

External Affairs & Policy Pillar

Committee & Activity Report September 2012

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.

Next Meeting: November 2012

I. Submissions /Position papers completed or in development:

By the committee –

Submissions:

- General Adult and Social & Rehab submission on ICRUS
- General Adult submission and ECD submission on seclusion & restraint to MCH
- College submission to MHC on strategy

In development:

- College Pre Budget submission
- Role of Psychiatrists in Management
- Relationship with Pharma - aim for Council Approval December 2012.
- Corporate Mental Health Policy
- National governance of Counselling/ Psychotherapy and Depression / antidepressants

Two position papers approved by Council to date:

- ECT and Benzodiazepine Use

By Faculties – Faculty of LD Psychiatry: 2 papers:

- Complete and approved: ‘Proposed Model for the Delivery of a Mental Health Service for Children with Intellectual Disability’
- In development: Dementia in People with Intellectual Disability’

2. One day conference & workshop on the review of Mental Health Act 2001 for CPsychI members

The objective of the conference is to give members an opportunity to inform themselves of key developments in this process so far with presentations from different perspectives and to have the opportunity to actively contribute to the review process in an interactive session with Dr Brendan Kelly who is the nominated representative for CPsychI on the Expert Group set up by Minister Lynch for the 2nd phase of the review.

Date & Location for Conference: Friday 5th October, The Clarion Hotel, IFSC, Dublin. 5 CPD credits.

3. Multi-Agency One Day Conference for World Mental Health Day/Week 2012

Presentations from different perspectives, a panel discussion and launch of results of two surveys. Target audience is psychiatrists, nurses, GPs, OTs, social workers, psychologists and agency personnel. Key speaker: Dr Philip Timms from London - confirmed.

Date & Location for Conference: Friday 12th October, The Clarion Hotel, IFSC, Dublin. 5 CPD credits.

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. **2012 Joint Chair:** Dr Anne Jeffers (CPsychI) & Dr Brid Hollywood (ICGP).

Next meeting - to be decided depending on decision of both Colleges re the level of the Clinical Programmes involvement in the joint forum. The forum has completed three projects:

New projects have been decided from 2012:

- Joint ICGP / CPsychI Conference 2012 or 2013**
- Depression subgroup - advanced project** to look at stepped approach models of care, prescribing, screening tools (PHQ9), referral pathways and more. Lead Dr Gavin Rush (Psychiatrist).
- Psychological /Counselling services subgroup** to look at UK / international evidence, evaluation & assessment tools, outcomes, referral pathways, criteria for quality of those employed in such services. This group will feed into the workgroup in place to roll out the government Primary care strategy on providing psychological services. Lead: Dr Anne Jeffers (Psychiatrist).
- Clinical Programmes subgroup -** to assess, advise, focus on the National Mental Health Clinical Programmes in terms of best practice, use of and application of funding and so on. Lead: Dr Brid Hollywood(GP).

Possible other projects / activity

- a. **Antidepressant prescribing:** document and other initiatives to tackle the issue being discussed & to be developed.
- b. **OTC medication:** Protocol on OTC medication. Further discussion and first draft of paper to take place.
- c. **Meeting with Minister Kathleen Lynch:** Objective: 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.

Human Rights & Ethics Committee

Aims:

- To provide support and advice to the College and its members on the ethical dimension of patient care.
- To ensure there is an ethical input into College submissions, policy and position papers.
- To ensure members have an awareness and expertise in Human Rights legislation and its impact on mental health care.

Objectives:

- To produce documents which enhance the work of Psychiatrists in relation to Human Rights and Ethics
- To comment on, and provide input into the work of the External Affairs and Policy Pillar.
- To comment on and provide input into the Training Programmes, at Trainee level, and Professional Competence.

Two meetings have taken place. Agreed to work on two items to begin with:

1. **Review the CPsychl charter on Human Rights for patients** – aim for Council approval in March 2013
2. A paper for CPsychl members on **Confidentiality**

Law Committee

Aims:

To provide psychiatric opinion on issues related to mental health and law and to contribute to development of better mental health law.

Objectives:

- To respond to requests for submissions on legal issues related to mental health
- To inform and educate members on matters related to law and mental health
- To inform the general public on matters related to law and mental health

A preliminary meeting has taken place to discuss the committee's role and possible projects.

Next meeting October 2012

REFOCUS CPSYCHI - Recovery Experience Forum of Carers & Users of the services

Aims: To engage actively in genuine partnership with the College of Psychiatry of Ireland so that training, ongoing competence and day to day practice of Psychiatry, is informed and guided by those who have had experience of mental illness, or who have cared for those with mental illness.

Four successful meetings have taken place to date. Presentations from members of the College have been given by: Prof Greg Swanwick and Dr Karen O'Connor on what is involved in training psychiatrists; Dr Anthony McCarthy – welcome as President and on Psychotherapy and its place in training psychiatrists; Dr Mary Clarke and two others from the DETECT team outlining the DETECT programme & objectives.

Projects have been chosen to inform CPsychl with the aim of completion by end 2012 **for Council Approval in December 1. Recovery and 2. Family Members Involvement. Next Meeting: November 2012**

Other Activity



Media

The College has issued many press statements, letters to Editors of National papers and been interviewed by print media journalists on various topics. Dr Anne Jeffers sat on a panel discussing the **power of psychiatry and mental health services on the TV3's Tonight with Vincent Browne**. It had active involvement in a recent **Primetime report on ECT**. See press releases pages in News & Activities section of the website http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie/News_Activities.aspx



College Website – Updates

Calendar of Meetings & Events new format complete

A more user friendly events & meetings calendar is complete and live on the website. It is accessible from the home page of the website and events – College and Non-College events are searchable by category, date, CPD points and so on. We will not email members with external courses as the detail will be put on this newly formed calendar.

The Home page will also undergo a new look incorporating a more up to date function for news and current items as well as quick access buttons to pages such as PCS and E Learning modules on Moodle.