



## **Evaluation of ESSA Conference 2011**

This event attracted bookings from 104 delegates representing 49 Member Authorities. Unfortunately several cancellations were received in the week leading up to Conference due to unforeseeable local difficulties, such as short staffing and jury service. On the day, delegates from 4 Authorities failed to show up, and one or two other delegates couldn't attend or were substituted at the last minute, meaning that the delegate list was already out of date. In terms of the AGM we were comfortably quorate with 45 Authorities present (quorum being 33% of the current membership of 105). In terms of delegates present, 83 actually attended.

For those of you who have been to these events before you will know that once again this was a decrease in numbers compared to events held prior to 2010. However, numbers were up on last year when many Authorities just couldn't raise the cost of a two day event. The increase was almost certainly due to the offer of one free place followed by heavily subsidised places for additional delegates.

Evaluation forms were included in the pack. 55 forms were returned, representing 66% of the delegates. Percentages referred to in this report are of the 55 returned forms.

Delegates were asked to rate the venue in terms of overall facilities, catering, and ease of access. They were then asked to rate the content of the day, as well as give an overall rating to the Conference. There was also space for general comments about the venue and the event as well as an opportunity to make suggestions for the next Conference.

The responses are described in general in the following sections and shown graphically in Appendix 1.

### **Venue**

This is the fourth time that we have used Aston Business Centre and the venue continues to be rated highly. Overall the venue scored well, 100% of delegates scored the overall facilities and the catering at 4 or 5. Even the person who was stuck due to a lift breakdown and the person who found the bed extremely uncomfortable scored the venue highly overall. Many delegates commented on the helpfulness of the staff and the overall standard of the catering. Ease of



access scoring seems to have improved, many delegates now know the venue and this year they had car parking on site if you booked it in advance. 96% scored ease of access at 4 or 5. However, it is true that if you have not driven there before, it is not the easiest place to find unless you have a map reading passenger or a sat-nav. The venue was originally chosen for its ease of access by public transport, rather than its ease of access by car.

## **Content**

Following feedback from last year, many delegates had asked for information about what other teams were doing and what changes might be taking place. This topic was covered a few years ago, but it seemed timely to look at it again. The day was deliberately planned to be mainly an opportunity for information sharing, and some delegates clearly felt that there should have been some more structure and possibly some presentations from teams who had undergone restructuring. (Something to think about next year perhaps?)

Overall, the majority of delegates welcomed the chance to talk to colleagues from other areas, although it was clear that a few tables were running out of steam by the afternoon. 63% of delegates scored the content at 4 or 5, (55% at 4 and 8% at 5). Typical of the comments made were “very useful networking opportunity”, “uplifting to meet and liaise with other colleagues”, “good to talk to others”, “very relaxed environment”, “Have been able to share e-mails to keep in touch with what we are doing”, “reassuring to know we are all in similar positions”, “difficult to see how it could be done better given massive nature of issue and size of group”, “exciting opportunity to find out about other EDTs”.

Criticisms of the content tended to be around the lack of structure. “Degenerated into gossip”, “needed a bit more focus”, “limited learning”, “should have had a speaker in the afternoon”, “limited value in ‘just’ exchanging information”, “would have liked opportunity to contribute from the floor”.

## **Overall Assessment**

In spite of the small number of criticisms, the scores suggest that the majority of delegates had a good day, with 76% scoring 4 or 5 (68% at 4 and 8% at 5).



### **Facebook/Viability of a 2 day event**

Delegates were asked to comment on the usefulness or otherwise of having a Facebook page, a very small number of delegates offered a view on this. Only 8 delegates made a comment, and of these, 7 were against it or 'not bothered'.

One delegate said "yes – for the sake of transparency and for young people to see what realistically can be provided out of hours". There were a couple of pleas to ensure that the current website was updated regularly.

Even fewer commented on the viability of a 2 day Conference next year, 4 delegates said they could manage it, 1 said they wouldn't be able to. I would suggest that the figures on both these issues are too small to draw adequate conclusions from.

