



Mental Health Nurse Academics (UK)

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

**Notes of the meeting held on
Friday 30th March 2012**

**'The Castle Room', Craig House Campus
Edinburgh Napier University**

Chair: Alan Simpson

Vice-Chair/notes: Michael Coffey

Present: Alan Simpson (City London); Michael Coffey & Julia Terry (Swansea); Marie Byrne (Edgehill); Ben Hannigan, Linda Cooper & Nicola Evans (Cardiff); Liz Hughes (York); Ian Hulatt (RCN); James Turner (Sheffield Hallam); Val Howatson & Gwenne McIntosh (Glasgow Caledonian); Andrew Clifton & David Banks (Northumbria); Sue McAndrew & Naomi Sharples (Salford); Tracy McClelland (Bradford); Michael Kelly (King's College London); Andy Mercer (Bournemouth); Peter Morrall (Leeds); Joy Duxbury, Mick McKeown, Karen Wright & Christina Lyons (UCLAN); John Playle & John Baker (Manchester); David Coyle (Chester); Fiona Nolan (UCL); Laetitia Zeeman (Brighton); Robert Tummey (Coventry); Billy Mathers & Marie McGaig (University West Scotland); Richard Gray (East Anglia); Len Bowers (IoP, Kings); Mary Chambers (Kingston & St George's); Tracey Cassidy (Plymouth); Bob Rankin (Dundee); Lisa Woods & Paula Kennedy (Liverpool John Moores); Enkanah Soobadoo and Tom Currid (South Bank); Paul Linsley (Lincoln); Grahame Smithe (Liverpool John Moores); Kath Padgett (Huddersfield); Dave Munday (MHNA) & Mike Ramsay (Dundee); Jenifer Clarke (Nursing Officer, Welsh Government); Margaret Conlon, Martin Gaughan & Lawrie Elliott (Edinburgh Napier); Vanessa Taylor (HEA); Hugh Masters (Nursing Officer, Scottish Government); Suzanne Forrest (NHS Education for Scotland); Simon Bradstreet (Scottish Recovery Network); Debbie Banks (Robert Gordon); Michele Roxborough & Pat Bradley (Stirling); Sandy McComish. (n=58)

Apologies: Steve Lyon (Huddersfield); Gerry Shepherd (Oxford Brookes); Steven Prymachuk (Manchester); Ann Jackson, (St Andrews); Tony Warne (Salford); Debbie Corby (Bradford); Gordon Mitchell (Teeside); Kevin Moore (Ulster); Marjorie Lloyd (Glyndwr); Ben Thomas (DH England).

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome from the Chair *Alan Simpson* with congratulations noted to newly promoted Professor Joy Duxbury and to Professor John Playle who is leaving Manchester to take up a post as Dean of Human and Health Sciences at Huddersfield University. Special thanks to our hosts, especially Margaret Conlon.

Welcome to Edinburgh Napier University *Professor Lawrie Elliot* welcomed the group to Napier and in doing so drew our attention once again to the group's core aims.

Presentation 1: Recovery in Scotland *Simon Bradstreet, Director, Scottish Recovery Network*

Simon gave a very interesting presentation on some of the innovative changes being made in Scotland in relation to recovery. Mental health nurses were noted as being key to these changes which were also mindful of tackling system wide changes needed to facilitate a recovery vision. Simon noted that dialogue had already moved on to consider changes out with the health care system. It was noted that low expectations of recovery in mental health existed more generally. Recovery was now being promoted as a public health issue and the aim was to encourage the public to raise their expectations in regard to outcomes when mental ill-health is experienced. Simon outlined the current goals of the Scottish Recovery Network which included

1. Raising awareness of recovery
2. Empowerment
3. Developing the evidence base
4. Influencing policy and practice.

Simon also mentioned a move towards a rights-based approach, promoting the views that people should have a right to recovery.

Presentation 2: Pre Registration Mental Health Nursing Programmes in Scotland – National Issues

Hugh Masters, Scottish Government

Susanne Forrest, NHS Education for Scotland

Hugh and Susanne gave a wide ranging overview of issues of relevance to mental health nurse training in Scotland. Hugh noted that completing students were being given a job guarantee which might include internships. There is a move in Scotland towards more health and social care integration with the first example of this commencing in the Highlands from 1st April 2012. A new mental health strategy is due later in 2012 and a new mental health nursing strategy due 2012/13. Susanne outlined developments on a national framework for pre-registration mental health nursing programmes. These include development of 10 essential shared capabilities for mental health practice learning methods which are available through the NHS Education for Scotland web site.

