



LONDON DRUG AND ALCOHOL

NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2005/2006



About LDAN

SUPPORT THROUGH CHANGE

By LDAN chair Robyn Doran



This has been an interesting first year serving as chair of LDAN's board. As a founding member of the board, it has been with great pleasure that I have seen the reputation and profile of LDAN's work raised so significantly. I have no doubt we are now seen as the voice of providers in London. That's why LDAN is being asked increasingly to sit on advisory and decision making bodies that influence substance misuse treatment and policy in London.

The past year has seen the continuation and improvement of a number of our core activities, including our network forums and newsletter, which have gone from strength to strength. We also undertook a number of new activities, such as the developmental commissioning forums, developed in partnership with the NTA, which enable providers and commissioners to have meaningful dialogue around service development in their area.

On alcohol, I am pleased to say that LDAN has continued to raise

awareness on some important issues, most notably with the publication of the London Alcohol Statistics Project report. We also formed a partnership with Ranzetta Consulting, through which we expect to continue to promote and develop local alcohol strategies around London.

None of this work would have been achieved without the hard work and commitment of the small but select team, of Roseanne, Shona Flannigan, and Jim, and of course, Shona Beaton, our very competent and high profile chief executive. But as a membership organisation, we could not survive without members support, so I would like to thank all of you for your support and loyalty this year.

Over the next year as we come towards the end of the drugs strategy, there are challenges ahead for providers. The drugs strategy has had a positive impact on the development of drug services, but new threats to funding - some caused by the financial deficits in the NHS - threaten to impact on achievements made, and don't bode well for the future post 2008. Providers and commissioners will over the coming year have to plan for the lifting of ring fencing from drug treatment budgets. LDAN will continue to support and represent members interests as the changes unfold.

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About LDAN

A VOICE FOR PROVIDERS

By LDAN chief executive Shona Beaton

ABOUT LDAN

Ldan is a membership network for drug and alcohol agencies in London. We provide advice, information and support services to member agencies and represent their views on advisory and strategic bodies. We have over 260 members, primarily frontline treatment providers.

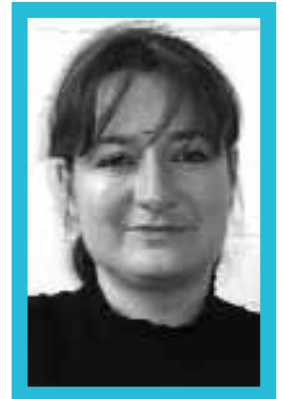
Over the past year, we have seen the introduction of many different strategies and initiatives on drugs and alcohol.

The most prominent was the continued growth of the criminal justice agenda in the drug treatment field, with the introduction of drug testing on arrest and required assessment across DIP boroughs, and rolling out of Restrictions on Bail across all London boroughs.

The National Treatment Agency's Treatment Effectiveness strategy was another highlight. Its focus on the importance of retaining service users in treatment, and at looking at their whole needs, including housing, training and education, will have a big impact on service provision.

On alcohol too, a lot has happened. We have seen the introduction of 24 hour drinking and an increased focus on tackling binge drinking and anti-social behaviour. The number of controlled drinking zones across London is an indication of this. We also saw the publication of the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project (ANARP), and a lengthy consultation around the first Models of Care for Alcohol, which came out - finally - in June.

Through all of this, LDAN has been proud to be able to represent providers views through channels at national, regional and local level. We also highlighted members' positions on key issues through our communications platforms - our



newsletter and website - which has helped raise awareness and open dialogue with other stakeholders.

LDAN is uniquely positioned to be a voice for substance misuse providers in London. Our over 250 members keep us informed of what is happening on the ground, so we can make our case with credibility and authority. We can also speak out on issues individual providers can't, ensuring all concerns, however sensitive or difficult, are taken on board.

Over the next year, LDAN will continue to represent members views effectively, so providers can continue to influence service development and drug and alcohol strategies across London.

