

AIMHS Mental Health Forum Group
Thursday 19th September
Koco Building, Spon End, 10.30am – 12.30 pm

Present: 15 Attendees

1. Welcome

Sheila Marston, AIMHS Forum Facilitator, welcomed everyone to the forum.

2. Apologies

1 Apology

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising and the minutes of the last meeting were agreed as true.

4. Tim Dore: Doctoral Student, Clinical Psychology

Tim is currently training to be a Doctor of Clinical Psychology at Coventry and Warwick Universities and is researching the experiences of people who have a Christian faith and have had a diagnosis of psychosis at some point in their life and have spent time in a mental health hospital but are feeling better now. If you feel this applies to you and would like to volunteer to take part in the study please can you email Tim on: doret2@uni.coventry.ac.uk or call the Clinical Psychology course team on 02476 888328 and leave a message for Tim Dore with your name and number. The study ends April 2014.

5. Louise Stratton: Project Officer, Healthwatch Coventry.

Healthwatch Coventry was previously known as Coventry LINK. The government decided that it wanted to give the organisation a bigger responsibility and so rebranded it as Healthwatch as of 1st April 2013. Healthwatch is the consumer champion for Health and Social care in Coventry. It covers all services commissioned by the NHS and also health and social care services delivered or commissioned by the city council. Healthwatch's aim is to give local people a powerful voice in sharing their experiences of using health and social care services. Healthwatch do not deal with individual complaints but look at trends that arise from people's experiences.

Their plan is to also to influence those who run, plan and regulate services and if some or all parts of them are not meeting people's needs then they need to be redesigned. Healthwatch have 'Enter and View' powers, which is the right to go into a service and see how they are being run. An example of this was visiting the wards at the Caludon Centre to investigate the activities opportunities for patients following concerns raised by AIMHS.

Louise explained that you can be involved by becoming a member of Healthwatch with as little or as much involvement as you choose e.g. by receiving newsletters or being contacted on a particular subject to be able to share your views. To become a member you need to live or care for somebody in Coventry, or you can live outside Coventry but have a GP based in Coventry or

be part of a voluntary or community group in Coventry. Views or comments given by members are strictly confidential and people's privacy is always protected. Please contact Healthwatch Coventry c/o Voluntary Action Coventry, 29 Warwick Road, Coventry, CV1 2ES. Telephone: 02476 220381.

Concerns were raised by AIMHS members regarding the appointment system at the Caludon Centre and the closing of day centres in Coventry.

World Mental Health Day

Andy Collis, AIMHS Manager asked how members would like to celebrate World Mental Health Day. Members decided they would like to celebrate, as a peer support social group, at a popular public venue and have lunch.

AIMHS Update

Coventry AIMHS have a new group called UNA which stands for **Ur Not Alone**, facilitated by Tricia Wood. It is a support meeting group which takes place at the Koco Building every Wednesday, 11am – 12noon. For more information please phone Tricia on 024 7667 0606.

Consultation exercises are taking place regarding reductions in financial grants to Housing Support services over the next few weeks.

**Date of next Mental Health Forum: Thursday 31st October, 10.30am – 12.30pm
Koco Building, Spon End, Coventry, CV1 3JQ.**