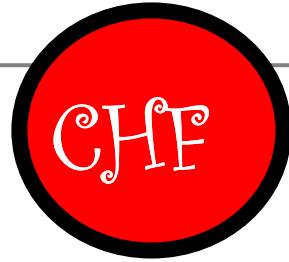


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# CAMDEN HOMELESSNESS FORUM



**E-Bulletin January 17<sup>th</sup> 2010**

Dear Camden Homelessness Forum (CHF) members, welcome to the January 2011 CHF E-Bulletin

**Date for the Next Camden Homelessness Forum meeting**  
Tuesday 8th March **2011** (10-12.30pm)

**Happy New Year to all Forum Members**

***Sadly funding for the Camden Homelessness Forum (CHF) will be discontinued in March 2011 and CHF will thus cease functioning on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.***

Can I use this opportunity to thank all the members of CHF that have facilitated the work of the forum for over a decade and particularly those who have been of personal help to me since starting the role as Homelessness User Participation Worker in September 2009.

We have planned one last meeting for the forum on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011. I hope to see you all there!

Please note that all other dates set for 2011 CHF meetings (in July and November) no longer apply.

***Please see below some more information that might be of interest to you, colleagues and/or your service users.***

*Kind Regards*

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## 1. CHF News

### **Camden Housing Strategy**

As most of you are aware, Camden Housing Strategy which was produced in 2005, has come to the end of its lifecycle. Camden is in the process of preparing a Housing Strategy for 2011-2016 which is the vision for housing in the Camden area.

### **An 'imperfect' time line sketch for the new Camden Housing Strategy**

- Agreed the process Oct/Nov 2010
- Gathering evidence –Oct/Nov/Dec 2010
- Consultation phase 1- Dec-Jan 2011
- Set and review parameters, principles and priorities phase 1 -Jan-Feb 2011
- Gather and review evidence and information phase 2 -Feb-March 2011
- Consultation phase 2 –April 2011
- Draft expected from end of Feb/March to June 2011
- Goes to cabinet July and publication for July/Aug 2011

Camden (and partners) will:

- assess and plan for the current and future housing needs of Camden residents,
- make the best use of existing housing in the Borough,
- increase the supply of new housing where possible,
- deliver housing support services to those most in need, and
- effectively manage Camden neighbourhoods and housing environments.

Camden resident's comments are being invited. **Please encourage pathway users to be involved** as their views will help to shape Camden's housing strategy 2011 – 2016. Click on this link to the [housing strategy consultation on the Council website](#).

### **Government's New Drug Strategy Launched**

The Government's "2010 drug strategy: Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery: supporting people to live a drug-free life" was launched on 8 December 2010 by The Home Office. The Home Office describes it as a "major change to government policy" and "a fundamentally different

approach", claiming to put "more responsibility on individuals" through "a more holistic approach".

[Read more on the Home Office website...](#)

The 'promised' briefing on 'Caps to Local Housing Allowance' will be available by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan on CHF website

<http://www.vac.org.uk/networks/homelessness-forum>

## **2. Consultations, Policy, Strategy, Research and Good Practice Examples**

### **Earn money for Organisation/Clients**

#### **Research Project Needs Response (Urgent)**

The research is a Community Survey on People's Wellbeing and Social Inclusion. Studies are happening in London, Liverpool, Tokyo and Melbourne, using the 'Community Carte' approach.

The aim is to provide person-specific helpful information based upon systematic questionnaire response analyses, which enables people to understand their strengths and vulnerabilities towards their own wellbeing.

The planned sample size for the survey is 300 in total from two neighbourhood areas in Camden Borough. The researchers are looking for 2 partner organisations in each area willing to participate in the project and collect 75 questionnaire responses from those aged over 18 years.

Honorarium to partner organisations is 10 Pounds for each completed survey questionnaire (maximum total 750 Pounds). In addition, the researchers will pay 6 Pounds per person as an incentive for persons to complete the questionnaire.

The deadline is fast approaching (end of February 2011) when responses will have to have been collected and input into the system.

For more information, contact Emiko Kusakabe, Bartlett School of Planning, PhD Programme, University College London **or** Prof. Motoo Kusakabe, Ritsumeikan

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### **Camden Homelessness Forum conducting Outreach/Mapping around Training Needs and User Involvement Initiatives**

Camden Homelessness Forum is continuing outreach to organisations working around homelessness, to gather information on organisational training needs and to understand the range of user involvement initiatives and good practice in the borough. If you would be open to having Gloria Oham, the forum worker come to your organisation to have a brief chat with you, please contact her on 0207 284 6577 or email [goham@vac.org.uk](mailto:goham@vac.org.uk)

### **Camden's Private Renting Scheme now published**

Camden has published the results of the research carried out by Ipsos MORI, aimed at assessing satisfaction with Camden's Private Renting Scheme and its impact on users' wellbeing. Some key findings are as follows:

- About two thirds of respondents felt they had choice over the location and size of their home and were satisfied with their home, its state of repair and the overall service provided by their landlord.
- Fewer than one in five tenancies had ended and the large majority of those in a planned way, with people moving to alternative, stable accommodation
- Just over half were satisfied with being a private rented sector tenant.
- About three in five intended to move in the next two years, with a majority hoping to secure social housing.
- Fewer than one in five were in employment, household incomes were low, and more than two in five were struggling to cope on them. Some mentioned the struggle of adjusting to managing a household budget and being responsible for utility bills.