Raising Awareness

One of LDAN's main functions is to keep drug and alcohol workers informed about developments in the substance misuse field, highlighting areas of good practice and spreading the word about innovative projects. It does this by holding regular network meetings and forums.

Young Person's Workers Forum

LDAN's Young Person's Workers Forum has had a good year. The forum, which is held quarterly for drug and alcohol workers working with young people, has tackled all the big issues, but has not shied away from examining subjects given little prominence elsewhere.

Newsnight dropped in to the forum in April 2005, to film a meeting on one of the main talking points of the year - cannabis use and mental health. Terry Hammond from mental health charity Rethink, briefed forum members on the research which prompted the Government to ask the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), to look again at its advice to downgrade cannabis to a Class C drug. Highlighting the much higher priority cannabis use gets in the mental health field, he said cannabis was "the big issue" in the mental health field, while in the drugs field it was "just a lightweight".

The forum also turned its attention over the course of the year to: volatile substance misuse, a significant yet largely undocumented problem among teenagers; the ethical and practical problems around information sharing in the wake of Every Child Matters; and the problems 16 to 17 year olds face accessing suitable accommodation.

In 2005, the forum got a new chair when Alex Hall, a young persons worker in DASL, took over from Dezlee Dennis.

Network Meetings

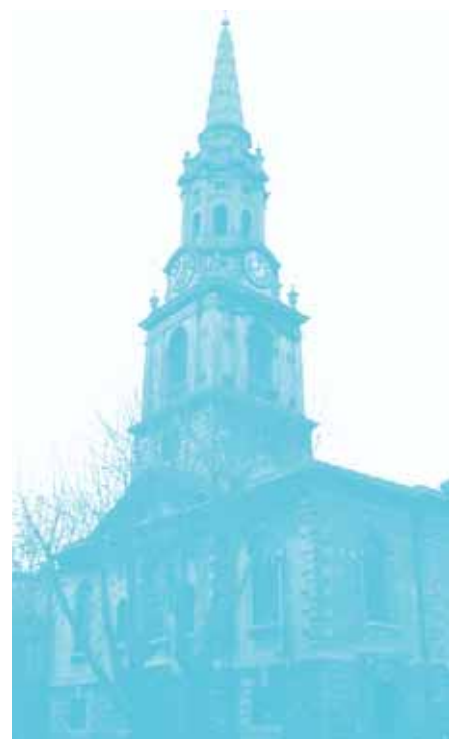
LDAN network meetings provide drug and alcohol workers with a regular platform to learn about and discuss topical subjects which impact on their work. LDAN's board, which is made up of senior figures from the field, helped organise meetings in 2005/2006.

One of the most successful meetings was on the NTA's Treatment Effectiveness strategy. This was broadly welcomed when it was launched, given its shift in focus away from the numbers accessing treatment to the quality of care received. But there was plenty of debate at the meeting around how providers could meet the new targets set, and on the system's ability to deliver integrated care, given the lack of joined-up working to date with other sectors.

Neither was debate scarce at a network meeting on diversity issues. This posed the question whether drug and alcohol agencies should record clients sexuality. Some people attending the meeting said they should as the information was needed to assess and treat clients, while others thought the question too personal. A show of hands, however, found that a significant number of services already record clients sexuality.

As well as being an important source of information and debate, network meetings allow LDAN members network with other workers working in a similar field.

St Giles in the Field, where the Young Person's Workers Forum, meets



Raising Awareness

ALCOHOL STATISTICS REPORT

Report highlights long waits for alcohol treatment

The London Alcohol Statistics Project was a year-long project carried out by LDAN, with the support of the Association of London Government and alcohol treatment providers. It involved collecting and analysing statistics on alcohol treatment from a cross section of alcohol providers in London.

The aim of the project was to gather information on people accessing treatment, assess the demand for services in London and draw some comparisons between drug and alcohol treatment. Prompted by the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England, which highlighted the lack of information available on alcohol treatment across the country, it was published before the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project (ANARP), the Department of Health's national audit of alcohol treatment.

The London Alcohol Statistics Project culminated in the publication of a report, funded by the Kings Fund, in September 2005.

