



Mental Health Nurse Academics (UK)

Promoting and advancing UK Mental Health Nursing education, research, policy and practice

Notes of meeting held Friday 1st April 2011

Bournemouth University

Chair: Alan Simpson

Present:

Alan Simpson - City; Michael Coffey - Swansea; Linda Cooper & Ben Hannigan – Cardiff; Andy Mercer - Bournemouth; John Rawlinson and John Perry– Plymouth; John Playle, Steve Prymachuk & John Baker – Manchester; Susan McAndrew– Salford; Hugh Masters– Scottish Government; Len Bowers - Institute of Psychiatry; Robert Rankin – Dundee; Paul Linsley – Lincoln; Ben Thomas - DH; Christine Armstrong – Keele; Greg Rooney – Herts; Fiona Nolan – UCL; Bournemouth team – Chris Kelly, Jerry Warr, Martyn Lewis, Kate Galvin, Mike Kelly, Andy Meyers, Barbara Dyer

Apologies: Michael Kelly – KCL; Gordon Mitchell & Dianne Ellis – Teesside; Hugh McKenna & Kevin Moore – Ulster; James Turner & Russell Ashmore – Sheffield; : Karen Wright, Joy Duxbury & Mick McKeown – UCLAN; Mary Chambers - Kingston & St George's; Vicky Clarke - Birmingham City; Steve Lyon & Steve Hemingway - Huddersfield; Gill Maidens & Sheila Dixon– Wolverhampton; Grahame Smith – Liverpool JMU; David Coyle – Cheshire; Lai Chan & Marie Byrne – Edge Hill; Patrick Callaghan – Nottingham, Soo Moore – City; Christine Hogg – Salford; Sandy Comish - Stirling.

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome from Professor Gail Thomas, Dean, School of Health & Social Care, BU and Dr Andy Mercer, Professional Lead, Mental Health, BU

Introductions

Alan Simpson welcomed everyone and thanked Bournemouth University for hosting the meeting. Alan Simpson has now taken on the role of chair and warmly thanked Linda Cooper for chairing the group for the past 2 years and welcomed Michael Coffey as the elected vice-chair.

Presentation 1: Does a cross-educational practice meeting assist Thorn graduates to implement psychosocial interventions in clinical practice?

Mike Kelly, Consultant Nurse/Associate Director, Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust & Lecturer/Practitioner, BU and Professor Kate Galvin, Professor of Health Research, BU

Presentation 2: The development and implementation of a nurse-led Hepatitis C protocol for people with serious mental health problems

Martyn Lewis, Consultant Nurse for Assertive Outreach, DorsetHealthcare University NHS Foundation Trust

Hazel Allen, Senior Clinical Nurse Specialist, Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch NHS Foundation Trust

Presentation 3: Sleep – the forgotten variable

Dr Andy Meyers, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, BU
[This replaced the advertised presentation]

Presentation 4: An illustration of the service-user/researcher interface and doctoral supervision
Richard Peacocke, PhD student & Service User
Dr Fran Biley, Associate Professor, BU

Business Section agenda & notes

Main Discussion items

i) Developing strategic links with the NHS Confederation Mental Health Network

Alan Simpson

Alan summarised discussions held with Steve Shrubbs, Director, about developing closer working relationships with the Mental Health Network, an organisation within the NHS Confederation that provides a voice for mental health and learning disability service providers in England.

The key priorities for the MHN currently are: effects of the recession of mental health services; NHS reforms; and GPs commissioning mental health services; all of which mental health academics might be able to advise and inform.

Possible research collaborations include projects focusing on mental health staff understanding, attitudes and roles within a Recovery-focused service; developing mental health nursing outcome measures and indicators; providing evidence about the impact of NHS re-structuring, especially in community mental health services; and developing a programme of research and training around the personalisation agenda and personal budgets.

Opportunities for closer working will be further explored.

ii) New Mental Health Strategy and developments in England

Ben Thomas, Professional Adviser for Mental Health & Learning Disability Nursing, Department of Health, England.

