

Be the change – the sixth national service user involvement conference

9am-10am: Registration and refreshments

10.00am-11.15am: Opening session, chaired by [Alex Boyt](#)

- Drug use as a specific health issue, a service user's perspective.
Speaker tbc.
- [Steve Brinksman](#): a family GP's view of how drug and alcohol treatment should fit into the new public health framework.
- Head of Drugs and Alcohol at the Department of Health Chris Heffer: the place of drug and alcohol treatment in the public health framework.

Questions from the floor.

11.15am-11.45am: Refreshments

11.45am-12.45am: Practical workshops, focusing on essential information and skills.

Choose between:

Employment and enterprise

- Mhairi Doyle, social inclusion manager, Jobcentre Plus.
- [Amar Lodhia](#), chief exec of The Small Business Consultancy (supporting people from disadvantaged backgrounds to become entrepreneurs): tackling social mobility and unemployment through business and enterprise.

The right to treatment

- How to deal with services' requests for reducing scripts.
- Steve Brinksman GP on medically assisted recovery and communicating with health professionals in an informed way.
- [Ken Stringer](#) on asserting your rights to appropriate treatment.
- Input from Francis Cook of [The National User Network](#) on getting the right healthcare.

Setting up and managing a group

- Kevin Jaffray, [London User Forum](#).
- Peter Yarwood, [Lancashire User Forum](#), on fundraising for group survival.

Asset-based recovery

A rousing interactive session led by [Alistair Sinclair](#) on exploring commonality while celebrating difference.

How to engage

- Mark Brown from [One in Four](#), on recovery and engagement in the mental health field.

- Nigel Brunsdon from [HIT](#) and [Injecting Advice](#) on tips and tricks for social networking.

12.45pm-2.00pm: Lunch and activities

- Service user and provider exhibitions.
- Workforce and social enterprise zone.
- Alternative therapy zone.
- Open meetings with NUN and other organizations.
- Live music .
- Open mic 'Soapbox' area.
- Drop-in suggestion wall.
- Harm Reduction café.

2.00pm-3.30pm: Interactive session, chaired by [Carole Sharma](#).

- Several short service user (individual or group) presentations, demonstrating inspiring personal stories of change and recovery.
- Mics will then be passed to delegates from the floor to have their chance to tell the conference what change means to them.

3.10pm: Final 'wrap-up' speaker: [Sara McGrail](#), summarising the action points, the need to lobby and be heard, and reiterating the positive messages from the day.

3.30pm: Finish and free entry to the [Motorbike Museum](#)

Free shuttle buses will run to the station from 3.30pm onwards.