Its main findings which were covered in the sectoral media, suggest:

- Alcohol misusers have to wait twice as long as drug misusers for treatment. The average wait for alcohol treatment was over five weeks. This compares with an average wait for drug treatment in London of under three weeks for inpatient treatment and under two weeks to be treated by a GP

- Alcohol clients are most likely to

be in the 36-50 age group so appear older than those in drug treatment. Men outnumber women by a ratio of 2 to 1 – much like in drug treatment – while four fifths of clients are white, a higher ratio than in drug treatment. GP and self-referral are the most common means of referral

- Agencies struggle to cope with data collection. Though alcohol treatment data is not collected centrally, as is the case with drug treatment through the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System, providers still have to dedicate considerable resources to gathering information, for both commissioners and clinical purposes. This is made more difficult because different commissioners require different figures adding to the paperwork.

Recommendations

The report, written by consultant Libby Ranzetta, called for a standard data set for alcohol treatment in London to reduce the burden of data collection on alcohol agencies. In addition, it called for more work to be done by providers and commissioners to understand why alcohol misusers are waiting longer for treatment than drug misusers, and to address the resource issues identified.



The London Alcohol Statistics Project was just part of the work LDAN did over the past year to raise awareness on alcohol. We surveyed all 33 London boroughs to see which had local alcohol strategies in place. The survey findings - over half did but many boroughs did not have the resources to implement them - attracted plenty of interest and some media coverage. LDAN also joined the newly formed London Alcohol Forum, a group made up of alcohol leads and strategists from across London, intent on pushing alcohol up local authorities agenda. And, we formed a partnership with Ranzetta Consulting to work together on projects that promote the implementation of effective alcohol policies. LDAN has worked on many projects with Libby Ranzetta in the past, including on the Local Alcohol Strategy Toolkit. The toolkit, which LDAN developed together with Alcohol Concern, is being updated in 2006.

Providing a Voice

LDAN works to ensure providers have an input into the development of effective drug and alcohol treatment strategies. It does this by representing providers views to the NTA and Home Office, sitting on advisory bodies, and organising forums where members can discuss concerns with other stakeholders.

Providers Forum

The NTA/LDAN Providers Forum gives service providers the opportunity to discuss directly with the National Treatment Agency's London team, issues affecting service provision and commissioning. Launched in 2004, the forum established itself as a regular fixture in senior managers' diaries in 2005. Many topics were examined over the course of the year, including residential and daycare provision, the Treatment Effectiveness strategy, the expanded National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS), DIP expansion, and changes to wider healthcare structures and their impact on providers. NTA head Paul Hayes attended the forum in June 2005.

Developmental Commissioning Groups

The success of the Providers Forum led to the setting up of a new framework to improve commissioning across London. Developmental Commissioning Groups are made up of providers, commissioners and Strategic Health Authority representatives who meet regularly to discuss cross-borough commissioning issues. LDAN, which sits on the overall steering group, selects provider representatives for each of five London regional groups.

Voluntary Sector Compact

How drug and alcohol services are commissioned and funded is a big issue for all providers, but especially voluntary sector agencies, which can be seriously destabilised by short term funding contracts or payments in arrears.

The principles that should underpin commissioning were discussed at a meeting organised by the NTA, Home Office and LDAN in March 2006. The meeting, which focused on recently published good practice guidelines for the sector, allowed service providers troubleshoot problem areas with commissioners and Government officials. A large amount of consensus emerged between providers and commissioners during the course of the meeting, a development which should pave the way for more collaborative commissioning in the future.

The guidelines discussed at the meeting are based on the Voluntary Sector Compact and focus on seven key areas of funding. These are multi-year funding models, payment in advance, full cost recovery, use of procurement processes, proportionate monitoring, fair allocation of risk and meaningful consultation.

The Greater London Alcohol and Drug Alliance (GLADA)

The Greater London Alcohol and Drug Alliance is a regional partnership that works to improve the collective response to drug and alcohol problems in London and tackle London-wide problems. As a member of GLADA, LDAN ensures that the views of service providers help shape drug and alcohol strategies for London. LDAN also sits on the working group of the Stella Project, an initiative that seeks to improve services across the drug, alcohol and domestic violence sectors.

