

MEMBERS UPDATE

WINTER 2012

Prize draw for new member recruits

AWP's FT membership is more than 16,000 and ahead of our governor elections we would like to have even more members!

The more people who become members the better and the more representative our membership will be of the communities we serve. Everyone who is a member will also be able to vote in the governor elections to be held later this year.

Can you help expand our membership? Have you friends or family who would like to follow your example by supporting mental health services and becoming a member?

If so, take part in our 2012 Member get Member promotion which runs from 16 January to 16 March 2012 and gives you the chance of winning a £25 Tesco voucher. Any member who recruits new members will be entered into the draw.

Just write your name and FT membership ID on the new member's application form (or your RVN number if an AWP employee) so we know that you introduced them. If your friends prefer to use the online form (www.awp.nhs.uk/membership), all they need to do is let you know that they have registered and for you to call the membership office with your friend's name and date of birth.

For each member you sign up, you will have an entry into the draw. So for example if you sign up five new members, you will have five opportunities to win! There is no limit to the number of times you can enter.

Full terms and conditions of this promotion are available on our website and on request from the membership office.



Learning more about mental health

Two FT member events will be held in Wiltshire in the spring – in Green Lane Hospital, Devizes on 1 March and in Chippenham on 18 May.

These follow the success of the members' event held at Bristol's Callington Road Hospital at the end of last year.

Those attending were encouraged to give feedback so that future member events would be of maximum interest. Some 58 per cent said the November event had fully met their expectations. Most people said they had learned from the event and no one said their expectations had not been met. The art and music workshops were praised, as were the stories told by service users and carers about their experiences.

Plans are also being made for events to be held in Weston super Mare, Swindon, Bath and Bristol and dates will be published soon.



Mental health research seminar

A free lunchtime seminar is being held for mental health service users or carers with an interest in mental health research on Friday 16 March at Canynge Hall, University of Bristol. The seminar is open to anyone who has had experience of mental illness and who has an interest in finding out more about collaborative working and a willingness to share ideas with researchers. If you are interested in attending or would like to find out more please contact Nathan.Filer@bristol.ac.uk or telephone him on: 01173 313 368.

Quality Account

Each year the Trust produces its quality account which reviews performance and identifies the quality priorities for the coming year. We would welcome feedback from members on last year's quality account which is available on our website. Just email ann.tweedale@awp.nhs.uk with any comments. We will be asking members who are happy to receive information by email and to be consulted on developments to comment on the quality priorities for the coming year before they are finalised.



Avon and Wiltshire **NHS**
Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

QUALITY ACCOUNT
2010/11

If you have any comments about this update or would like to get more involved please get in touch.

Drug trials

A new drug called Gantenerumab that could slow down Alzheimer's Disease in its early stages is being tested in AWP's Kingshill Research Centre in Swindon. The drug is intended for patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment who do not yet have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's but who may go on to develop the disease. Kingshill has been carrying out clinical trials for 20 years and has participated in the studies for all the current licensed drugs for Alzheimer's. To take part in the trial, please contact kingshill.research@awp.nhs.uk or telephone 01793 327 954.

Trust website

Service users, carers and the public will have easier access to information about AWP activities and mental health issues when the Trust launches its new website in April. A wide range of people have been involved in helping to shape the site, including FT carer and service user members. The aim is to make the new site as user friendly as possible and to enable those searching the site to find the information they seek or to be directed to alternative sources.

Support for veterans

The South West Veterans Mental Health Service, a new partnership between AWP and Combat Stress, has been launched. The aim of this innovative service is to deliver improved care and support to former service personnel who suffer mental health problems as a result of their military experiences. With the South West hosting approximately 42,000 serving service personnel and a high number of veterans, support of this kind is clearly needed. One of the key tools of the new service is the website www.swveterans.org.uk which offers advice, guidance, links, comments from other veterans and a helpline number allowing veterans or their families to self-refer to support services.

Contact us:
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" enabling and empowering people to reach their potential and live fulfilling lives "

Trust vision