

# Mental Health News

## Collective Voice listens in Manchester

The Mental Health News e-bulletin is a daily bulletin issued by the Mental Health Improvement Programme (MHIP) containing an item relating to a Mental Health issue, development or outcome in the North West.

The aim is to bring awareness to our stakeholders about service improvement and innovative projects underway in Mental Health across the North West, and to encourage you (the reader) to act as vehicle for ensuring that you or your organisation is engaged with the work where applicable.

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Collective Voice North West held its 2<sup>nd</sup> sub regional conference on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009 in Manchester. The event attracted an audience of more than 100 people with mental illness and their families, commissioners and partner agencies. The theme of the conference was 'Anti Stigma and Discrimination' and the keynote speaker was Sarah Taylor-Peace from *Time to Change*. Attendees engaged in workshops on combating stigma, providing an opportunity for individuals to share their personal experiences and to devise an action plan for tackling discrimination.

Three key actions have been fed back and will be taken forward at a related combating stigma event in Manchester on 26<sup>th</sup> November for mental health professionals and employees from NHS Trusts and PCTs.

During the day attendees shared their stories with *Patient Opinion* and the Collective Voice website was launched, for further information visit: [www.uclan.ac.uk/collectivevoice](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/collectivevoice) There was also an opportunity to comment on the government's 'New Horizons' report invited individuals to be filmed for a series of short video clips, which will be sent on to the DoH on behalf of Collective Voice.

Feedback from the event was extremely positive with people feeling more involved and a general consensus for making Collective Voice happen – influencing change!

Future events :  
21<sup>st</sup> January 2010 - Chester  
21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 - Cumbria  
6<sup>th</sup> July 2010 - Manchester / Liverpool  
9<sup>th</sup> October 2010 - UCLan, Preston

For more information about getting involved or to book a place on the next event: [www.uclan.ac.uk/collectivevoice](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/collectivevoice) or e-mail: [collectivevoice@rethink.org](mailto:collectivevoice@rethink.org)

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