



Mental Health Nurse Academics (UK)

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

Notes of meeting held Tuesday 18th October 2011

University of Bradford

Chair: Alan Simpson

Vice-Chair/Notes: Michael Coffey

Present:

Alan Simpson - City; Rob Newell, Tracey McClelland, Sally Barlow, Debi Corby – Bradford; Michael Coffey and Julia Terry - Swansea; Ben Hannigan – Cardiff; Len Bowers - Institute of Psychiatry; John Baker & Steve Prymachuk (and Diane Clarke from Canada) – Manchester; Joy Duxbury & Karen Wright– UCLAN; Andrew Clifton – Northumbria; Greg Rooney – Hertfordshire; Peter Morrall and Graham Ford(?) – Leeds; Steve Hemingway – Huddersfield; Tracey Cassidy– Plymouth; Jill Anderson & Bill Penson – mhhe.

Apologies: Russell Ashmore – Sheffield; Andy Williams – Southampton; Marie Byrne, Lai Chan & Cathy Griffiths – Edgehill; John Playle, – Manchester; Susanne Forrest – NHS Scotland; Dianne Ellis & Gordon Mitchell - Teesside University; Robert Rankin – Dundee; Michael Kelly – KCL; Fiona Nolan – UCL; Steve Lyon – Huddersfield; Soo Moore –City London; Enkanah Soobadoo – London South Bank; Mick McKeown & Christina Lyons – UCLAN; Patrick Callaghan – Nottingham; Vicky Clarke – Birmingham; John Perry– Plymouth; Andy Mercer - Bournemouth; Liz Hughes – York; David Coyle & Matt Bowen – Chester; Kevin Moore – Ulster; David Banks – Northumbria; Sue McAndrew – Salford; Doug MacInnes – Canterbury; Lucy Watkins & Nicky Lambert – UWE; Malcolm Watts & Geoff Dickens – Northampton; Grahame Smith – Liverpool John Moore; Vicky Clarke – Birmingham City; Ian Beech – Glamorgan; Ian Hullat – RCN; Gerry Sheppard – Brookes; Christine Hogg – Salford; Mary Chambers – Kingston and St George's; James Turner – Sheffield; Linda Cooper – Cardiff.

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions & Welcome

Shirley Congdon, Dean and Professor Rob Newell welcomed the group to Bradford and gave an overview of the main areas of activity within the School.

Alan Simpson, Chair MHNA(UK) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked University of Bradford for hosting.

Presentation 1:

Service User's research into psychosocial difficulties and concerns in lymphodeoma secondary to cancer

- Dr Sally Barlow

Presentation 2

Psychosocial adjustment following disfigurement*

- Professor Rob Newell

*Please see attached message from Rob re the Face Equality campaign.

<http://www.changingfaces.org.uk/Face-Equality>

Presentation 3

Born in Bradford: Birth cohort study

- Professor Neil Small

Presentation 4

Meeting the physical and psychological health needs of sexually exploited young people

- Dr Tracy McClelland

Business Section agenda & notes

Main Discussion items

i) Restructuring and developments in the Higher Education Academy (HEA) and mental health higher education (mhhe)

Jill Anderson, Senior Project Development Office, mhhe

Bill Penson, Leeds Metropolitan University, Co-ordinator, Mental Health Special Interest Group, Health Sciences and Practice Subject Centre

Jill and Bill gave an overview of the history of mhhe and more recent changes. mhhe was set up in 2003. Due to restructuring and limited funding some work is being curtailed and the resource for mhhe is shrinking. There are now four subject centres, Health, Social, Arts & Humanities, STEM. There is a mhhe online hub containing blogs and space for groups for example social and mental health. The hub is also working as repository for mhhe material that might otherwise be lost due to ongoing resource issues. There is also space for self-publishing in the grey matters section of the hub. See the presentation slides and find out more and join the mhhe hub here: <http://mhhehub.ning.com/>. See also the “[Burning Issues](#)” project on the HEA website.

ii) Service User involvement/representation within MHNAUK: discuss proposal

Alan Simpson & Michael Coffey

Very useful and constructive discussion around the proposal for involvement which was circulated prior to the meeting. There was general support for the notion of involvement but also real concerns about how to do this and what the expectations might be of those attending meetings. Funding was raised and it was acknowledged that there was unlikely to be a source of funding to allow consistent service user input given the costs of travel, hotel etc in attending meetings. KW queried whether we should ever seek a named person given shifting vulnerabilities and perhaps a named group who may be represented. The DUCIE group was mentioned as a possible resource for helping us think this through. SP noted that we might have other ‘users’ of our services as academics such as students. A “floating service user group” that could contribute to outputs from this group was also raised as a possibility. This could be virtual and would achieve the aim of informing and contributing to our outputs. LB suggested that we drop one of the presentation sessions at our meetings and use the slot to invite a local service user group to come along and get involved. Alan will discuss the issue with the DUCIE group he and Michael will draft another version of the involvement proposal and present at the next meeting.

