

THE PAN LONDON PRIMARY CARE NETWORK FOR SUBSTANCE MISUSE (PANN)

*In collaboration with SMMGP & the RCGP Certificate
in the Management of Drug Misuse*

Regional Lead and Chair of PANN Dr Chris Ford

Background

The Pan London Primary Care Network for Substance Misuse (PANN) was launched in June 2001. It was formed as a forum to provide, for GPs and others working with drug users in primary care in London, training, support and policy updates and to provide on-going support to health professionals working within the London Shared Care Schemes.

2003 onwards

The meetings were expanded to recognise that PANN had developed into a Network to include people who had undertaken and wanted to take the RCGP Certificate in Drug Dependency and other senior practitioners working in the field of primary care drug treatment. The 3 afternoons a year can form part of practitioners continuing development plan.

It has become a recognised forum for debate and education about current practice and policy for specialist substance misuse practitioners. The meetings are in two parts. The first half is an open general meeting and has a primary topic. The second half the group divides into PCT / DAT or PCTs / DATs areas to look at how the topic under discussion is dealt with in these local areas. Mentors from the RCGP Certificate in Drug Dependency and volunteers from local areas run these smaller groups. These act as ongoing active learning sets for new and old certificate candidates and others from the area.

These groups also act as a forum to discuss local issues, learn together and develop primary care action plans for local areas. Anybody working in those areas can join these groups. Hopefully this has and will continue to lead to improved joint working in local areas, as well as London generally.

Meetings are 3 times/year, have a primary topic (which has been chosen at the preceding meeting) and other current issues are discussed.

The next PANN London Meeting is at the RCGP, Princes Gate on the 21st June 2005.

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Summaries of Previous Meetings April 2003-2004

PANN London Meetings occur 3 times a year and usually have a primary topic (which has been chosen at the preceding meeting). Alongside this other current issues are discussed.

There follows summaries of previous meetings:

June 2003

- Pregnancy in drug users, drug and alcohol using parents: How to manage and what is happening in London and locally?
- Audit of working in a pregnancy/substance misuse liaison clinic
- Assessing risk and child protection issues London wide and locally

October 2003

- Co-morbidity (Dual diagnosis: mental health and substance use): How to manage and what is happening in London?
- What is available for patients with dual diagnosis your area – is it adequate and how can we improve available services?

February 2004

- Injectable prescribing in General Practice – the case for and against.
- What is available for patients who require injectable prescribing in your area and should it be available in primary care?

June 2004

- Developing a variable LES for Alcohol Services in London – was run jointly with LDAN

October 2004

- RCGP/PANN Day on CPD and Appraisal for Doctors working with Drug Users in London
- The appraisal system needed to be a GPwSI was explained and there was an opportunity for service practitioners and commissioners to express the difficulties that they have in understanding the commissioning of drug services under the nGMS contract

November 2004

- General discussion on managing crack use in an opioid treatment programme in Primary Care
- Managing crack users in local shared care schemes or opioid treatment programmes
- Launch of Guidance for Working with Cocaine and Crack Users in Primary Care

March 2005

- Amphetamines, the scale of the problem, treatment interventions and using in cocaine treatment
- Prescribing amphetamines in general practice
- A look at how we manage people using amphetamines and whether they may be a useful treatment for cocaine problems

Other developments in period

1. Links with the NTA:

London NTA Regional leads attend PANN meetings, take part in the discussions and have presented.

2. Links with London Drug & Alcohol Network (LDAN)

Chris Ford is a board member of LDAN as PANN chair and brings the primary care perspective to this Network.

3. Mentor email list:

All current and past mentors for the certificate course are part of an email list to discuss PANN meetings and future developments.

Future developments for PANN

1. Develop PANN London Network on SMMGP website

- Details of forthcoming meetings
- Minutes of meetings
- Copies of presentations
- Interactive forum for discussion between meetings

2. Place PANN Information on RCGP website (May 2004)

- Details of forthcoming meetings
- Minutes of meetings

Contact Details

To join the PANN mailing list and receive information on future meetings or events, to suggest a topic for future meetings or to ask any questions please use the contact details below:

General Enquiries

tinkelaar@rcgp.org.uk

Dr Chris Ford

PANN Chair

chrishelen.ford@virgin.net

Heather Walker

PANN Vice Chair

Heather.walker@thpct.nhs.uk

Tom Inkelaar

PANN
Administrator

tinkelaar@rcgp.org.uk

020 7173 6090

Websites:

www.rcgp.org.uk/drug/index.asp

SMMGP (Substance Misuse Management in General Practice)

website www.smmgp.org.uk