Providing a Voice

LDAN NEWS

Newsletter promotes providers perspective

Licensing U-Turn “too little too late”

LDAN Briefing: Local Area Agreements

Drug workers debate whether NTA strategy can deliver

Meeting focuses on “yawning gap” between family and treatment services

Supporting People Changes: Providers Call for Refunding Strategy

New London Carers Forum Set Up

The Impact of “Respect” on Substance Misusers

HIV Study Calls for Improved Harm Reduction

In the Dock: Offender Management Policy

“Tickbox” User Involvement Criticised

LDAN Briefing: Prolific and Other Priority Offenders p7

Alcohol Audit Does not Unlock Treatment Funding

Needle Exchange Plan Derailed

Providers Discuss “Front End Loaded” Criminal Justice Interventions

Drugs and Alcohol: The Highs and Lows of 2005

Dispersal Zones and Service Users

LDAN News, LDAN's monthly newsletter, puts forward providers perspective on drug and alcohol news, whether changes to Supporting People funding, the increasing use of antisocial behaviour and dispersal orders on substance misusers, Restrictions on Bail pilots or service user involvement. By highlighting frontline workers views, the newsletter has drawn the attention of a wide range of decision makers and stakeholders to providers' concerns, and helped establish the newsletter as a must-read publication in the sector.

Revamped and relaunched in the summer of 2005, *LDAN News* also gives members an authoritative digest of policy developments, updates them on innovative work being carried out by drug and alcohol projects around London, and takes an in depth look every month at a big issue which warrants close inspection. In addition, the newsletter contains a comprehensive listing of forthcoming events of interest to drug and alcohol workers

The past year also saw the publication of a special edition of *LDAN News User News*, a 16-page colour magazine, which looked at service user issues in the substance misuse field. Funded by Awards for All, this provided members with a round up of service user news and information, bringing some clarity to a complex area, and a difficult one for providers. *User News* also helped increase dialogue between service users and providers.

Working in Partnership

DRUGS AND CRIME

Tackling drug related crime and anti-social behaviour

The London Resettlement Strategy

2005 saw the launch of a major new strategy to reduce reoffending in London. The London Resettlement Strategy aims to reduce the high rate of reoffending in the capital by improving the level of support available to prisoners. The result of months of collaborative work between a broad range of agencies, including LDAN, the strategy illustrates the importance of joined-up working when it comes to tackling crime.

The London Resettlement Strategy outlines how support can be improved in eight pathway areas which impact on offending - offender management, accommodation, education, health (including alcohol treatment), drug treatment, finance, children and families, and programmes to help change offenders attitudes towards crime.

LDAN sat on the strategy's drugs working group, which came up with a detailed action plan to improve drug treatment for offenders. This included increasing the number of community drug services open at weekends, arranging escorts for vulnerable prisoners and providing offenders with a drugs information package on their release. LDAN also sat on the health subgroup, which set out plans to make alcohol treatment available in all prisons by the end of 2006. The specialist groups will continue to meet over the course of the strategy's three year duration to ensure the actions are implemented.

Drugs and Crime Forum

The Drugs and Crime Forum, run jointly by LDAN and London Probation, had to work hard to keep up with the rapid expansion of criminal justice interventions over the past year. But it did, proving an invaluable source of information on the impact of new initiatives and interventions on drug and alcohol services and service users. Among the topics covered by the forum were community orders and drug and alcohol treatment requirements, restrictions on bail, and drug testing on arrest and required assessment, the latter two of which were introduced by the Drugs Act 2005.

As well as looking at significant legislative changes, the forum also found time to highlight innovative work going on at grassroots level, such as a new detox unit in a wet centre in Camden, aimed at diverting street drinkers away from crime.

