



# Mental Health Nurse Academics (UK)

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

**Notes of meeting held Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

University of Plymouth

**Chair: Alan Simpson**

## **Present:**

Alan Simpson - City; Michael Coffey - Swansea; Linda Cooper & Ben Hannigan – Cardiff; Andy Mercer - Bournemouth; John Rawlinson, Tracey Cassidy, Tony Gilbert, Emily Ashurst and Mary Watkins (part)– Plymouth; Len Bowers - Institute of Psychiatry; James Turner – Sheffield, Ros Alstead (by phone for part of the meeting)

**Apologies:** Russell Ashmore – Sheffield; Andy Williams – Southampton; Marie Byrne, Lai Chan & Cathy Griffiths – Edgehill; John Playle, John Baker & Steve Pryjmachuk – Manchester; Mari Brannigan & Susanne Forrest – NHS Scotland; Dianne Ellis & Gordon Mitchell - Teesside University; Robert Rankin – Dundee; Michael Kelly – KCL; Fiona Nolan – UCL; Anne Fothergill – Glamorgan; Andrew Clifton – Northumbria; Steve Lyon – Huddersfield; Soo Moore –City London; Enkanah Soobadoo – London South Bank; Mick McKeown & Christina Lyons – UCLAN; Patrick Callaghan – Nottingham; Vicky Clarke – Birmingham; Gabrielle Tray McClelland – Bradford; Greg Rooney – Hertfordshire; John Perry – Plymouth; Julia Terry - Swansea.

## **Welcome and Introductions**

### **Introductions & Welcome**

John Rawlinson  
Professor Mary Watkins, Deputy Vice Chancellor

Alan Simpson, Chair MHNA(UK) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked University of Plymouth for hosting. Alan also paid tribute to John Rawlinson for his excellent contribution to the group's work and wished him well in his impending retirement.

### **Presentation 1**

'User-led Online Learning for Mental Health Professionals: A Pilot Study'

- Emily Ashurst (Prof. Ray Jones)

Interesting project on preparedness of mental health workers to engage in internet delivered services in an age where it is claimed people are increasingly mental health literate. The project included a live interactive webcast, discussion forum, final webcast and email interview for feedback. Nineteen workers and 12 service users completed the project and the next course is scheduled for early next year (10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012). If you are interested in participating then take a look here: [www.stakeholdersonline.org.uk](http://www.stakeholdersonline.org.uk)

### **Presentation 2**

'Service User involvement in interpersonal skills teaching of mental health students'

- Dr Tony Gilbert for Jon Perry

Tony presented some stage one work from Jon Perry's doctoral research on service user involvement in IPS for mental health nursing students which included a systematic review of studies in this area that concluded most were of poor quality and only one study demonstrated a significant improvement in IPS attainment by students.

### **Presentation 3**

'Implementing the 2010 standards'

- Tracey Cassidy & John Rawlinson

Tracey and John presented their work on the new pre-registration curriculum on which they might be considered 'early adopters'. The presentation included interesting discussion on challenges and opportunities presented by the new curriculum and some cautions about ensuring that generic (adult) nursing is not allowed to dominate. Something for us all to monitor perhaps? Plymouth's sustainability agenda was also a feature of these developments and the online updates for sign-off mentors was a notable innovation.

### **Presentation 4**

'Mental Health Nursing Research – A personal reflection on the last 25 years'

- Prof. Mary Watkins

Some personal reflections from Mary prior to her recently announced retirement next year.

## **Business Section agenda & notes**

### **Main Discussion items**

#### **i) Developing joint working with MHLNDL Forum**

Ros Alstead (by phone), Chair, Mental Health and Learning Disability Nurse Directors and Leads Forum;  
Director of Nursing and Clinical Standards, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Ros was ill and unable to attend the meeting in person but kindly offered to talk through her slides and answer questions over the phone.

The MHLNDL forum was set up as a limited company in 2004 and consists of representatives from 90 organisations (mostly nurse leads). They have two membership models, organisational or individual and members pay an annual fee of £800 per organisation or £60 for individual members.

The administration of the forum is handled by an external company following a tendering process.

The forum has conferences twice a year and these are included in the cost of membership.

Membership includes, Directors of Nursing, Modern Matrons, MH Nurse Consultants. There are no service user representatives.