Presentation 3: Service User and Carer Involvement

Marie McGaig, University of the West of Scotland

Gwenne McIntosh, Edinburgh Napier University

Val Howaston, Glasgow Caledonian University

Marie outlined UWS work on service user involvement and noted concerns about confidentiality smokescreens from nurses raised by carers. Marie showed some video footage her group had created in which carers talked about their experiences of supporting relatives and being involved in a support group. A small book called 'Wee Book of Gems: Words of Wisdom by service users and carers' was also presented and copies made available at the meeting for members to take away.

Gwenne and Val outlined other approaches to involvement including student involvement in video work, service users recounting their stories and a strategy for involvement.

Presentation 4: Values Based Student Selection

Bob Rankin, University of Dundee

Bob outlined student selection procedures in which multiple mini-interviews are conducted with prospective nurse candidates to examine emotional intelligence and their fit for the role of a mental health nurse. Bob also noted that they identified a relationship between emotional intelligence and practice performance though less so with academic performance. Bob's presentation is on the [MHNAUK web site](#).

Presentation 5: New Approaches to Organising Practice Learning

- Demonstration Projects

Margaret Conlon, Edinburgh Napier University

Debbie Banks, Robert Gordon University

Michele Roxborough & Pat Bradley, Stirling University

Margaret and Pat presented their work on hub and spoke models of student practice placement. This is now on the MHNAUK web pages [here](#).

Main Discussion items

Business Section: Presentations & discussions

13.00 Centre for Social Justice on Transforming Mental Health in the UK

Richard Gray, University of East Anglia

Drawing on his involvement with the Centre for Social Justice Report on mental health, Richard gave a somewhat provocative presentation. He noted that there was a concern that reports tended towards regurgitating policy and positioned this as one reason for what was termed 'an unfinished revolution' in mental health services. The key focus in the CSJ report was related to the link between poverty and mental ill-health and vice-versa. Richard focused on the issues of families providing much of the care and the closure of approximately 1,000 mental health beds annually. He also noted thin evidence for effectiveness of inpatient care, early intervention and crisis resolution and home treatment. He suggested one of the challenges was to get nursing to work harder, that nurses were largely unfaithful in terms of showing fidelity to intervention techniques. The suggestion was the need to get pre-registration training of mental health nurses 'right' and a focus on getting the mental into the physical and the physical into the mental in modern health care. Time did not allow sufficient space for discussion but Alan Simpson challenged some conclusions about inpatient care and Mick McKeown highlighted that mental health nurses work in real everyday environments and so adapt interventions to real life situations and are flexible where needed. Richard's presentation is on the MHNAUK web pages [here](#).

13.45 Health Education Academy (HEA): funding opportunities

Vanessa Taylor, Discipline Lead (Nursing) HEA

Vanessa was welcomed to the meeting and then outlined HEA funding streams and opportunities for cross disciplinary research in education. She indicated that successful applicants keep their projects simple, focused and include service users and students in their bids. Full details are on the HEA website and Vanessa would be happy to discuss possible applications: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/>

Alan suggested that he and Michael draft an application for funds to support a work stream by MHNAUK, perhaps around recovery, service user involvement and student recruitment. A draft will be circulated for comments which will have to be submitted quickly as the deadline is 22nd April. This was agreed.

14.00 Mental Health Nurse Association: developing links

*Dave Munday, Professional Officer, MHNA & Mike Ramsay, Chair of Editorial Board
'Mental Health Nursing' magazine*

Dave outlined the MHNA's role and involvement in aspects of relevance to mental health nursing. Mike highlighted that the Mental Health Nursing periodical was keen to encourage submissions and may be a place for new authors to cut their teeth.

14.15 Feedback on Development of Mental Health Nursing Outcome Measures

Sue McAndrew, Mary Chambers, Fiona Nolan

Sue, Mary and Fiona outlined their recent involvement with the DH (England) in discussions on mental health nursing outcome measures and the push towards developing metrics for nursing. They will continue to represent MHNAUK at these meetings and work is ongoing with members taking on specific tasks including developing therapeutic relationships and carer engagement. Len Bowers mentioned that he was also involved and Sandy McComish offered to input similar developments in Scotland.

14.25 Feedback on Learning Disabilities Nursing & LD Consultant Nurses Forum

Michel Kelly, Kath Padgett & Alan Simpson

Kath reported back on her involvement with the learning disability consultant nurse forum and has provided a written update on her contacts. The forum would welcome involvement from someone who is a LD Nurse if any member is interested. Otherwise Kath will continue to link in. Michael reported on his involvement with a Department of Health led initiative regarding learning disability nurse academics. Michael reported that there was a concern in the dropping of numbers of students training in learning disabilities and a suggestion to fund Chairs in LD nursing from private organisations to promote research knowledge in this area. There appears to have been some interest in this group becoming part of MHNAUK but Alan reported that we have indicated that this is not our primary focus and other developments seem to suggest that there may now be a parallel development to establish a group of LD nurse academics along the lines of MHNAUK. If so we will seek make links as necessary as we may share some similar concerns.

