



Mental Health Nurse Academics (UK)

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

Notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th June 2012

University of West England (UWE) Bristol

Chair: Alan Simpson

Present: Alan Simpson – City London; Michael Coffey & Julia Terry (Swansea); Marie Byrne (Edgehill); Ben Hannigan & Nicola Evans (Cardiff); James Turner (Sheffield Hallam); Andrew Clifton (Northumbria); Andy Mercer (Bournemouth); John Baker and Steve Prymachuk (Manchester); Robert Tummey and Richard Luck (Coventry); Tracey Cassidy (Plymouth); Gerry Shepherd (Oxford Brookes); Enkanah Soobadoo and Tom Currid (South Bank); Marjorie Lloyd (Glyndwr); Mary Chambers (Kingston & St George's); Peter Carter (RCN) for morning session; Ian Hulatt (RCN); Ben Thomas (DoH) for pm session, Nicky Lambert, Christine Carter, Rachel Hadland, Anthony Fraher (UWE). N= 26

Apologies: Linda Cooper (Cardiff); Steve Lyon (Huddersfield); Gerry Shepherd (Oxford Brookes); Ann Jackson, (St Andrews); Debbie Corby (Bradford); Gordon Mitchell (Teeside); Kevin Moore (Ulster); David Coyle (Chester); Kevin Moore (Ulster); Stephen Hemingway (Huddersfield); Anita Savage Grainge (York); Laetitia Zeeman (Brighton); Peter Morrall (Leeds); Kath Padgett (Huddersfield); John Playle (Manchester); Gwenne McIntosh & Margaret Conlon (Napier); Jennifer Clarke (Wales Gov); Steve Lyon (Huddersfield); Daniel Bressington & Douglas MacInnes (Canterbury Christ Church); Maureen Deacon (Chester); Jon Perry (Plymouth); Sheila Dixon & Gill Maiden (Wolverhampton); Paul Linsley (Lincoln); Greg Rooney (Herts); Susanne Forrest (NES Scotland); Tony Warne, Naomi Sharples & Sue McAndrew (Salford); Lai Chan (Edgehill); Bob Rankin (Dundee); Matt Bowen (Chester); Gordon Mitchell (Middleborough); Billy Mathers (UWS); Grahame Smith & Lisa Wood (Liverpool JMU); Liz Hughes (York); Richard Gray (East Anglia); Joy Duxbury, Mick McKeown, Karen Wright, Christina Lyons (UCLAN); Vicky Clarke (Birmingham); Ann Jackson (St Andrews); Fiona Nolan (UCL); Val Howatson (Glasgow).

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome from the Chair Alan Simpson offered the group's thanks to UWE colleagues for hosting the meeting.

Welcome to UWE Steve Neill Deputy Dean welcomed the group to UWE and acknowledged once again the importance of disciplinary groups meeting to share knowledge and practice.

Presentation 1: **A virtual Service User Simulation Project** *Presented by Nicky Lambert (Senior Lecturer UWE)*

Session explored the use of information technology to deliver "practice experience" through the use of avatars in addition to sim dummies. Emphasis on reflection on practice throughout and extending evaluations a period when student is using learning in practice settings. The aim being to prompt thinking and to link college work with practice situations. It was noted that students appeared to dislike the level of work which may have been related to the requirements to log on and complete some of this online. It was also noted that students appeared to associated hard work with negative educational experiences and hence the need to evaluate learning at a later point in time. Part of the work has been then to help students learn the difference between emotional reactions to difficult work and the experience of learning useful professional knowledge for practice.

Presentation 2: **Reflecting on the role of 'Academic in Practice'** *Rachel Hadland (Academic in Practice UWE)*

Presentation on the role of the Academic in Practice in which time is divided equally between contact with students in practice settings while on placement and University based work. Three key elements

identified as being building relationships, problem solving and supporting people. The suggestion was made that these are common requirements in mental health nursing. The big message was the 1st year students saw academics as their main source of support while 3rd year students look to mentors in practice for this. Hence the need to consider adequate support on placements for students especially in the early stages of their training.

