

## Primary Care Health Convention 2018

The convention took place at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre, 16 – 17<sup>th</sup> May, with nearly six thousand attendees. The attendees were health professionals from all over the United Kingdom, representing all health professionals, including, general practitioners, nursing, midwifery, paediatricians, mental health professionals, surgeons, etc.

### The stand



We staffed the stand with twelve volunteers, spread over the two days, with four members at least on at one time. All the volunteers, stated that they had enjoyed the experience.

During the event, we spoke to over three hundred professionals, thirty of which were general practitioners, who took our information to display in their surgery waiting rooms, we also spoke to more than fifty practice nurses who discussed doing the same. Coventry, Rugby and Warwick ccg, who were also presenting at the convention, expressed an interest in getting Overeaters Anonymous information to doctors surgeries throughout their area, they were given our contact details and I have made OAGB aware of their interest.

During the convention we spoke to at least fifty podiatrists, they expressed a link because, many of their clients were overweight diabetes sufferers. Many of them suggested that has they spent half an hour an appointment with their clients, over a long period of time, they were able to develop a relationship with their patients, and during their discussions with patients, they were being told by

the patient, that they could stop eating. The podiatrists we spoke to wanted help for these patients. We also spoke to bariatric specialists, who had realised that some of their patients commonly needed surgery more than once, because they couldn't stop eating, I myself spoke to two midwives, that had, had surgery, and realised that it wasn't the answer, because as one said, she "was addicted to food".

I spoke to the Student Health Stand, who invited us to attend their annual conference in Liverpool, 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> July, at the university, they are particularly looking at eating disorders especially obesity. If we cannot attend, they would be happy to display our information. This information was passed to North West England Intergroup, who had already booked a stand.

The National Counselling society expressed interest and would like Overeaters Anonymous to discuss sign posting on their web pages. This information has been passed to OAGB.

#### **Cost break down**

Stand	£1015
Volunteers	£250
Literature	£70

Jane M.  
Primary Care Convention Chair