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

Michael Coffey

Many thanks for those who were able to return the survey. Initial analysis indicates that there were 33 of 51 institutions represented on this group returning the survey. The returns indicated few surprises with increases in BSc courses closely matching decreases in Diploma courses. Mental health student nurse

places appear to be increasing relative to adult places but this is set against a decrease in academic staff leading to increase in student to staff ratios. More details will be circulated once the survey results have been analysed a little more closely.

iv) Trust trains own nurses to ‘nurture better attitudes and behaviour’

Alan Simpson

Useful discussion about the Heart of England NHS Trust rhetoric on nurse training. It was noted that polarised views appear to exist and these were unhelpful for example poor students/education versus poor staff/placements. PM mentioned that a response in NET is forthcoming. SP noted that the debate offered has been hospital dominated and neglected the realities of where most care is now offered. The RCN’s Peter Carter’s comments were noted and it was suggested we invite him to a future meeting to discuss this further. Alan to invite Peter Carter.

v) NMC: New curriculum developments and topics for future discussions

Alan reminded the group that the following the retirement of Garth Long, MHNAUK and the NMC were keen to maintain good working relationships. He requested input from the group on developments regarding the NMC as we would like to keep abreast of pre-registration curriculum developments (for example how the specialist mental health input MHN students is being handled) so that we can maintain dialogue with the NMC. Please contact Alan with issues as they arise to help us form a view on this. The issue of post registration standards was also noted and this is again something we would like to keep an awareness of so that we may contribute to discussions.

vi) MHNAUK Representation and feedback

Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Directors of Nursing and Leads Forum (MHLNDNL)

Alan was invited to attend by the Chair, Ros Alstead, following her teleconference at our previous meeting. This proved to be a very useful networking opportunity for MHNAUK and it is suggested that we take up the open invitation for the Chair to attend their two meetings each year. Alan provided a summary of some of the key points discussed at the meeting:

Steve Shrubbs (Mental Health Network, NHS Confederation) outlined the challenges faced by a combination of NHS efficiency savings, 26% cuts in social services and voluntary sector budgets and greater demand for mental health services via economic recession. There is no evidence of MH being disproportionately cut compared with acute services and there are some creative some impressive service redesigns and some not so! Particular Challenges: Payment by Results (PbR)/Clusters and what MH services can do for the NHS, e.g. liaison; long-term conditions; medically unexplained symptoms. On education, there is the potential for more control over education and people should get involved in Steve Field’s Future Forum re workforce development. Key issues re MHN education: influencing new curriculum; quality of mentorship; supporting students in practice.

Dickon Weir-Hughes, Chief Executive & Registrar NMC: Key points:

- Advanced Practice registrations – proving very difficult & delayed
- Graduate Nursing curriculum – MUST emphasise community practice or will not be approved
- Proactive Regulation – working with CQC, Monitor, GMC
- Addressing poor practice – much more proactive; looking for issues; trawl media coverage
- Safe and Effective Recruitment – prioritising patient safety, dignity and compassion
- Revalidation PREP – to be updated; online; risk-based
- Mid Staffs - urged MHNDs to take students out of failing placements/clinical areas
- Fitness to Practice - £30m being spent on FtP hearings! (Just increased by £6m); 170 staff; 90 referrals a week
- Cautions and convictions last year : 10.5% all registrants are men but 49% cautions/convicts by men; MHNs twice as likely to appear c/w adult and child nurses, esp re drink and drug driving

- Concerns about HEIs accepting applicants with serious/multiple convictions/history of offending
- Moving to regulate Associate Practitioners
- NMC Review (magazine) – revamped; to be edited by Jane Salvage; now have to ask for it
- Issue raised of HEIs needing to do more to support students in placements

NPNR Conference: Alan reported that this year’s conference was a great success with record number of delegates (186), including high proportion international delegates, and high number of good quality speakers, abstracts, presentations and posters. The new venue, Keble College was a great success and we had good weather. Alan thanked everyone for helping to promote the *NPNR* and suggested that next year we aim to get more students to attend. The Steering Committee is meeting on 10th November to review the evaluations and begin plans for next years’ conference which will be on 27th & 28th September at Keble College, Oxford.

MHHE: presentation from Jill Anderson at this meeting, see above.

Other: SH mentioned the *MHNA* journal *Mental Health Nursing* (see attachment) which is now online only and seeking copy from mental health nurses on aspects of their work. Steve suggested that this might be a useful way of new authors gaining experience with writing and publishing their work. It was noted that the shift to online access means that many University libraries no longer take this journal and this may limit its audience further. It was also agreed to look at developing links between *MHNAUK* and *MHNA*. Alan to invite *MHNA* speaker to future meeting.

AOB

1. New members

Alan noted that we had new members attending today, Julia Terry from Swansea and Tracey Cassidy from Plymouth. We have also had new members from Bristol, Oxford Brookes, Northampton and Chester. A reminder please to keep Alan and Michael informed of changes to representatives so that we can keep the members list up to date.

Alan raised the issue of representation on the group as some institutions had enquired about having more the two members. Alan and Michael were of the opinion that we should do as much as we can to encourage participation by those interested. It was noted that some institutions already had more than two named representatives and this had worked well and allowed the group to draw on wider experience and knowledge resources. A general discussion on this came to solution in the form of Alan and Michael agreeing to drafting an amendment to the Terms of Reference in which we would say that each institution would ‘normally or as a guide’ have two members (this would not exclude other representatives from those HEIs) but for voting purposes each HEI would have 2 votes (plus Profs) on matters related to group business (such as elections). The amendment will be circulated in time for agreement at the next meeting.

2. European Mental Health Conference in Helsinki May 23-25, 2012, second announcement See: www.nurses.fi

Future Dates & some proposed Venues

Friday 30th March 2012	Edinburgh: venue to be confirmed
June 2012 (Date to be confirmed)	University of West England Bristol
October 2012	Northumbria
March 2013	? Wales
June 2013	? Birmingham

15.30 pm Close of Meeting