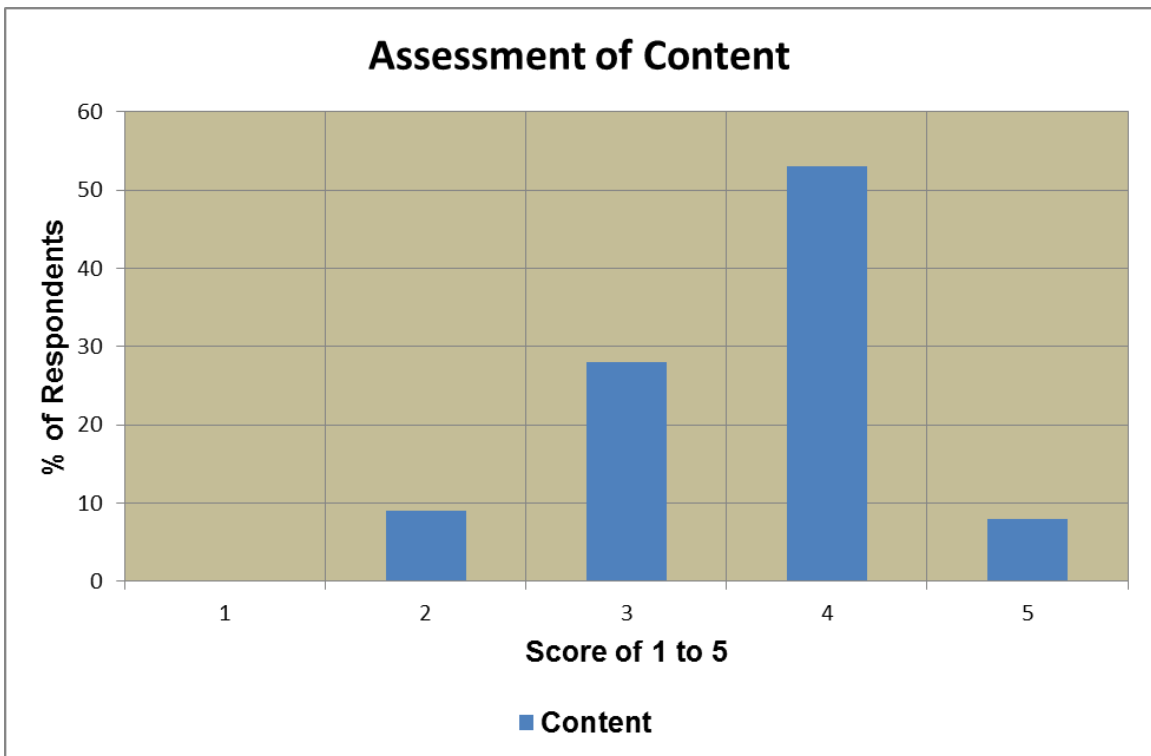
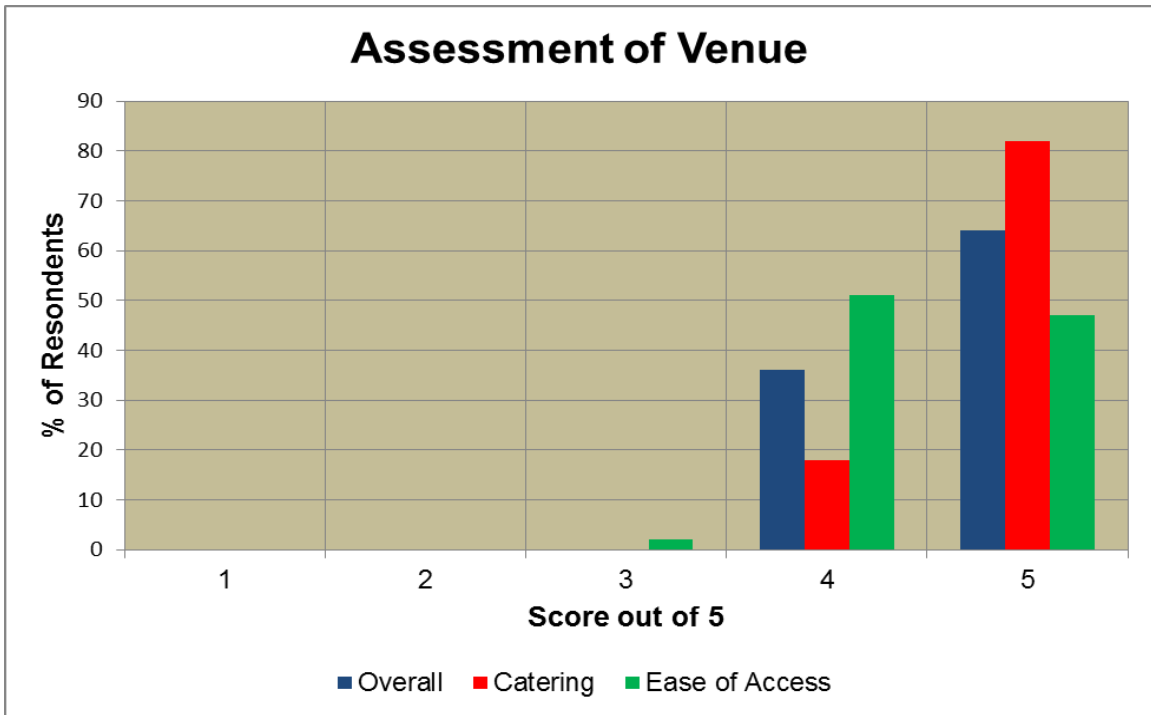
### **Future Events**

