

# Association of Nurses in Substance Abuse

## 23rd Annual Conference

### Developing Roles and Services in Substance Misuse: Responding to Change

27-28 March 2008  
University of Chester

## Conference Evaluation

40 forms received

### Opinions of the programme and speakers

Plenary Session Presentations - Thursday 27 March	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
The role of the nurse and the orange book Kerry Webb	16	18	3	1	1
Developing integrated treatment systems in prisons Jan Palmer	25	13	1	0	0
Drug related deaths Dr Matthew Hickman	12	20	6	1	0
Social inclusion Peter Bates	28	10	1	0	0
Hepatitis C and HIV testing: Giving bad news. How confident are you? Clare Meachin	14	23	1	1	0

- Kerry Webb Speaker very good and informative. Excellent presentation.
- Jan Palmer Enjoyable interesting presentation.
- Matthew Hickman Very statistical/complicated (7). Very interesting though. Delivered with great humour. Brilliant presentation. Very informative.
- Peter Bates Interesting, thought provoking and enjoyed the speaker's enthusiasm for the subject.
- Clare Meachin Very useful and relevant.
- Varied, enjoyable, excellent speakers (2).
- All sessions very interesting and relevant to clinical practice (2).
- Excellent.
- Could it be made clear that these details will be published on website following conference.
- Good start to the conference. Speakers enthusiastic and informative.
- Too much focus on drugs – alcohol misuse needs to be recognized. As part of ANSA I feel it's very unfair to send out a message that alcohol misuse is not as crucial/important as DRUGS. Very similar to what NTA proposed – when will it change? Does ANSA not support Alcohol Services/Treatment?
- Roving microphone required for questions.

<b>Plenary Session Presentations - Friday 28 March</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Responding to change: A Cheshire commissioning perspective</b> Anne Lloyd and Andy Cornish	21	16	1	0	0
<b>Developing roles and services in dual diagnosis</b> Derek Tobin	12	24	1	0	0
<b>The contemporary relevance of the abstinence recovery model: A personal perspective</b> Nick Mercer	34	4	0	0	0
<b>The need for nurses in the 10 year plan: A personal view</b> Jim Jones	21	15	0	0	0
<b>The role of nurse prescribing and services restructuring</b> Simon Greasley	13	20	2	0	0
<b>Support to those affected by a drug related death</b> Annie Darby	20	12	0	0	0
<b>Alcohol services “All shook up”</b> Lynn Owens	19	6	0	0	0

- Anne Lloyd/  
Andy Cornish      Video very effective (8) reflected closely what I see in our CDT.
- Nick Mercer:      A refreshingly honest, personal account and intro very funny, Ken Dodd – watch out.  
Brilliant user perspective  
Informative, humorous, excellent.  
Very stimulating.  
Give Nick a longer session.  
Incredible.  
Highlight of the conference
- Jim Jones      A good overview of what’s in store for nurses over the next 10 years. Interesting.  
Very interesting and thought provoking – left me a bit deflated and concerned. Perhaps that was one of the aims.  
Motivating presentation.
- Simon Greasley      This is the way substance misuse service should go.
- Annie Darby      Excellent, warm, empathic.
- Lynn Owens      Outstanding.  
Love to debate some of the content.....Formidable and passionate presentation with good corroborating evidence
- A nice combination of personal stories and theoretical/experienced based information.
- Fascinating insight into service user’s perspective.
- Fantastic day, varied speakers giving mainly personal experiences to provide people with excitement and drive to get out there and change our practice or improve our services. Excellent!
- Stronger speakers and presentations today, more reliant on content rather than death by PowerPoint which yesterday felt a bit like.

<b>Expert Discussion Groups Session 1</b>				
<b>Dual Diagnosis:</b>				
<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
4	6	4	1	0

- Not enough discussion (2).
- It was great to have an interactive session.
- I felt it relied on input of other areas around the country. It highlighted obvious points we all aspire to but failed to highlight innovative things they had done or good/problem areas encountered.
- Inspirational presentation.
- Needed more time. I think it would be really useful to have a full day aimed at mental health and substance misuse nurses.
- Would have been better as a full session.
- Reiteration of common problems but no real solution ventured.

<b>Expert Discussion Groups Session 1</b>				
<b>Physical Care (combined)</b>				
<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
8	4	0	0	0

- Misleading title. I thought it would all be about physical care whereas it was more about how to become an advanced nurse practitioner.
- Really enjoyed this talk/discussion. Interesting and enthusiastic speaker (2). Great insight into her role and service.
- A standard of care all nurses should aspire too. It sounds like a brilliant service.

<b>Expert Discussion Groups Session 1</b>				
<b>Torbay Hidden Children:</b>				
<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
7	1	0	0	0

- Excellent (2).
- Good overview....would have liked a bit more on 'this is what to do'.

