

2007/2008

- Review the issues experienced in delivering training to staff from Mental Health Services
- Provide further training to meet the needs of staff within Mental Health Services countywide.
- Deaf awareness training and BSL will be incorporated into the training directory for each NHS Trust in Cumbria.
- Social Services will be undertaking a research programme researching the needs of those who are deaf blind.
- A staff handbook is being developed, to assist staff in the NHS to meet the needs of deaf people
- An audit of technical equipment will be carried out to determine what needs to change to make the NHS accessible to people who are deaf

For the purposes of this report, the term 'Deaf' covers: Deaf, Deafened, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing.

Mental Health and Deafness

Annual Report 2006 – 2007

'Towards Equity and Access'

A partnership between:

Cumbria 

 
Cumbria Deaf Association Patient Advice Liaison Service


Cumbria
County Council

“Did you know 40% of deaf people experience mental health problems, compared to 20% of hearing people?”

Achievements

- Cumbria Partnership NHS Trust has adopted the Deaf Mental Health Charter produced by Sign and the Mental Health Foundation.
- 54 members of staff from a wide range of services within the PCT have now received training in Communications Tactics.

“This was a well thought out and worthwhile course. It highlighted a lot of things we do in the dental branch which is unfriendly towards people with hearing impairment.”

- 50 of these staff gained a national recognised Level 1 certificate, accredited by the Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People.
- Members of the project team represented Cumbria at the National Mental Health and Deafness Conference held in Newcastle
- For World Mental Health Day, CDA hosted an information stand in Carlisle City Hall displaying information about the project and the work of CDA
- CDA built a new dedicated area on their website concentrating on the issue of mental health and deafness; see <http://www.cumbriadeaf.co.uk>

- Interpreters working for CDA attended Mental Health Interpreting training in York and Direct Payments training, provided by Social Services.
- For Deaf Awareness Week, Cumbria Hearing Alliance hosted an information marquee in Carlisle City Centre concentrating on depression. PALS joined them and provided a range of self help information. Staff from the Audiology Department at Cumberland Infirmary were also there to give advice and information.

Challenges

Changes in services:

The group was primarily set up to tackle the subject of mental health and deafness within North Cumbria, in October 2006 the PCT and Mental Health Services adopted a countywide remit which provided challenges for the group relating to provision of the project and funding for the project. The group now follows the same countywide remit.

Accessing training:

Getting staff from mental health services to access the training provided under this project was a big issue. Many sessions had to be cancelled.