The group has a website at [www.mentalhealthforum.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealthforum.org.uk)

The forum is run by a steering committee which is regionally derived and is mostly England only although the group have made some efforts to reach out beyond England. It meets four times a year, two of these are phone meetings and two are at the conferences they organise.

Ros took questions after her slides and in response to a question about priorities of MHLNDL. She noted that continuing concerns exist around the fundamentals of care, care planning, physical healthcare and individuals at risk and that this was an issue at pre and post registration level.

Once Ros had rung-off a discussion followed about MHNAUK involvement with MHLNDL and the pros and cons of being a sub-group of this forum. It was noted that this would require membership fees and if we were in a position to collect these we could simply manage this ourselves. Maintaining independence and being seen as a 'sub-group' were also issues discussed. The discussion moved on to consider possibilities of following the forum's example and having a business plan, setting up a limited company for MHNAUK and buying in admin and web development time.

A further option of a link up with the Council of Deans (given that all HEI's already pay a subscription to this group) was suggested. Alan will discuss with the Chair of CoD about this.

The future of our liaison with MHLNDL forum was discussed. We concluded that ongoing contact was a useful mechanism for information exchange, shared political positions where possible and working on shared research, policy and access priorities. It was also mentioned that the forum is a very useful means disseminating research findings and we should try to make use of this. We wondered if a reciprocal arrangement of a place on each group might be worth exploring. It was suggested that John Playle may have a honorary position on the forum and it was agreed we would check on this.

**ii) Surveying the effects of cuts in MHN education and research**

Michael Coffey

A draft of this survey was circulated at the meeting that included suggestions from the last meeting in Bournemouth and a very useful and constructive discussion was had about the contents. Michael to make revisions and then plan to circulate to whole group (intention is to do this online and perhaps through a service like Survey Monkey)

**iii) NPNR**

Alan Simpson

Alan outlined the current position with the NPNR conference and encouraged members to attend and to circulate the information to colleagues. The confirmed keynote speakers include Hugh McKenna, Mike Slade and Alison Faulkner and the 'My Phd' slot is to be presented by Stephan Kirby. The abstract judging committee has now met and speakers will be informed very soon. In total it was a record year for abstract submissions with many international papers being submitted.

**iv) Update on outstanding projects**

- **Updating MHNAUK membership** (Alan Simpson)

Alan and Michael with the help of John Baker are revisiting the membership lists. If there are any changes in your organisation to representatives please get in touch and let us know.

- **UK-wide Service User representation on MHNAUK** (Michael Coffey)

Alan and Michael are looking into this a little further and hope to have a resolution to the issue soon.

**v) MHNAUK Representation and feedback**

e.g. Council of Deans, Academy, NMC, mhhe, etc.

No feedback received on these fora for this meeting

**15.20 Items for future meetings**

**Mental Health Research Network & minimum data set/archive**

Patrick Callaghan, Associate Director of the MHRN with responsibility of engagement of nurses and allied health professions in research

**Mental health higher education and MHNAUK**

Alan has had contact with Jill Anderson, mhhe. Many changes going on there but we hope to have Jill speak at a meeting in the future once this has settled down.

**NMC contacts**

Garth Long has been in touch to inform us of his impending retirement. He also made clear that the NMC see this group as a key stakeholder and they wish to maintain contact with us. We have been given contact details by Garth to enable this. We wished him well in his retirement and thanked him for his involvement and commitment to engaging with us.

**AOB**

1. Directory of Counsellors on MHNAUK website [www.counselling-directory.org.uk](http://www.counselling-directory.org.uk)  
Discussion about a request for this group to advertise its presence on the group website. Concluded that this was not what the web pages were for. Alan to respond.
2. New members  
With John Rawlinson retiring it was proposed that Tracey Cassidy and John Perry continue as reps from Plymouth. There was also a suggestion that two people at University of West England who would like to join the group and Alan will contact them to invite them to the next meeting.

### **Future Dates & some proposed Venues**

<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011</b>	<b>Bradford</b>
<b>Spring 2012</b>	<b>Scotland TBC</b>
<b>June 2012</b>	<b>?Birmingham</b>
<b>October 2012</b>	<b>?Northumbria</b>
<b>March 2013</b>	<b>? Wales</b>

**15.30 pm Close of Meeting**