14.30 RCN Review of Nursing Education

Ian Hulatt, RCN Mental Health Advisor

Ian reported the plan by the RCN to host a review of pre-registration nursing education partly in response to persistent pejorative narratives about nursing and nurse education in popular media. This has led to public concerns and negative depictions of nursing practices. Ian said a press release would be forthcoming announcing the Chair of the review and urged colleagues to get involved and participate when calls for evidence appear. Alan will circulate information as soon as it is available.

14.45 NMC Strategic Review

Andy Mercer

The NMC strategic review, prompted by Government concerns about nurses' fitness for practice and resource use at NMC, is ongoing with an expected move to wider consultation coming later in the Spring. Senior Officers have resigned and Andy reported on some initial soundings on what is going on at the NMC. We will need to keep an eye on this to be sure we get our chance to contribute to the Review if possible. Watch your inboxes for calls for responses as we may have to do this before we next meet.

15.00 Service User involvement/representation within MHNAUK: discuss proposal

Alan Simpson & Michael Coffey

A paper circulated prior to the meeting was briefly discussed but given the limited time available Alan proposed we seek responses to the options outlined by email. Michael will be in touch about this soon with the intention that we secure a way forward by the time we next meet.

15.10 NPNR 2012
Alan Simpson

Alan reminded members that the NPNR conference takes place on 26th and 27th September 2012 at Keble College, Oxford. This organised jointly by RCN and MHNAUK and members are encouraged to submit abstracts by 8th May and sign up to attend. Discounted places for service users and students are available. Full details here: http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/event_details/rcn_eventsms/nprn_2012

15.15 MHNAUK Representation and voting rights
Paper circulated was discussed and agreed and the ToR will now be amended.

15.20 Academy of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Research & Mental Health & Learning Disability Nurse Directors and Lead Forum & Schizophrenia Commission
Alan Simpson

Alan attended meeting of **Academy of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Visiting Research** as MHNAUK rep. Chaired by Roswyn Hakesley-Brown, Chair of the Patient's Association. Key feedback:

- DH England announce NIHR/CNO Clinical Academic Training Programme for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals. http://www.nihr.ac.uk/faculty/Pages/research_training_programmes.aspx
- Academy mentorship programme being evaluated but funds almost gone – now trying to identify more funding. Details here: <http://www.researchacademy.co.uk/mentors>
- Prime Minister's Nursing & Care Quality Forum chaired by Sally Brierley. Roswyn to make contact <http://cno.dh.gov.uk/2012/01/31/nursing-and-care-quality-forum/>
- Possible Academy Colloquium on 24th May to discuss position paper on pre-reg education and research.

Alan invited to attend **MHLDND Forum** meetings as representative of MHNAUK. Reciprocal arrangement established to publicise events on each other's websites. NPNR conference is now on Forum website. Len Bowers gave a presentation to the Forum on his research. The Forum is keen to hear from other researchers with results that can influence mental health services.

At the **MHLDND Forum**, the new Director of Nursing (Public Health), Dr Viv Bennett, gave a presentation in which she made clear that mental health and MHN will play a central role in public health initiatives. Following contact from Ben Thomas, the following MHNAUK members will attend a DH (England) workshop on Public Health: Thomas Currid (South Bank), David Banks (Northumbria), Jim Turner (Sheffield Hallam), Andy Mercer (Bournemouth), Tracy McClelland (Bradford) and Paul Linsley (Lincoln).

Alan was invited to give evidence to Rethink's **Schizophrenia Commission** on inpatient care and mental health nursing. The presentation, informed by members of MHNAUK, will be on the Commission's website and is available the [MHNAUK web site](#).

15.25 AOB

Bill Mathers announced the inaugural Scottish Mental Health Nursing Research Conference to take place at UWS's new Ayr Campus on the banks of the River Doon in Ayr on 20th April 2012. Full details here: <http://www.uws.ac.uk/schoolsdepts/hnm/mentalhealthconference/index.asp>

The next meeting on 26th June will include Dr Peter Carter, Royal College of Nursing.

Future meeting dates and hosts

Date	Host	Link person
June 26 th 2012 CONFIRMED	University West England, Bristol http://www.uwe.ac.uk/	Lucy Watkins
Oct 24 th 2012	Northumbria University, Newcastle	Andrew Clifton & David Banks

CONFIRMED	http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/	
March 2013	Wales - TBC	Linda Cooper & Ben Hannigan

15.30 Close of Meeting