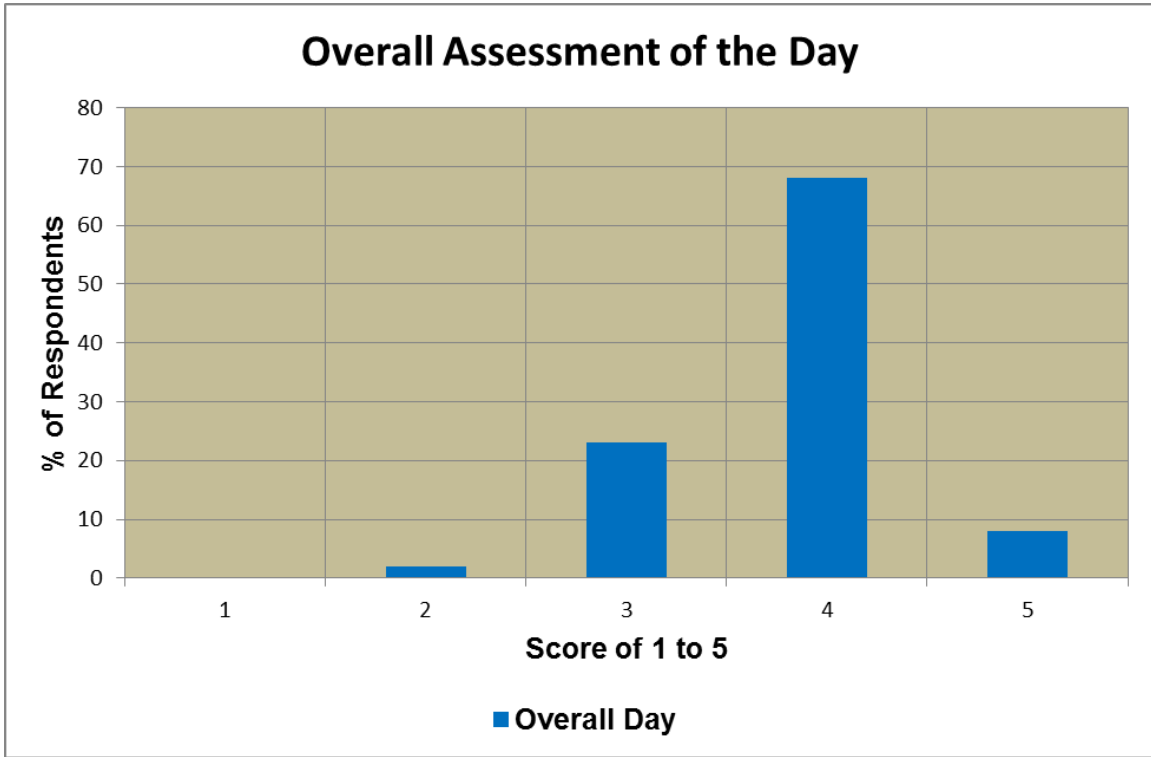
Just over half of the forms made one or more suggestions for future events. A list of verbatim comments is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. I have no doubt that these will be considered by whoever arranges subsequent Conferences.

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**Appendix 1 - Graphs**





## Appendix 2 – Suggestions for Future Events

- Speaker relating to changes in mental health services
- Issues related to inter-agency working, particularly with police and ambulance services
- Keynote speaker to feedback on research evidence of any of the key issues identified this year
- Safe working
- Co-location with partner agencies
- Health of night workers
- Quality Assurance
- Outsourcing
- Specific presentation on adult safeguarding (twice)
- Munro review
- Training and Development
- Rep from ADASS/ADCSS to talk about how they see role and importance of out of hours, what they value, don't value
- Lessons from recent serious case reviews
- Terrible Triangle: Domestic Violence – Mental Health- Substance Misuse
- Forensic vs Civil Action under MH Act i.e. process for assessing and outcomes for those mentally ill people detained under S136 or arrested for crimes of varying severity and the value of Court Diversion Schemes
- Vulnerable Adults legislation and how they relate to mental capacity etc
- The role of ESSA and what it can do to recognise the work
- Using ESSA to raise the profile of our work
- Joint working with other agencies
- Police input
- Single status, job evaluation, where is EDT in this
- Financial state of UK, how it affects EDTs
- Working with Police/CAIT
- Speaker/rep from other agency to talk about experience of working alongside EDTs
- What would an 'ideal' EDT look like
- The results of a cost-effective analysis of EDTs looking at budgets, populations, staffing, statutory responsibilities and other factors
- What do service users actually want from EDTs?
- More of the same
- Issues about police not willing to charge parents who abandon/neglect children, use of PPO or Sec 136
- Case Reviews/Case Law
- Practice related Issues
- Practice issues for 136
- Homelessness
- Core Business of Generic Teams