West End Drugs Partnership

LDAN is a member of the West End Drugs Partnership (WEDP), a group that brings together local government, police, community groups and drug and alcohol practitioners, to reduce drug related harm across Westminster and Camden. LDAN organised and facilitated WEDP meetings in 2005, and continues to play an active part in the practitioners forum.



LDAN sits on the London Resettlement Strategy's drug and health working groups. The strategy is being piloted in Wormwood Scrubs

Working in Partnership

WOMEN and TREATMENT

Conference highlights need to improve services

Women face particular barriers to accessing treatment and are regarded as under represented among drug and alcohol service users. Why this should continue to be the case was examined at the Improving the Options for Women conference.

Organised by LDAN, in partnership with the Greater London Alcohol and Drug Alliance (GLADA) and Stella Project, the conference was attended by over one hundred frontline workers, who during the course of the day, put their heads together and pooled their collective expertise to identify how to dismantle barriers.

These were highlighted in the conference report published in July 2005, *Alcohol and Drugs in London: Improving the Options for Women*. This recommended that the National Treatment Agency work with providers and commissioners to improve service provision for all women, including sex workers, women from BME communities, women who are pregnant or have children, and women living with HIV.

It recommended that an audit be carried out of treatment services in London, to map the provision of childcare facilities and flexible opening hours, and further, that the Home Office undertake research into the numbers and retention levels of women entering treatment through the Drugs Intervention Programme. The report also highlighted the need for a resource guide outlining what support services are available for substance misusing women in London.

The Improving Options for Women conference highlighted the important role service users have to play in improving service provision, and the need for agencies to listen more to service users so they can meet their needs.

Following the event, GLADA in conjunction with LDAN and the Stella Project, set up a womens' service users advisory group, to improve women service users input in drug and alcohol treatment in London. As well as raising issues, the group will troubleshoot problems around treatment access. As part of its continued commitment to promoting service user participation, LDAN is providing office facilities for the group.

Building Capacity

Increasing demands are made of drug and alcohol agencies in what is an increasingly competitive field. LDAN helps member agencies build capacity by running affordable training courses and seminars, and providing platforms to advertise job vacancies.

First Line Managers Course

LDAN's highly regarded First Line Managers course had another successful year. Three separate courses were held and as usual feedback from those attending was very positive.

"Doing the course has highlighted areas I need to work on and helped refocus my priorities," said one participant. "The key to the success of the programme was the trainer...she was excellent," said another. Someone else observed that "the atmosphere was respectful and it felt safe to ask any question".

The course is aimed at those who have recently taken up management positions. It gives those new to management the opportunity to explore their development needs, and develop skills to improve their day to day practice.

The first line managers course is part-time and runs over four sessions, that focus on "managing yourself", "managing staff", "managing change" and "managing for the future".

Training

The publication of the Government's response to Hidden Harm highlighted the needs of children of substance misusers. LDAN turned its attention to the subject in July 2005 when it ran a training day for drug and alcohol workers working with children. The skills development training, run in conjunction with Wendy Robinson consultancy, increased workers knowledge of how parental substance



A workshop group at the Women and Alcohol seminar

use affects children and young people, and looked at strategies for providing support and intervention.

Seminars

LDAN ran a well attended seminar on Women and Alcohol in the summer of 2005. The seminar followed on from the Improving the Options for Women conference, during which delegates expressed the need for alcohol services to be made more aware of the needs of women problem drinkers. Topics covered in the course of the event were women-only services versus mixed services; barriers to treatment; reaching BME communities and issues for older women.

In addition, LDAN ran a successful seminar for workers new to the drug and alcohol fields. "Drugs and Alcohol from the Top" briefed new workers on the Government's key alcohol and drug policies, and how services have developed in response to them.

Job Vacancies

LDAN provides members with opportunities to advertise job vacancies for free. Substance misuse agencies can advertise jobs on our website www.ldan.org.uk, and the dedicated recruitment page in our monthly newsletter, *LDAN News*. Both facilities were well used over the course of the year, proving especially useful for smaller agencies with limited advertising budgets. LDAN is looking at developing both resources over the next year.