Invited Speaker: Nurse education and quality

*Peter Carter, General Secretary and Chief Executive,
Royal College of Nursing*

Dr Peter Carter accepted our invitation to discuss nurse education and quality in light of comments attributed to him in the media. The discussion commenced with a presentation including two short films. The first an evocative clip of nursing pre-NHS illustrating the challenges faced then and indicating that perhaps significant challenges have always faced nursing. The second clip was an emotive slide show accompanied by a song illustrating the challenges in providing dignified care for older people that respects and acknowledges them as whole human beings with significant histories of their own. The film, *The Right to Choose*, can be downloaded here:

http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/congress/2012/archive_webcast

Peter used this to launch a discussion of how care fails a significant minority. He advocated “intelligent service redesign” rather than “ill-informed cuts” and suggested that 40% of people in hospital don’t need to be there.

Peter emphasised that the RCN support an all graduate profession and dismissed the notion that graduates are unable to care. He made it clear that his reported comments were misconstrued and that he believed most nurse education is not only good but excellent. He acknowledged though that there are a minority of situations where things are poor or not working and this is something that the RCN has to be concerned with commenting upon. The discussion turned to an acknowledgement that many negative comments about nursing relate to the unregulated and often poorly educated health care assistant (HCA) workforce, notwithstanding some excellent examples of HCA mentoring and practice. Peter hoped that this was an area where University nurse education may have much to contribute. It was pointed out however that Universities have multiple competing priorities and training at this level was not seen as a priority for many higher education institutions.

Peter responded to a number of questions and the discussion included acknowledgement and some concerns about the increased role of not-for profit and private health service providers not always providing high quality care and not contributing to the funding of nurse and HCA education and training.

Presentation 3: Physical Health – the next steps

Nicky Lambert (Senior Lecturer UWE)

Presentation examined physical health issues in mental health settings. It noted that for some patients more contact meant poorer outcomes. The issue of physical ill-health also raised concerns about inequality of access to care and social injustice. The question posed was how and in what ways student nurses could be educated ‘politically’ to acknowledge and assert their power in an ethical, confident and cohesive way. Some suggestions were offered in this regard.

Business Section: Presentations & discussions

1. NMC Consultations

Alan Simpson

Alan noted the NMC consultations listed below. It was suggested that these had little to do directly with nurse education and as such we would not make a contribution as a group.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_133894

The DoH is seeking views on proposed changes to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) constitution. The consultation runs from Tuesday 8 May until 31 July 2012.

<http://www.nmc-uk.org/Get-involved/Consultations/NMC-consultation-on-fitness-to-practise-case-management-and-consensual-disposal/>

Proposed changes to NMC case management process - open until August 2012.

2. Update on RCN's Willis Education Commission

Ian Hulatt, RCN – see <http://mhnauk.swan.ac.uk/Responses.htm>

Ian kindly provided an update on the background and progress on the Willis Education Commission. The programme of work is half-way through and the intention is to publish findings in October 2012. The Commission received over 100 submissions of both written and invited oral evidence. There is a Willis Commission website at Wiliscommission.org where transcripts of oral evidence received will be posted in the next week or so. Emerging themes from the commission at this early stage include mentorship, placements, how the NMC will audit standards and opportunities for interdisciplinary education. The MHNAUK submission is on our webpages and Alan offered the group's thanks to Soo Moore at City University for collating and writing this on behalf of the group. The challenge for the Commission will be how to communicate the good news story of nurse education in a media more interested in negative accounts.

3. Update from Department of Health

Ben Thomas

Current big focus occupying minds at DoH is the recently released Winterbourne View report. In addition restraint and management of violence in learning disability and mental health settings is a future work stream that DoH will wish to examine.

Deaths in Custody group have circulated principles for consultation and there may be some work linking in with the PM's forum on selecting people for roles based on values and attitudes. A question was raised about standardised training for restraint and an analogy drawn with CPR training. It seems current practise on restraint is varied with different methods and techniques being taught. A view was expressed that little or insufficient emphasis was being put on de-escalation and this was countered by a concern that there may be little supporting evidence for de-escalation and that perhaps this was something to investigate further.

Ben also mentioned that a Learning Disability academics group mirroring MHNAUK was getting off the ground and that there may be opportunities and shared interests here. This was welcomed by the group. Ben lastly suggested that we might wish to invite the new Chief Nursing Officer, Jane Cummings to a future meeting.