Expert Discussion Groups Session 2				
Dual Diagnosis:				
Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
2	7	2	0	0

- Interesting to share experience of peers all over the country.
- A subject warranting a full day's debate.

Expert Discussion Groups Session 2				
Physical Care (combined)				
Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
1	5	2	1	2

- Really enjoyable to get detailed insight into first hand development and experience of a nurse creating a new and needed role. Answered questions well, helpful and very enjoyable.
- This was a presentation not a discussion group.

Expert Discussion Groups Session 2				
Torbay Hidden Children				
Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
3	4	0	0	0

- Very informative. Speaker was very passionate about her work – inspirational.

## General

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Venue	7	18	12	2	1
What was your opinion of the catering?	1	10	6	9	14
What was your opinion of the general administration of the conference?	14	19	6	1	0

### Catering:

- Very limited choice (10).
- Catering poor (6).
- Only meal that was satisfactory was breakfast (2).
- The food was edible but not very exciting/fresh and left me feeling like a child at school. I assume the catering budget was cut with the cost reduction.
- For the price charged, the venue and catering were good.

- No drinks other than wine available at dinner was poor.
- No water at breaks only the drug caffeine.
- Nowhere to sit during coffee breaks.
- Lunch on the 27<sup>th</sup> was very poor and the male supervisor was very very rude so I didn't have dinner.

### **Venue**

- Below average standard accommodation (4) for 'professional' conference.
- Very basic accommodation (2) as expected but I think for the original price of the conference it would have been very disappointing (2).
- Accommodation was cramped and dirty. Would the accommodation have been the same if £400 was paid?
- Some form of TV/radio in room (2)
- The rooms were woeful – small, cramped, dirty, shower not hot, overflowing drains next to window. If I'd have paid £50 I'd have asked for my money back!
- Corridors with ceiling panels missing, very stained carpets, peeling paint – may be cheap but not cheerful!
- Basic but adequate.
- University needs better signposting. Not easily found. Better maps to be sent out, rather than the ones on the C U website. Seats in lecture theatre uncomfortable for long periods.
- Easy to find. All staff helpful and polite.
- Lecture theatre appropriate size, educational facilities seemed adequate but accommodation, toilets, dining area left a lot to be desired!
- Auditorium good but bedrooms grim.

### **Administration**

- The conference was well organised and run (2). It was nice to attend a conference where the conference and accommodation is in one place.
- Handouts of PowerPoint presentations (3) prior to delivery of presentations would have been helpful.
- Blank paper (2) and pen in delegate pack.
- Coffee on arrival on Friday – not all delegates stayed overnight.
- Longer breaks (3).
- Contact e-mail addresses on delegate list (2).

### **Where did you hear about the conference?**

- Through manager (9)
- Colleague (8)
- ANSA member (6)
- Flyer at work (5)
- E-Mail (5)
- ANSA website
- Friend.
- Drug and Alcohol magazine.
- Drug News
- Internet

### **Did you find the conference worthwhile? Please give your overall impressions.**

- Good opportunity for networking and sharing ideas (11).
- Very worthwhile (9).
- Informative (6)
- Excellent (4).
- Interesting (4).
- I really enjoyed most of the subject/discussion topics. Thought they were varied, well presented and relevant (4).
- I've really enjoyed the experience and hope to attend again in the future (4).
- Inspiring (3)
- Good atmosphere (3).
- Great to attend a conference just about nursing (3).
- Enjoyable (2).

- All sessions beneficial (2) however the second day sessions were more thought provoking.
- Missed opportunity for sharing good practice due to lack of discussion (2).
- Plenary sessions useful and informative. Good blend of core subject with peripheral services. I will become an ANSA member.
- A very useful forum, highlighting that all services have some very common problems and needs and frustrations!
- Reminded me of the real value that nurses have to offer to the Substance Misuse field.
- I feel the conference is of great benefit to nurses and help refocus energy at a time when the role for a generic worker is gaining credence.
- High quality of speakers.
- Demonstrates very positive role models within nursing profession in substance misuse field. Great not to be given the 'hard sell' by a load of drug reps which tend to dominate 'doctor' type conferences!
- It was the first one I've attended and I've found it really useful. The speakers were really interesting and relevant. I've met lots of colleagues from a variety of settings and areas of the country.
- All lectures and group works were informative and interesting. I have been empowered and given the confidence to take information back to my employers and attempt to alter my practice and job and ensure that my work as a nurse is recognised appropriately.
- Excellent to discover how services are commissioned, devised and delivered in other areas of the country. I attended the NDTG in Glasgow a few weeks ago. I found ANSA conference much more relevant and informative to me.
- Why was the alcohol session scheduled for 15.45pm on the last day? Is that how alcohol is perceived? I felt that the focus of the conference was very drug based but it was still interesting and informative.
- Sometimes felt a bit cliquey and we weren't in the gang!
- Enjoyed the quiz – could you make the questions easier next year please.