Ben outlined new developments in England including the likely change of title of the Department of Health to the Department of Public Health and the setting up of an NHS Commissioning Board.

The opportunities for mental health to transfer learning in areas such as service user involvement and community care to other areas of health care was mentioned.

The DH is taking the view that productivity is everyone's responsibility. There has been increased investment in mental health in previous years leading to increases in the number of teams and numbers of nurses. The move now is towards mental health promotion that prevents people becoming ill in the first place. This is seen as beyond the scope of health to deliver hence the cross government approach to the new mental health policy. The emphasis is on building resilience, promoting mental health and well being and challenging health inequalities.

The new strategy [No Health without Mental Health](#) will attempt to present measurable outcomes across six shared objectives. These are

- More people will have good mental health
- More people with mental health problems will recover
- More people with mental health problems will have good physical health
- More people will have a positive experience of care and support
- Fewer people will suffer avoidable harm
- Fewer people will experience stigma and discrimination

There are supporting documents for this policy on the DH web pages and a new suicide prevention strategy will be forthcoming.

Ben also outlined what he sees as areas for development and challenge for mental health nursing. These included taking the opportunity to refresh the CNO review to align with the new

strategy, working towards improving safety including sexual safety and preventing suicide, developing nurse indicators of effectiveness, commissioning and payment by results, grade and skill mix along acute care pathways and roles within CMHTs.

iii) Developments in Mental Health policy and MH nursing education in Scotland

Hugh Masters, Nursing Officer (Mental Health and Learning Disabilities), Scottish Government
Hugh indicated that the intention in Scotland was to continue with NHS Boards alongside a move towards Health and Social Care integration.

The central policy on this is [The Healthcare Quality Strategy for NHS Scotland](#).

Hugh reported that there had been an increase of 36% in mental health nurses in Scotland since 2007.

The Scottish Recovery Indicators were currently being refreshed and the development of Recovery-focused services is being maintained.

There is also a [Modernising Nursing in the Community](#) programme which has a mental health subgroup looking at education qualification for CMHN practice.

iv) The Mental Health Measure in Wales

Ben Hannigan

Ben presented developments in Wales as an example of devolution in action. The Welsh Assembly has brought forward its own legislation to amend the Mental Health Act 1983(2007) by inserting certain rights which become statutory obligations in Wales, this is known as the [Mental Health \(Wales\) Measure 2010](#). These include access to mental health care in primary health settings, care co-ordination and treatment planning, prompt access to secondary services for former users of services and extending advocacy to all those admitted to inpatient mental health services regardless of MHA status.

In addition the amendments also include a requirement for civil servants to place an evaluation of implementation before the Welsh Assembly Government within four years of the implementation of each part.

v) Surveying the effects of cuts in MHN education and research

Michael Coffey

It was suggested that given the climate of “cost savings” which many of us find ourselves in that it might be worth surveying members to enable MHNAUK to obtain an accurate picture of funding for mental health nurse education and research. We are concerned that any cuts may undermine the provision of high quality education and research delivered by mental health nurse academics across the UK. However we would like to be a position to make a more definitive statement on events on the ground. Suggestions by the group included:

- Looking at reductions in CPD and other course numbers commonly accessed by mental health nurses;
- Asking for estimates or changes on staff:student ratios or mhn staff as proportion of total academics;
- Council of Deans conduct an annual survey and it might be helpful to use some of the same questions. JP would send details;
- Repeat the survey annually;
- Consider definitions of academic staff to identify RMNs who are doing the teaching, perhaps asking for qualifications.
- IAPT was also mentioned and here the survey was in danger of becoming all things to all people.
- Sensitivity of information was raised and choice of anonymity was suggested as worth including.

