



# THE VOICE

## OAKTREE MANOR PATIENT NEWSLETTER

Oaktree Manor, Learning Disability Services, Tendring Essex

Edition 1 January 2011

### Welcome from the Unit Manager

Welcome to the very first Oaktree Manor Patient Newsletter. Written primarily by the patients at Oaktree Manor, this quarterly newsletter will keep you up to date on all the latest news, views and events in patient treatment and experiences.

In this edition the Patient Forum Chair Person will provide an overview of how the Patient Forum works and the empowerment of patients on site and Jane Byford, Patient Service Manager, explains how Oaktree Manor has developed patient involvement, meaningful activity and the implementation of Recovery Star.

Oaktree Manor prides itself on providing the very best treatment and care for it's patients and the service is very much developed in partnership with the patient. If you would like to find out more about patient involvement and services at Oaktree Manor, please contact Jane Byford on 01255 871 017

**Emma MacKenzie-Bedford - Unit Manager, Oaktree Manor**

### Welcome from the Patient Forum Chairperson

My name is David and I am a patient at Oaktree Manor. I was very proud when I was voted Chairperson of the Patient Forum last year.

The Patient forum consists of elected patients at Oaktree Manor who meet monthly to discuss important issues for all the patients on our road to recovery. We have a real voice here at Oaktree Manor and also nationally to remind others that people with a learning disability also become mentally unwell and can come to Oaktree Manor for the period of treatment and then return to our jobs, families and the community. A lot of patients moved on this year and I would like to celebrate their recovery and also thank everyone for their support.

2010 was another successful year for the Patient Forum and we have worked alongside the Senior Management Team at Oaktree Manor in making changes for patients. The newsletter is a way for us to communicate some of our achievements and how we have fun at Oaktree Manor.

**David – Patient Forum Chairman**





## FOOD AND DINING EXPERIENCE

For a number of years now the Patient Forum Chairperson has met monthly with the Head Chef at Oaktree Manor. The Patient Forum developed this further and has now invited each Charge Nurse on the wards, the Clinical Nurse Manager, Support Services Manager and the Patient Services Manager.

A Patient Forum member always attends these meetings and will review the menus to improve and develop a healthy diet for all and how the service can be developed. These meetings are not only about the food at Oaktree Manor but also the environment which we eat in and with the staff. Anyone will tell you that most complaints are always about food and it is difficult to please so many different people. The Patient Forum has worked hard and the outcomes have been amazing.

**Sally – Patient Forum Member**

## THE BIGGER HEALTH DAY

The main goal this year for the Patient Forum was to attend national conferences to express their views and influence the people who make decisions for people with learning disabilities in eastern England.



Ian and Sally, two Patient Forum members, attended a conference on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in Bury St Edmunds which was held by the East of England as part of a 'formal consultation on the proposed Vision for Better Health and Wellbeing for People with a Learning Disability and their Families'. The event looked at the healthcare received for people with a learning disability to ensure they have the same Rights as other people.

Some of the issues discussed were how to provide information, education and support to families by 2013, to use a single equality assessment and support young people to move to adult services. We feel it is really important that all hospitals should employ nurses whose job it is to help provide the best services for people with a learning disability.

"This was a great day and we all hope it will come true to enable all of us to finish our roads to recovery" – Sally

**Jane – Patient Services Manager**