

You are reading the first edition of a newsletter dedicated to the work of the National Survivor User Network (NSUN).

### A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

A conference was held in Birmingham in 2006 called "Our Futures" to discuss the possibility of setting up a national service user / survivor network.

The Conference was organised by service users employed within two voluntary sector organisations.

Within a tight time frame of under two months, service users were invited, with the aim of achieving as much diversity as possible within the short period available for planning.

Nearly 200 service users attended and it was established, via feedback, that it had been a successful day. Lessons were learned and, had time allowed, more could have been achieved. Following this, a small working group of service users was set up to take us to where we are today as NSUN.

A DVD and video were made available and circulated widely following the event (still available on request by contacting us at the address given in this newsletter) and donations towards costs are welcomed.

June Marmolejo provided administrative support from March 2006 – March 2007. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her.

**We aim to provide useful information that is accessible and easy on the eye. Let us know your thoughts – it would be appreciated.**



### INTRODUCING OURSELVES

Following the Our Futures Conference, a bid was sent to Comic Relief and the Tudor Trust to assist with funding this work.

Further information will appear shortly on our website and we hope you enjoy viewing the work as it develops over coming weeks and months. We will also try and provide as much information as possible through this newsletter.

We have included our Mission, Aims and Core Values within this newsletter.

As part of setting up a network organisation, a Management Committee, consisting entirely of service users, was appointed in January 2007. There are now 7 Management Committee members, but we propose to have 12 in place over coming months. So far we have:

**Anne Beales  
Tina Coldham  
David Crepaz-Keay  
Mark Henderson  
Rob Henderson  
Kath Lovell  
Chris Wright**

Once the Committee Team had been appointed, it was time for the Staff Team to be interviewed. The following were recruited and joined NSUN in April 2007:-

**Chandra Fowler - Coordinator  
David Reay – Admin and Finance  
Laura Schofield – Communications**

**Please share this information with anyone who may be interested and spread the word. Thanks**

## LOGO – YOUR DESIGNS IDEAS



Over the next few weeks, we are developing our 'house style' including a logo. This house style will be used for our website and printed material. We want to work closely together with a designer, preferably someone who (through personal experience) will have an understanding of the aims and ethos of the Network.

If your organisation or group knows of an appropriate company or individual that could work with us, then could you pass on this information to them? We plan to select someone by early July and need to receive **expressions of interest by the 29th of June 2007.**

### THREE STEPS TO JOINING NSUN

We are contacting people across a diverse range of service-user-led groups and organisations to enquire whether they wish to join NSUN – **this includes you.**

*Please note: those currently listed on the Together website are being contacted, but will need to re-apply for inclusion in the new NSUN-network. The webpage offered to us by Together will close in favour of the newer website.*

**1. We want to hear from you** – express interest – contact us. See details at end of page.

**2. We need to know how you'd prefer to be contacted** - our preferred method of contacting you would be emailing, as this keeps costs low and is environmentally kinder, however, we are happy to hear your preferences.

**3. A more detailed 'application' will be provided to you** - we will keep you posted.

## Inaugural Mission, Aims and Values May 2007

### Mission

To develop networking, which will engage, support and reflect the diversity of mental health service users and survivors across England.

### Aims

1. Support individuals, existing groups and networks.
2. Provide practical support and capacity building to strengthen and support survivors and service users in their activities.
3. Facilitate and enable the widest range of survivors and service users to have a voice in informing and influencing local, regional and national developments in mental health.

*We will not become the voice for the survivor and service user movement nor supersede existing groups or networks.*

### Core Values

We will

- prioritise those not well served by existing mechanisms
- be open and transparent
- respect and value diversity

### Contact

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