Action: Alan to invite Jane Cummings

4. Prime Minister's Forum on Nursing and Care Quality

Alan Simpson

Our submitted response is on the web pages see <http://mhnauk.swan.ac.uk/Responses.htm>

Alan reported that the first letter from the group to the PM was very good by all accounts quite political in that it clearly indicated that constraints under which nurses operated. It is available on the CNO web pages <http://cno.dh.gov.uk/2012/05/28/nursing-and-care-quality-forum-make-recommendations-to-prime-minister/>

5. Mental Health Nursing Metrics

Mary Chambers

Mary reported back on subsequent meetings at the DoH attend by Sue McAndrew, Fiona Nolan, and Mary on behalf of the group. The focus most recently was on developing a tool to assess the therapeutic relationship and exploring if established routinely collected data could help with this. The feasibility of this is being explored though it appears that frequency and duration type data are more easily collected in community rather than hospital settings. A number of questions were raised around the challenges this work faced and Mary acknowledged that these were indeed being considered. The group meet again in September.

6. Service user representation**

Michael Coffey

A discussion paper was circulated with the agenda for this meeting. Responses to the options offered were very low and it was queried whether we should make changes on such a partial mandate. We had a useful discussion in the meeting about the options. Option 6 suggested by the DUCIE group was the preference of the limited number of votes received but this presented significant funding issues which the group felt were not resolvable currently. Again the suggestion was raised about whether the term service users for this group referred to users of mental health services or students who use our services as educators. We discussed again what it is we actually want or need as a group from service user input. We acknowledged that involvement and partnership were perhaps fundamental values that we as individuals might aspire to and would want this reflected in our group activity. We finally resolved to adopt option 2 which is that we will explicitly ask host institutions to ensure they invite service user educators in their organisations to attend in the way that has often been the case previously in MHNAUK meetings. We agreed we would extend the same opportunity to mental health nurse student representatives (to be determined by the hosts) at each host institution. This will commence from our next meeting and Andrew Clifton said that Northumberland are keen to do this.

Action: Alan to request hosts to invite service and student representatives to attend future meetings.

7. HEA Application

Alan Simpson & Michael Coffey

Alan and Michael reported that following the Edinburgh meeting they had indeed put together an interesting project application to HEA to explore the varied approaches across the UK to recruiting emotionally intelligent student mental health nurses. The call for proposals had received 187 applications and we unfortunately were not successful on this occasion. It was proposed that we examine alternative sources of funding but it was acknowledged that there are few opportunities for funding for research of this nature.

8. MHNAUK Elections

Michael Coffey

Alan Simpson's term as Chair will cease at the end of this year and Michael will assume the role of Chair from 2013-15. In accordance with our Terms of Reference we will then seek nominations for the position of vice-Chair following the Autumn meeting. Where we receive more than one nomination we will appoint a returning officer and conduct an election to decide on the outcome. This was mentioned today as an early notice of this process and to encourage members to consider if they would wish to nominate or be nominated for the role.

9. NPNR 2012

Alan Simpson & Michael Coffey

MHNAUK in partnership with the RCN are involved in putting together the NPNR conference. See RCN NPNR website http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/event_details/rcn_eventsms/nprn_2012 for full programme and booking details. We already have had a number of communications commenting on the excellent programme for this year and encourage all MHNAUK members to support this conference and ensure its future success. Reduced rates are available too for students and service users/carers.

10. Future meetings

See confirmed meetings below. Offers for hosting future meetings are welcome and should be directed to Alan in the first instance.

11. AOB

Mary Chambers reported that Kingston and St George's would be advertising a post for Director of Public and Patient Involvement/Reader soon.

Enkanah Soobadoo reported that a post for a Reader will soon be advertised at South Bank University. Alan reported that helpful information from Bob Rankin on Emotional Intelligence from the Edinburgh meeting has led to a joint application from City University to study this in nursing students in England and Turkey with Turkish colleagues.

Close of Meeting

Future Dates & some proposed Venues

24th October 2012	Northumbria
8th March 2013	Cardiff
June 2013	Liverpool John Moores tbc
October 2013	tbc
Spring 2014	