

Co-ordinators report

The fact that NSUN is here is an enormous achievement by many committed people who have put their skills, talents and experience behind a shared vision.

This vision is of a national organisation that is run by survivors and users to bring us together and support our work. We now have an organisation that we run ourselves that is in a position to support our vision of how the service user and survivor movement should develop and grow.

The launch of NSUN is a turning

point. It is a turning point in NSUN's history: we are now firmly in the starting blocks.

We hope too that it is also a turning point in the history of the service user and survivor movement. Much of the focus of the movement has been on fulfilling opportunities for involvement.

Many dedicated individuals continue to do this important work. Through these efforts services, commissioning processes and policies do change. There is much still that needs to be done – but also much to celebrate

in what we have done.

Occasionally we are able to really set the agenda ourselves, for example when we design and run our own services. We would like to see service users and survivors being able to set the agenda more often and we hope that the launch of NSUN will be a turning point in being able to support this work. We will be encouraging service users and survivors to work in partnership to do this; using our experience to create real innovations.

Chandra Fowler

27-29 Vauxhall Grove
Vauxhall
London

Phone: 02078208982

Fax: 02070001272

www.nsun.org.uk

info@nsun.org.uk



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Conference and Launch

On the 6th of November NSUN is holding its official launch party at the Experience and Innovation conference, being held in partnership with Mind. The event will be held in Poole

and will be a chance for people to meet some of the members of the NSUN's management committee and hear about the organisations creation, development and it future plans. There will be a live

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Launch of Website

The official NSUN website went live at the end of September. It is hoped that the site will provide a valuable source of information for all those interested in the work of NSUN. The site contains lots of information about the network and will be kept updated, in the up-and-coming months, with the latest network news.

We will also be launching an area of the site, which will be exclusive to members.

Link to international service user groups and a well-come from our chair Rob Henderson. Further information can be found at;

www.nsun.org.uk.

Introducing Management Committee Members

This month

Tina Coldham, vice chair: My

journey to this point really

started 12

years ago when I walked out of my psychiatrists room thinking "Is this all there is?". Another round of desperation and useless drug limited response. I looked to a local charity that enabled me to set up and run a self-help group. I did

this for the next 8 years. These set me on the road to thinking about empowerment issues for users/survivors

and so heralded a change in direction for me personally and work-wise. So having campaigned and worked at local and then national levels in the intervening years, I now find myself helping to shape up the strategies and drive forward the vision of

Unity!

challenge the wider prejudice and break down barriers. The self-doubt and the mental health demons creep in regularly, but I gain strength from fellow users and survivors. The network is one way we can all help one another. Strength in Unity!



(cont'd) way you could make a difference in your local area? More information is available

on the Comic Relief website – and the application process is a lot easier than most grants.

For more information go to:
www.comicrelief.com

Would you like to be a member of our Management Committee?

We are looking to expand the management committee from 7 to 17 members and are looking for committed survivors/ service users.

Some places are

available for people without previous experience of being on a management committee.

It is important to us that we create a diverse management committee with

YP and forensics

Part of NSUN's work is identifying areas in which service user involvement could be strengthened. Recently the focus of this work has been on two areas:

1) The Involvement of services users in forensic services and the criminal justice system

2) The involvement of young service users

We are working together with service users and service

If you are interested or would like to find out more please contact:

Amma Djan

amma.djan@nsun.org.uk

0207 820 8982

Funding opportunities for User led groups

Are you looking for funding for a project? Have you tried Comic Relief's Small grants? These are grants for up to £5000.



They are keen to give this to user-led initiatives. You don't even need to be part of a charity. Do you have a good idea for a

providers in these areas to develop the voice of these service users. If you would like to find out more about this work please contact us.