Accounts

Income and expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2005

	2005	2004
Income:		
Association of London Government grant	141,206	141,103
Other Grants:	26,123	90,677
Other income:	40,330	37,757
Total income:	207,659	269,537
Expenditure:		
Staff costs:	137,265	135,122
Office costs:	45,971	53,648
Projects:	35,254	55,319
Total Expenditure:	218,490	244,089
Net (Expenditure)/Income:	(10,831)	25,448
Balance brought forward 1 April 2004	48,783	
Balance brought forward 1 April 2005	37,952	



This provides a summary of LDAN's accounts for 2004/2005. If you would like a full copy of the audited accounts, write to LDAN, Unit 8B, New North House, Canonbury Business Centre, 202-208 New North Road, London N1 7BJ

THANKS

Many thanks to our funders over the past year:

Association of London Government

Kings Fund

Awards for All

And to all those who LDAN has worked with over the past year - some of of whom are pictured on the front cover:

Bernadette Cahill (DAF), Ian May (Core Trust), Ira Campbell (ACAPS), Jan Jenkins (CRI), Helen Corkin (DASL), Delano Giovanni (LDAN administrator until Oct 2005), Chris Ford (GP, board member), Allan Johnstone (NTA), Dezlee Dennis (London Probation), Annie Mae Shaw (Rugby House), Julian Madeley (Lambeth Aftercare team), Sharon Hawley (East London and City Mental Health Trust), David Hughes (Equinox, board member), Paul Ferry (Westminster Drugs Project), Bob Bharij (Addaction), Debbie Lindsey (CDP), Gary Seaman (Merton DAT), Jean Pender (board member), Gayle Jones (St Mungos), Rick Rutkowski (The Alliance), Martin Delaney (Axe Street Project), Katy Swaine (Release), Alex Hall (DASL), Jonathan Akuwe (Involve), Sally Martin (CNWL), Brian Watts (Equinox), Erin O'Mara (Black Poppy magazine), Colin Standfield (Battling Addictions Together, board member), Karen Bailey (Stella project), Don Shenker (Alcohol Concern), Sharon Peppard (Westminster DAT), Rachel Hassan (WDP), Martin Brown (CDP), Penny Chequer (Southwark Users Council), Libby Ranzetta (Ranzetta Consulting), Viv Evans (Adfam), Kevin Crowley (CRI), Jo Searle (Odyssey Trust, board member), Bhavna Abbi (EACH), Deirdre Boyd (Addiction Today), Rupert Bailie (Government Office of London), Nur Abdillahi (Croydon Somali Community Association), Kerry Herbert (WEDP), Tiras Newbould (ARP), David Mackintosh (London Drug Policy Forum), Laura Juett (GLA), Kate Hall (Turning Point), Adam Salmon (Connections at St Martins), Lynn Bransby (NTA), Phil Morris (Hungerford Project), Miranda Coates (The Amalfi Partnership), Sally Scriminger (ARP), Andy Stonard (Rugby House, board member), Cristina Osario (Adfam) and Clive Diedrick (Stockwell Project). Thanks also to Darian Mitchell (London Probation) - not pictured

LDAN STAFF

chief executive:

Shona Beaton

communications manager:

Roseanne Sweeney

membership coordinator:

Shona Flannigan

administrator:

Jim Bishop

LDAN BOARD

Robyn Doran (chair)

Chris Ford

David Hughes

Mike Jones (resigned July 2005)

Peter O'Loughlin

Sandra Machado

Jean Pender

Jo Searle

Andrew Simon

Andy Stonard

Colin Standfield

Jason Wright

Accountants:

Myrus Smith,

Old Inn House,

2 Carshalton Road,

Sutton,

Surrey

SM1 4SR

LDAN Registered Office:

Unit 8B,

New North House,

Canonbury Business Centre,

202-208 New North Road,

London N1 7BJ

Tel: 020 7704 0004

Fax: 020 7359 1317

Email: info@ldan.org.uk

Website: www.ldan.org.uk



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BY ROSEANNE SWEENEY
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