**Evaluation Feedback**

**Recovery Focused Conference – 6th September 2013**

Out of 214 delegates, 66 evaluation forms were returned and the feedback is as follows:

**Presenters and delivery of the sessions including keynotes**

The presenters delivered a wide variety/rich menu of sessions. Most were planned and provoked much interest and discussion.

Rachel Perkins was inspiring!

Angela Warren – A very brave personal account and excellent visual aids

Andy Bradley was absolutely fantastic. His message was incredible.

Kevan Jones – great empathy for service users and an interesting perspective on mental health particularly in relation to employment

Geoff Shepherd was excellent and well placed at the end of the day around Recovery – attendance to his lecture was impressive.

Many of the sessions were excellent – especially Corinne Maskell’s “Tree of Life”, Adam Pickles session, EFT session by Tony Stewart and in particular the sessions involving service users experience – so valuable and inspiring.

I was able to take something away from every presentation I attended throughout the day.

Excellent range of presentations and some really esteemed speakers!

Would have liked to have received handouts as got distracted writing notes. Wished I could have attended more presentations.

Lots of talks from practice – would have like more from academic/research-based evidence

Learning a lot and inspired with some new ideas.

I thought the short length of the presentations would be a problem but actually it meant that it gave you a taster which you could follow up later. Keynotes were great!

Time management was well organised but inevitably over-runs were noticed and caused some disruption.

**Expectations prior to the event and if these were met**

I expected to hear a lot about many different areas, to learn new things and to network. All of these were met.

Exceeded expectations!

Very motivating and generated lots of positive energy

I wasn’t sure how the day would run but I was excited by the prominent keynote speakers and the subjects covered. I was not disappointed!

The day exceeded my expectations – much improved on previous UDMH conference.

Vastly exceeded my expectations as I was worried before coming that the amount of content could be addressed.

I have been inspired to continue recovery work.

Pleasantly surprised that delegates came from a wide range of disciplines within mental health services and from far away.

**Changes and improvements to future events**

Timing between speakers was too short which meant that I missed the start of several presentations.

Too much crammed into one day. Two presentations in each session instead of three would have been better: more quality, less quantity

Would have been more beneficial to have fewer, more in-depth workshops/presentations with more interaction from the audience.

Would have been better to have 2 x 30 minute presentations in each slot as presenters seemed rushed and there wasn’t enough time for discussion.

Would seem so much more worthwhile if there was an action plan resulting from this conference

A little more time to move between rooms.

Needed roving microphones

Delegate list could have listed more details eg how to contact presenter, email addresses, etc

Would have liked to have viewed the abstracts before the event to help and inform which presentations to attend.

I was told I had to stay in one room for all 3 sessions but other people were coming and going which was disruptive.

It would have been better to hold conference over 2 days – more time and more opportunity to attend higher number of presenttions.

Too late in the day to have the final keynote speaker.

It would have been good to have the posters listed and an allocated time when the author could have stood by them and answer questions.

Workshops could have been more interactive.

Repeating some of the presentations at different points in the day would have been good. More input from the third sector – what are charities doing?

Voluntary sector representation was small.

I struggled to find the precise address of the conference in the emails I received.

I booked very late but would have hoped for some confirmation of my attendance other than the automated receipt as it was particularly difficult to find the venue.

**Further comments**

Overall an excellent day. Thank you BU and UDMH!!

I found the lack of social work perspective to be disappointing

I received no joining information regarding the conference. However our contact Kim Meldrum was very helpful in providing all that we needed.

I really enjoyed the day – thanks for the inspiration. I feel hopeful.

Can’t wait to attend next year’s event.

Please send out the slides of the presentations.

The organisers were generous in creating space for “positive spirit”.

I have really enjoyed the day. Professionally executed and good advice and instruction given by staff.

The very economical price has been key in me being able to attend.