

External Affairs & Policy Department

Committee & Activity Report for Management
October 2014

Committee Reports



External Affairs & Policy (EAP) Committee

Co - Chairs: Dr John Hillery and Dr John Tobin.

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: End November 2014

A new EAP has been formed under the co-chairmanship of Dr J Hillery (Director Communication & Public Education) & Dr J Tobin (Director Policy). Two meetings have taken place since June (end of June & 3rd October). Two REFCOUS members (service user & carer/family member) are also members of this committee.

Papers/ activity for development and/or for review

- **Management of physical health in those with enduring mental illness-** discussed further. Change wording to wellbeing possibly. J Hillery to contact the ICGP to start the process of work on this and the reignite the collaboration with them through the existing forum which has not met for over a year.
- **AV4C planned report** – snapshot 'team watch' survey issued to membership. Good response rate after one day. Edits to be made to survey following discussion by EAP committee. It will be reissued to those members who have not responded. Will determine course of action or report depending on data gathered. MHC has valid data in recent inspectorate report – to be cross checked. Continue to call for need for a monitoring group.
- **Mental Health Act review report** from Expert Group (Law Committee). – possible submission
- **Medical Council review of Professional conduct including ethical guidelines** (HRE Committee)
- **Submission to NOSP on development of a national suicide platform-** Submission forwarded and Prof Kevin Malone confirmed as the College representative on the NOSP group driving this.
- **Medical Card review** - public consultation questionnaire submitted and letter written (from Dr R Loane) to Chair of the review panel re College plans to submit a more detailed comment. No word back but appears this committee has completed their review. Follow up re those with enduring mental illness?

Objective: To raise awareness among the membership on this issue and encourage activity on the theme; to raise awareness and educate the public via the media and certain activities; to engage with stakeholders around this area; to produce information or encourage practice that is helpful to carers and their mental health.

Organisation: a steering group is in place, chaired by Dr Mia McLaughlin, which includes membership from many active external bodies. Activity for 2015 to be decided & another faculty to drive.

Communication: A dedicated webpage on the theme is set up and in development on the College website under External Affairs section (<http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie/Ext-Affairs-Policy/CollegeTheme2014CaringforCarers.aspx>)

Recent Activities:

Carer's Week – June 2014: with Carers Association of Ireland: presentation and attendance at two pop up café for carers; a benchmark for further activity as well as an opportunity to fact find via a short survey as to what carers want or expect from psychiatry and what would be helpful. Press statements also issued via email and twitter.

World Mental Health Day / week 2014 - October: Drs J Hillery & M McLaughlin presented at separate one day 'free' seminars for carers focussing on their mental health. Dr A Jeffers spoke at the public event of the RCPI St Luke's symposium re stress in the workplace/managing your mental health. Press release issued on both (IMT covered).

Yet to happen:

Spike Milligan Public Speaking Competition 2014

Date/Venue: 6pm, Thursday 27th November, Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin

Topic: "There are only four kinds of people in the world – Those who have been caregivers, those who currently are caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers." (Rosalynn Carter): True or Trite?

Template for Clinical Audit around the theme to be drafted with advice from PCS.

Plan to look at developing an information leaflet for carers and a conference next year using results of short survey from carers events.



External Organisations

Mental Health Reform launch of position paper '**Ethnic Minorities and Mental Health**'.

Dr John Hillery presented as part of a panel of speakers and spoke on the College history, activity and position on this group and their mental health needs including ability of mental health professionals' competence in cultural differences and ability to deal with this group.

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.

Next Meeting: 22nd October 2014

Working on:

1. A paper for CPsychl members on **Confidentiality**: first draft discussed at a one only item meeting. Draft 2 for discussion at next meeting. Will go to EAP committee before management committee review.
2. **Medical Council review of Professional Conduct** including Ethical Code. Meeting with Medical Council to be set up and their template discussed.
3. **Involvement with PGT** re training in ethics and human rights. One member is devising an e-learning module.

Law Committee

Chair: Dr Mike Scully

Aims: To provide expert psychiatric opinion based on 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 assist the college in informing the general public on matters related to law and mental health.

Next Meeting: November 2014

Review of the Mental Health Act – awaiting Expert Group report. Will assess in terms of a College comment or submission.

Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Bill and the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act - no update

Criminal Justice (withholding of information on offences against children and vulnerable persons) Act 2012 – two eflyers sent to members looking for comment or feedback as on the ground issues of operation and concern are being raised. Disappointing lack of response.

Conference & workshop for members host in in conjunction with Human Rights & Ethics Committee. Being discussed.

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

Aims: To engage actively in genuine partnership with the College 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.

The forum is currently recruiting new members - two carers/family members to replace those who have left. An advert was distributed through various channels and to the CDs in HSE. Interviews will be held(20 October) to select the new members.

Next Meeting: November 2014

1. **Recent member contribution to College activity – some to highlight.**

CPsychl Summer School. Service users from the forum spoke of their experience at the three summer run by the Trainee committee and were very well received by the Med students.

Faculties & Committees – Two REFOCUSers are members of the EAP committee. The Trainee Committee has just voted to co-opt REFOCUS members to their subcommittees/working groups

Meeting with Mental Health unit of DoH re review of the Mental Health Act from a carer's perspective. Four carers/family members attended an afternoon meeting to discuss certain recommendations from the Expert group. The lengthy meeting enabled them to provide their viewpoint as carers/family members on certain aspects of the operability of the Act.

2. **ECT** – a paper reflecting on/commenting on ECT from a service user and carer perspective is in final draft.. They have met with Prof Declan McLoughlin and Dr Maurice Garvin and asked each the same questions which now form a major part of the paper. It will be ready for review by EAP committee soon.
3. **Spirituality and Psychiatry** – in development – title to be decided and further discussion and input from group to occur.
4. Trainee Committee **Think Tank newsletter** – contribution from REFOCUS
5. **Trainee examinations** - two members observed and provided feedback trail. Further activity planned for December.