## Future conferences

### Cost

- The registration fee could be raised to £50 next year (2).
- I think if the fee was around £100 for full residential people may be willing to self fund (3). Unfortunately if it costs much more than this I think a lot of people will be unable to meet this without extra funding.
- £100 (3) + accommodation.
- £150 (2).
- £150-£200 (3).
- A cap of £200.
- Two one day conferences would be better rather than two days and overnight. Perhaps less than £100 per day would be ok.
- £250 because Trust also has to pay an additional £100 in travel expenses.
- £150 per day, reduced rate of £275 for 2 day attendance.
- I originally applied and secured funding to attend at full price. I believe around the £200-£300 costing would be appropriate for a two day conference. I believe at this price it will be accessible to a good spectrum of professionals.
- I feel you may need to speak to Mo Afzal as to a realistic price for conference fees (Birmingham & Solihull M H Trust – education lead). It was a struggle to justify my attendance when £450. The reduced rate got our trust 9 places. The original fee seems extraordinarily high. I assume the reduced cost was reflected on reduced accommodation standards/food facilities. If I had paid £50 for student accommodation standards I'd have been furious – cold shower, leaking drain pipes, dirty walls, holes in ceilings. A sham as an otherwise well organised and diverse conference which I feel is helpful/educational and necessary.
- My manager agreed for me to attend before the fee was reduced although it was thought to be very expensive. Why don't ANSA ask for a monthly fee from its members e.g. £2. It could then increase its income. It could offer members newsletters, on-line service to talk to other members etc. Out of 5 nurses in my team I am the only one in ANSA and only joined to get a reduced rate on course – didn't really know about it before then & would like to know more. Would be good to have a list of all members' e-mails so we could contact each other in between conferences and network/share ideas.
- Don't think I would have got funding to attend at full price although I did apply. Maybe half that price would be easier to secure funding. Good to have food and accommodation included in the price.
- Overnight accommodation increases costs and if 'not pleasant' delegates unlikely to return.
- Regulate fees according to where work e.g. NHS, charity, self
- I attended this conference on my own, I paid for it myself. I don't have a training budget, it all depends how business performs for me.

- Working within the voluntary sector our training budget is limited. This year we have been able to send 2 delegates. What about 'buy one get one free' for non-statutory services?
- Couldn't we get drug reps to sponsor the event to help financially (2).
- Have you thought of sharing a conference with another group i.e. Association of Outreach Teams – overlap of speakers, shared cost of the venue etc

### Structure and location

- Structure of conference was good as was length and location (5) although it would be good to finish at 3pm – Friday traffic!.
- 2 days is good length. Lots of info but not too intense.
- I really enjoyed the two day event and feel it may detract from the overall experience should it be reduced to one.
- Half hour slots for each presentation were excellent – concentration levels were good for this time space.
- Prefer speakers and presentations rather than workshops.
- Question and answer session at end of conference.
- Would a stall system where people can learn about one another's services be an idea?
- Is Chester central for everyone?
- Have attended conferences at Exeter and Birmingham Universities – both excellent facilities

### Future subjects/speakers

- Would like to have more info on alcohol services (4)
- Dual diagnosis (3) and how problems can be overcome in terms of accessing services for our clients.
- Can someone give a talk on heroin prescribing? (2) Is it a good idea?
- What's the research on taking drugs (heroin, crack etc) through the bum (2). Concerns? How safe compared to IV? Evidence for and against the effect on health??
- ANSA day for alcohol
- ANSA day for NMP.
- Difficult to cover all areas – alcohol, shared care, specific general health not covered for example. Suggest series of days on specific areas of substance misuse i.e. women, mental health, general health i.e. DVT, SAE, Liver, HCV etc
- More service user/ex service user perspectives, I believe this aids practice and insight into people's lives and professional links!!
- Criminal Justice services
- Alcohol and pregnancy.
- We would be willing to provide a presentation on abstinence based alcohol treatment (Ruth Allonby, Chief Executive, Mount Carmel, 020 8769 7674).
- A whole day of Lynn Owens!
- How realistic is nurse prescribing in Substance Misuse considering the main drugs involved (Methadone/Subutex) is not currently covered???
- Reducing harm in terms of children could be incorporated into the full programme as different services deal with it in different ways.
- Self-harm as it is an issue within substance misuse.
- Drug testing – hair strands v urine v saliva
- Physical health outcomes/research for substance users.
- A service user speaker who is still in treatment
- In future more multidisciplinary – doctors, drug workers, pharmacists??