

# External Affairs & Policy Pillar

Committee & Activity Reports for Executive  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2011

## Committee Reports



### External Affairs & Policy (EAP) Committee

**Chair:** Dr Anne Jeffers.

**Objectives:-**

- improve the understanding of Psychiatry and Mental Health,
- collaborate with key players in the mental health field,
- advocate for improvements in the quality of mental healthcare throughout all sectors of society
- communicate effectively with members and the public.

Six meetings have taken place to date which continue to be well attended. **Next Meeting:** November 2011

**1. Position papers** in development – ***Benzodiazepine Use, Depression / antidepressants and Relationship with Pharma.***

The **LD Faculty** have completed two papers which will come to Executive for sign off by Council after the EAP, Faculties etc have seen them. They are: ***'Dementia in People with Intellectual Disability'*** and ***'Proposed Model for the Delivery of a Mental Health Service for Children with Intellectual Disability'***

**2. World Mental Health Day: A Relationship Gone Wrong - Alcohol & Your Mental Health.** Two evening events took place - one in **Dublin** on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October and one in **Galway** (Jigsaw premises) on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Both included lectures on different topics related to the theme as well as a Q&A session and were very well received by the general public in attendance. The Dublin event, which included 4 presentations and a Q&A session, was recorded. The videos will be available on the College website shortly.



### Clinical Advisory Group

**Chair:** Dr Anthony McCarthy. Membership is Faculty Chairs, ECD & CD chairs, External Affairs Director and Clinical lead for Mental Health.

**Objective:** To collaborate with and guide the Clinical Lead for Mental Health & corroborate with the HSE on this joint initiative to develop clinical guidelines over the next 5 years.

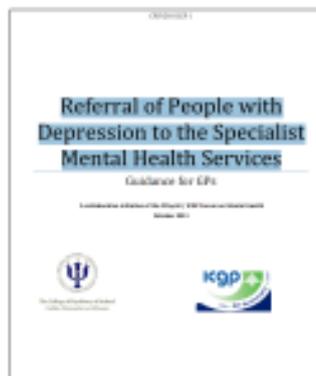
A Project Manager has been appointed - Ms Rhona Jennings (formerly of the MHC). Further developments will be communicated at a later date.

**Next Meeting:** November 2011 (date TBD)

CPsychI / ICGP Forum on mental health

**Objective:** To improve communication and liaison between primary & secondary care in mental health with ultimate goal of improving care & service to service users. **Joint Chair:** Dr Vincent Russell (CPsychI) & Dr Martina Kelly (ICGP). 12 members – 6 from each College.

1. **Dr Bríd Hollywood** has joined the Forum. Dr Hollywood is the recently appointed **GP Clinical Lead** for Mental Health and she will work closely with Dr Ian Daly & his team. She believes every guideline should be developed ensuring “compassion and kindness” particularly in relation to managing drug use. She sees an opportunity in her role as a clinical lead to put the case for Depression and its management as a Chronic Disease to be a priority.
2. **A Meeting with Minister Kathleen Lynch** was set for the 27<sup>th</sup> October but has now been postponed. Objective of meeting is to outline the work and focus of the Forum, its uniqueness and to suggest its availability to her & the Department on mental health care in Primary Care & Secondary Care.
3. **Depression Care Document:** The 2 page guidance for GPs has been launched at an ICGP event and received favourable coverage in the Irish Times by Dr Muiris Heuston (see attached). CPsychI will launch at the Winter Meeting but it is currently on our website under External Affairs tab.



4. **Physical Health Group** – research project ongoing. Dr M Kelly (GP) is leading a research project in which 9 practices nationally are participating. There is a difference in how Psychiatrists and GPs approach this problem - Psychiatrist can focus too much on biochemical markers, when weight, exercise and smoking are so important. Dr. Ian Daly has identified Physical Health of those with Mental Illness as one of the six clinical programmes for mental health. While waiting development of this clinical program the Forum will begin work on a 2 page guidance document for Psychiatrists and GPs.

5. **Antidepressant (over) prescribing** - document and other initiatives to tackle the issue being discussed & to be developed.
6. **OTC medication:** Protocol on OTC medication. Further discussion and first draft of paper to take place.
7. **Joint ICGP / CPsychI conference 2012.** Two sessions at a GP conference at the end of November will occur aimed at GPs and Psychiatrists and to test the interest before a larger event is planned. The November GP conference slots are on mental health and co morbidity so the Psychiatrists will focus on depression and collaborative care. Dr A Jeffers, Dr V Russell will present with Dr E Keenan to be confirmed. Discuss a joint 1\2 day or full day in 2012 post the November meeting.

**Next Meeting:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011

**Human Rights, Ethics & Law Committee**

**Objective:** To update the College and its members of developments in human rights, ethics and legal matters & initiate workgroups as and when necessary to work on submission papers or appropriate action needed from the College.

Members: Prof Harry Kennedy (Chair), Dr John Tobin, Dr Pauline Twomey and Dr Keith Holmes.

**Current items:**

1. **Mental Health Act 2001 Review:**

Minister Lynch's Steering Group, as part of the public consultation process, invited the general public and stakeholders to make submissions for reviewing the Act. Dr A Jeffers and Prof H Kennedy prepared the College submission with input from the EAP committee and individual members. The draft was issued to ECDs, CDs and Faculties for comment and input. The next stage involves a meeting with the Steering Group which is currently being arranged. The submission is available on the website under the External Affairs tab and CPsychI publications.

2. **Proposed Capacity & Guardianship legislation**

The College sent a submission to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality (19<sup>th</sup> August) which was a revised version of the previous College preliminary submission (2009). The paper co-ordinated by Prof H Kennedy & Dr A Jeffers, was updated in line with the UN Convention on Rights of Peoples with Disability.

The next step is a meeting with the Oireachtas Group if invited.