information and awareness cards will be distributed through the DAAT partnership during the festive period, to young people and young adults in the night-time economies of Norfolk.

As previously, the cards will have simple and clear awareness raising messages on one side and a series of advice lines for anyone who has concerns or needs further assistance. Please contact Daniel Harry, CDRP Liaison Officer at the DAAT, if you require copies of the card or if you have any queries. E-mail: [daniel.harry@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.harry@norfolk.gov.uk).

