



THE HOUSING & SUPPORT SECTOR BRIEFING

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DRUGS: ARE THEY THE REAL THING? See inside Issue 5

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Inside This Issue

[Legislative Shorts](#): Lorraine Brown summarises the key legislative developments of relevance to the sector

[Editorial: Tendering & Procurement](#): where will it take us? Michael Patterson asks the questions

[Incapacity Benefits Bill Hits £500m](#): Kris Key Reports

[More Unhelpful Speculation](#): Kris Key follows up on the last Issue's report on empty new build properties

[More Provision for Travellers Required](#): Kris Key on research into the needs of Traveller communities

[Life Expectancy Gap Widens](#): Kris Key with some new statistics

[Drugs: How they stole my Life and How You can learn from my Experience](#): James McMullen asks you to let him show and tell

[Liability to Pay Housing Benefit – There May Be Trouble Ahead](#): Danny Key examines strategies adopted by HB Departments to avoid their obligations to pay claims

[Engagement with Service Users: Empowerment through Creativity](#): Paul Rees reports on his own novel, practical and very successful means of engaging with "hard to reach" service users

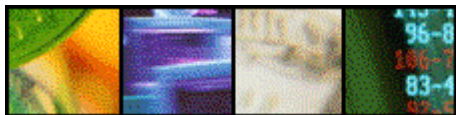
[The Limits of Power](#): Paul Key on the bureaucracy associated with the benefits system

[Outcome Measurement](#): John Hodges on the DCLG's proposals

[International Women's Day 8th March 2007](#): International partnership working between The Women's Crisis Centre Ekaterina, and UK charity The Haven Wolverhampton

[The Floating Support Poll](#): Wow! That was a hit. Here's a selection of your views, and there's still time to vote.

[Letters](#): you have your say



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Just click on the links to the right of the page above to take you to the articles you want to read.

This month has seen the report of the [RSA Commission on Illegal Drugs, Communities & Public Policy](#) and this issue of The Briefing includes 2 articles related to substance misuse: a hard hitting account of a life of drugs and crime from James McMullen and an account of creative engagement with the victims of drugs and sex work by Paul Rees. Both of these articles are also, in their own way, stories from or about service users who've found a voice.

We've also concentrated on tendering & procurement, outcome measurement, Housing Benefit, other issues associated with welfare benefits and much more besides.

We hope you enjoy The Briefing. Contact us on briefing@supportsolutions.co.uk.

Support Solutions has also been busy with the Housing & Support Sector Forum, our FREE online Discussion Forum at www.supportsolutions.co.uk/forum. Please take the time to visit, browse, discuss & debate, learn and network. There's still time to vote in the Floating Support Poll on the Forum.

For information and a booking form for our May training events on "Tendering & Contracting in Supporting People Services" please visit www.supportsolutions.co.uk/training.htm.

If you haven't yet subscribed to The Briefing but you would like to just click [here](#). It's FREE!

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© Paul Rees 2007: Crack House
Through the window you can see the
Probation Office



© Paul Rees 2007: Help!
Discarded "works" (syringes & needles)