More at <http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/housing/housing-policy-and-strategies/private-renting-scheme-research.en>

## **3. Meetings & Events**

### **Surviving the Cuts**

*8 February 2011 in London*

This conference will:

- explore the pressures that agencies are facing and share resulting strategies to deal with them
- share practical ways to safeguard your service and deliver the required efficiencies
- explore new opportunities that these changes will create
- look at how you can demonstrate the difference that you make in order to generate support for your work
- empower you to change through campaigning and local influencing.

Call to book your place on 020 7840 4461 or [e mail Homelesslink](#) or [book online](#).

### **The Mental Health Information & Networking Session**

The first Mental Health Information & Networking Session will be held on Tuesday 18 January 2011, from 10am to 12pm, at the Kentish Town Health Centre, 2 Bartholomew Road, London NW5 2BX.

The Mental Health Information & Networking Session is open to the Camden-wide community, including community organisations, service providers and service users. It aims to provide a place for people to meet others with an interest in mental health issues, and to have an opportunity to discuss these issues with one another. There will also be plenty of opportunity for networking following the presentations.

If you are a community organisation, service provider or service users and you would like to give a presentation at one of our forthcoming Information & Networking Sessions, please contact Jocelyn Devlin as soon as possible. Also, if your organisation would like to host one of the Sessions at your premises, please contact Jocelyn on 020 7284 6563 or email [jdevlin@vac.org.uk](mailto:jdevlin@vac.org.uk)

## **4. Learning & Development Opportunities**

### **FREE Mental Health courses at VAC**

All Mental Health courses at VAC are FREE from January to March 2011, except for Mental Health First Aid (£15). For more details and an application form go to [www.vac.org.uk](http://www.vac.org.uk)

Ignore the published price and on the application form just write 'Free' in the fee column.

### **TB in Your Community: Seminars for Third Sector Leaders**

These FREE half-day seminars will explore rising levels of tuberculosis in communities that experience health inequalities. The seminars will introduce The Truth About TB, a new national programme of training and resources to support third sector organisations in building awareness of TB into their work with affected communities.

To find out more or to book, please contact the community development officer: South and East - Laetitia Crouzil, [laetitia.crouzil@tbalert.org](mailto:laetitia.crouzil@tbalert.org), or [bookings@tbalert.org](mailto:bookings@tbalert.org), 020 8834 0246, 07581 497164

Seminar participants will receive a multilingual TB awareness DVD and other TB awareness resources to share with their staff teams.

## **5. Activities/Services for Service Users**

### **Cardboard Citizens Drama Workshops**

The homeless people's theatre company has just started a new term of workshops. Participants who commit to the workshops will have the opportunity to perform at public events. All levels of experience are welcome and the workshops are open access. Spread the word!

#### **Act Now:**

Every Monday, 6pm-9pm. For young people aged 16-25.  
The Courtyard Theatre, 40 Pitfield St, London, N1 6EU  
£5 travel expenses provided

#### **Forum Theatre:**

Every Wednesday, 6pm-8pm  
Crisis Skylight, 66 Commercial Street, London E1 6LT

#### **Acting for Theatre And for Life:**

Every Monday, 3pm-5pm  
Crisis Skylight, 66 Commercial Street, London E1 6LT

For more information about the workshops please contact Mike on 020 7247 7747 or [mike@cardboardcitizens.org.uk](mailto:mike@cardboardcitizens.org.uk)  
[www.cardboardcitizens.org.uk](http://www.cardboardcitizens.org.uk)

## **6. Resources**

### **Census 2011 and Homeless People**

The census provides essential information from national to neighbourhood level for government, business, and the community. The 2011 Census takes place on 27 March 2011. Census staff dedicated to counting homeless people will need the co-operation of hostels and day centres and will give practical assistance to homeless people with questionnaire completion.

[Read more on the Homeless Link website...](#)

### **Christians Against Poverty (CAP) opens new debt counselling centre for Camden and Islington**

CAP has won awards for its work. It offers free home visit debt counselling to all. Their personal and long-term approach empowers people to get out of debt and learn budgeting skills with great success. Almost 90% of clients pay all their bills and debts on time every month, with the same number saying

that the help offered was life transforming or a great help. To book an appointment, call free on 0800 328 0006. Or for more information email [nicolavimalanathan@capuk.org](mailto:nicolavimalanathan@capuk.org)

**CHF January 17<sup>th</sup> 2011**