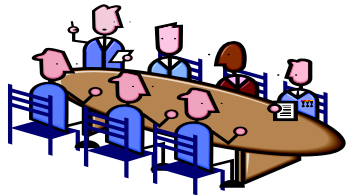


# External Affairs & Policy Pillar

Committee & Activity Report February 2013

## 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:** May 2013

**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

**Position papers**

**Three position papers approved by Council to date:**

ECT, Benzodiazepine Use and Relationship with Pharma (to be launched at Spring Conference in Athlone).

**In development or to be drafted:**

- **Medical Leadership and Management** – workgroup to be set up with aim of paper ready for Council review June 2013
- **Corporate Mental Health Policy** - IBEC have produced an excellent document available on their website therefore it was decided not to pursue this.
- **Induction pack** for new Faculty & Committee chairs and members is drafted and being finalized ready for launch at Spring Conference in Athlone.
- **National governance of Counselling/ Psychotherapy**

- **Depression / antidepressants**
- **Cyberbullying TBD**

**2. CPsychI Theme 2013 - Youth Mental Health** Youth Mental Health was launched at the College AGM recently with a two hour academic session, including a talk from a patient's perspective. A document, The International Declaration on Youth Mental Health, was also launched. The Child & Adolescent Faculty will lead this theme with the SIG (Special Interest Group) supporting it and carryout specific activities. A list of activities planned for the year is available.

**3. Suicide and Psychiatry Group** It is proposed that a working group will be set up on this issue and that the aim is to produce a paper of use and possible material for the media and general public education.

**4. Spike Milligan Public Speaking Competition 2013**

**Topic:** 'Online or out of touch: mental health services for generation y.'

**Date:** 6pm, 6<sup>th</sup> March, The Sugar Club, Dublin

### 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 Bríd Hollywood (ICGP).

**Next meeting:** TBD

### Human Rights & Ethics Committee

**Chair:** Dr Pauline Twomey

**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.

Working on:

- 1. Review the CPsychI charter on Human Rights for patients** – aim for Council approval in March 2013
- 2. A paper for CPsychI members on Confidentiality**
- 3. Involvement with PGT re training in ethics and human rights.**

### Law Committee

**Chair:** Dr Brendan Kelly

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

The main focus currently is on the review of the Mental Health Act but agenda will always include the proposed Capacity legislation and the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act. Items of discussion for recommendation from The Expert Group

reviewing the Mental Health act are brought to the committee by Dr Brendan Kelly and discussed with recommendations brought back to the Expert Group. It has been announced that the heads of Bill for capacity legislation will be published this quarter but doubt exists about that.

**Next meeting 15 March 2013**

### **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.

Six successful meetings have taken place to date and two projects have been undertaken:

#### **1. Family Members/Carers' Involvement paper – Who Cares?**

This had been discussed at Council in December 2012 when it was suggested it be distributed to Faculties for comment. A revised paper with recommendations and actions will be presented for approval to Council in March 2013 and presented at a workshop at the Spring Conference in Athlone

2. **Recovery paper** - this is being drafted with the aim of presenting a document for Council in March 2013.

3. The Forum will continue to receive presentations from different psychiatry specialisms.

**Next Meeting:** 5 April 2013

## **External Organizations**



SeeChange's major 2013 campaign: Green ribbon month, May 2013 will be the recognisable annual awareness activity of the SeeChange partnership.

**Aim** - Wear a green ribbon for the month of May. Ribbons will be distributed free and nationwide.

- > show support for mental health

- > Participate in a social movement to reduce stigma and change attitudes towards mental health problems.

#### **Campaign- Main elements**

- > Mix social media and other media to target all ages- will depend largely on Social Media platforms to generate awareness - budget is small, but 70 SeeChange partners fan base/ followers = almost 180, 000 people.
- > **Use to educate public on Recovery** especially–e.g. on website, “A- Z of Recovery” Section, slogan idea- “Green light for Recovery”.
- > **Media engagement / support-** Newstalk will be official radio partner
- > **Events/ Activities-** with SeeChange Partners from a variety of industries / sectors- E.g. Irish Sports Council, IBEC, Irish Farmers Association.

#### **Mental Health Reform**

Continuing media campaigns and meetings with Ministers re A Vision For Change elements particularly the Directorate for mental health and the promised team roles being put in place using the '35 million'. Also working on papers / consultation on medication, a complaints system for mental health service users and a few other projects. MHR require funding to go forward from 2013.

#### **Amnesty Ireland**

Mental Health section is finishing in May 2013 due to end of funding and the roles will be subsumed into Mental Health Reform.

Before this section disbands they are running seminars/discussion on the Mental Health Act Review and another on proposed capacity legislation. They are also developing an eLearning platform on Human Rights in Mental Health Services which they hope to complete by the summer.