MC thanked the group for the many suggestions and kindly agreed to work on a draft survey which he will circulate for comments.

vi) A minimum data set/archive for mental health nursing

Patrick Callaghan

Patrick was unable to attend at the last minute and this item was deferred to the summer meeting.

vii) UK-wide service user representation for MHNA(UK)

Michael Coffey

The issue of securing service user representation on MHNAUK was raised with the aim of trying to agree a set of next steps. Previously LC had suggested accessing the leads for mental health in each UK country to seek information on the main service user organisations that each liaised with. It was felt that was one way of securing input to the group from user organisations that could support attendance on a regular basis and also ensure equity across the countries. Suggestions included the Mental Health Alliance in Wales consisting of Wales MIND, Hafal and Mental Health Foundation Wales and in Scotland the organisation known as VOX. Which organisations to approach in England were less clear. There was a useful discussion on this subject with some suggesting invitations to local service users for each meeting; the downside of this is not having a consistent presence or the ability to develop work on a national level. Another idea was to seek service user academics to become part of the group. This raised the question of how this might be achieved. Once again no ready solution suggested itself and we will return to this issue in future meetings to see if we can find a resolution.

Brief updates:

- i) Consultation on DH'S proposals for developing the healthcare workforce in England: Steve Prymachuk organised and collated the MHNAUK response and reported that response from group members was not huge and it was noted that the consultation document itself seemed quite hurried. Alan thanked Steve for his work on the MHNAUK response, which is now on our website.
- ii) NPNR: *Creating change in the real world: the future for mental health nursing research, policy and practice*: Alan reported that the NPNR conference call for papers would be out very soon. The conference was taking place at Keble College, Oxford on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th September 2011. Mike Slade, Hugh McKenna, Karina Lovell, Dave Ekers, Ben Thomas and Alyson Kettles have been confirmed as speakers and the main themes will be 1) Overtures and beginners, 2) Trials, tests and knowledge transfer, 3) Inequalities and inclusion, 4) Service development, evaluation and audits, 5) Creativity, arts and fun and 6) Costs and finances; values and worth. MHN academics will be asked to nominate suitable candidates to present the 'My PhD' session.
- iii) Eileen Skellern Award: RE-ARRANGED DATE: 2nd June at City University Northampton Square. The lecture is being given by Prof. Patrick Callaghan and the lifetime award is being presented to Prof. Peter Nolan. This has been rescheduled following its cancellation in December due to snow. There is lots of room so everyone is welcome but please let joy.johnson.2@city.ac.uk know if you are coming for catering purposes.
- iv) Letter from MHNAUK supporting Prof David Richards following his dismissal as government advisor for IAPT was sent to the Guardian though they chose not to publish this. Alan sent a copy to Dave who was grateful for the support.

v) REF Panels membership: the REF panel membership has been announced with Prof Hugh McKenna, nominated by MHNAUK, selected as chair of Sub-panel 3: Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy. AS emailed our congratulations.

vi) MHNAUK membership: AS to liaise with John Baker re HEI database and update membership of the group, including institutions not represented currently on the group. The intention is to once again write to Deans and Heads of School in HEIs plus leads for mental health nursing asking for representatives and outlining that two places are available plus all Profs of mental health nursing.

vii) Service user involvement in student assessment: discussion deferred to the next meeting

viii) Reviewing MHNA(UK) representation on various bodies: Alan asked for members to highlight on what groups they currently represented MHNAUK. It was decided that this would become a standing item for future meetings and that representatives would be asked to feedback at the meeting or supply an update paragraph on developments if they were unable to attend the meeting. Currently the group has John Playle, Hugh McKenna, Sara Owen and Tony Warne on the Council of Deans. Patrick Callaghan and John Playle are reps on the Nursing Academy. Graham Smith and Mary Chambers are reps on Mental Health in Higher Education. NMC links as reviewers are Joy Duxbury and Andy Mercer. John Playle suggested re-establishing links with the Directors of Mental Health Nursing and AS agreed to pursue this. It was agreed to invite Jill Anderson of MHHE.

AOB

BT mentioned that there is new commissioning guidance on mental health on the Royal College of Psychiatrists policy site, its called [Practical Mental Health Commissioning](#) and is available via this link.

Future Dates & Venues

Friday 24 th June 2011	Plymouth
Tuesday 18 th October 2011	Bradford
Spring 2012	Edinburgh TBC
June 2012	Invitations welcome
October 2012	Invitations welcome

15.30 pm Close of Meeting