

SMALL VOICES

The UK Federation of Smaller Mental Health Agencies

e- News #1

9th September 2005

Web site www.ukfed.org.uk

email ukfed@ontheside.org

Messageboard : www.smartgroups.com/groups/smallvoices.org

Invitation to the 2005 AGM

To be held on Saturday 8th October at 1.00 pm
at the Red Lion Hotel, Spalding

*For agenda see overleaf and for
map see separate page*

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR VOTING MEMBERS

Since its incorporation in 1996 the UK Federation has maintained its policy of free membership subject only to a £10 guarantee in case of our insolvency, a guarantee which is necessary in law for full members

Our early success in gaining over 250 member groups has given us a problem in that many members cannot afford to attend the AGM. Others have lost interest in the Federation and so the 2004 AGM quoracy was uncertain, casting doubt on its decisions..

Under Article 5 the committee has the right to remove groups from membership for good reason subject to a right of appeal. The committee has now decided that it is vital to protect our legal quoracy and with immediate effect is limiting voting membership to groups who have been in contact with us in the year preceding an AGM and supply us with an email address. For the foreseeable future most of our services and notices will be supplied by email because of our reduced funding.

We are extremely keen to retain a large active membership and we hope you will understand and support this necessary change of policy.

**MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO REJOIN AT ANY TIME
BY EMAILING cosec@ontheside.org**

From the Chair

The Federation is alive, well and healthy. (For a personal summary of some of our advances in the past year see our Smart Groups/Small Voices e-board).

As an example of the Federation's grass-roots profile – at a recent national public conference 'Hearing Voices - an Ordinary Experience' the attending professionals, healthcare workers and users/carers welcomed the unique insights of our shared vision. This is only the start of what more we can achieve

Philip Dixon-Phillips

Join the Message Board!

All members for whom we have an email address have now been invited to join our Small Voices Message Board. This is so important to us.

It is the only way we can afford to send out frequent communications and is also meant to enable members to share their good practice and ideas with other. Contributions made in this way will also enable us to achieve the relaunch of our Small Voices magazine.

To get an invitation please email ukfed@ontheside.org

For help see www.ontheside.org/ukfed/messageboard

**The Federation is a UK Limited Company no 3236769 and a registered Charity no 1058342
Registered Office 36 Howard Road Ilford Essex IG1 1E
Trustees: Philip Dixon-Phillips, Phillip Newhouse, John Phelps, Robin Hanau**

Have you missed these?

Our new Message Board is in its early stages but several members have joined and are beginning to make contributions. These include:

- a Notices of two conferences
- a Minutes of meeting with the Minister for Disabled People
- a Invitation to Government consultation on Independent Mental Capacity Advocates
- a Opening shot in a move towards a new Federation plan.
- a Paper from Headlight, Sunderland on experiences with Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.
- a Frank and comradely exchanges on spirituality
- a Proposal to members on resolving the 2004 inquiracy
- a Statutory accounts for 2004, and earlier years

**See the board at www.smartgroups.com/groups/smallvoices.org
or email ukfed@ontheside.org for joining instructions**

THE 2005 AGM BUSINESS

Members will appreciate that after a particularly expensive AGM last year the committee has been forced to decide to have only a minimum business AGM with no catering, accommodation, entertainment or workshops. We hope to work up other events when resources permit..

We will ask the members to consider at least the following business:

- a *The Chair's report*
- a *Minutes of 2004 AGM*
- a *Re-election as Trustee of Mr Phillip Newhouse who retires by rotation under article 39*
- a *Election as Trustee of Mr Robin Hanau who was co-opted in April by the committee under article 42*
- a *Acceptance of the company accounts for 2005 - see them at www.ukfed.org.uk/acc05.htm*
- a *Confirmation of actions taken by the committee to resolve the doubts about inquiracy in 2004.*

If the AGM is inquorate it will be adjourned and reconvened on 15th October at the same time and place

After the AGM concludes the committee and friends will not rush off and members will be very welcome to stay for informal conversations.

£100K Big Lottery Funding for Headlight

Headlight is a user led resource centre in Sunderland and we have succeeded in getting a second three years of funding from the Lottery. We provide a place for self help groups, complementary therapies, courses and training and a listening ear. Members are encouraged to be involved in running the project.

We employ three workers. A couple of years ago we put together our own Model of Recovery. Most of the money goes on the Development Worker's wages. Other costs are: - freelance fees, running costs, information, training of staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, travel and volunteer expenses.

The £100,487 is for three years but only in the first year do we get all the money we need. After that we must get top-up money. This is Lottery policy. However, our Worker is fully funded for three years. The Lottery agreed this was good for continuity. I would add that it is essential to satisfy them with your monitoring system which would include things like numbers benefiting from courses, or who have moved on to volunteering or paid work.

Sent in by Mick Ewing

**Please Email ukfed@ontheside.org
with comments or queries on any matter**