



Mental Health Nurse Academics (UK)

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

Notes of Meeting held on 24th October 2012 at Northumbria University, Newcastle

Chair: Alan Simpson

Present: Alan Simpson – City London; Michael Coffey (Swansea); John Playle (Huddersfield); Tracy McClelland (Bradford); John Baker and Steve Pryjmachuk (Manchester), Dave Coyle (Bangor), Russell Ashmore (Sheffield), Andy Mercer (Bournemouth), Anita Savage-Grainge (York), Sue McAndrew (Salford), Gwenne MacIntosh (Napier), Gordon Mitchell and Mike Fleet (Teesside), Greg Rooney (Herts), Kath Padgett (Huddersfield), Tracey Cassidy (Plymouth), Doug MacInnes (Kent), Len Bowers (IOP), Mick McKeown (UCLAN), Peter Morrall (Leeds), David Banks, Andrew Clifton, ME Rowe, Mick Hill, Craig Thompson, Sandra Moran, Michala Watson, Emma Hawkins (Northumbria),

Apologies received: Michael Kelly (Kings); Liz Hughes (York); Ben Hannigan and Linda Cooper and Nicola Evans (Cardiff); Mary Chambers (Kingston & St George's); Lisa Woods & Grahame Smith (Liverpool John Moore); Kevin Moore and Marie O'Neill, (Ulster); Joy Duxbury and Karen Wright (UCLAN); Marjorie Lloyd (Glyndwr); Jeni French (Wales CNO office); Jon Perry (Plymouth); Christina Lyons (UCLAN), Steve Lyon and Steve Hemingway (Huddersfield), Maureen Deacon (Chester), Val Howatson (Glasgow), Nichola Lambert, Rachel Hadland (Bristol), Gerry Sheppard (Oxford), Jim Turner (Sheffield), Laetitia Zeeman (Brighton), Naomi Sharples (Salford), Alison Kilduff (Derby), Julia Terry (Swansea), Bob Turney (Coventry), Fiona Nolan (UCL), Mairi Byrne (Edgehill), Enkanah Soobadoo (London South Bank); Billy Mathers (West of Scotland), Ben Thomas (DoH),

Welcome from the Chair and Introductions

Alan Simpson, with particular thanks to Michael Coffey for recent support in preparing for this meeting and to David Banks and Andrew Clifton for organising the venue and catering etc.

Welcome to Northumbria University

Dean of Faculty, Professor Kath McCourt

Presentation 1: Service user issues

Jane Noble, Andrew Clifton, David Banks, Michala Watson and Emma Hawkins

This meeting marked the first opportunity to hear directly from students on their experiences of their training as service users of mental health nurse education. Michala and Emma presented some familiar issues for students across the UK but also highlighted good experiences and commitment to becoming qualified mental health nurses. Issues included childcare, adequate preparation for placements, challenging practice but being critically aware in this regard and importance of feedback and reflection. David presented some work based upon a recent paper titled [Mental health service user involvement in policy development: social inclusion or disempowerment?](#) and Andrew presented on a range of projects including phase 2 evaluation of the CNO review of Mental Health Nursing as a model of service user involvement in research. An interesting discussion ensued which centred on the need for critical engagement with notions of service user involvement and the challenges associated with co-optation. See Clifton, A. et al 2012. Co-producing social inclusion: the agency/structure conundrum. [Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing](#)

Presentation 2: Field study on service user access

Mick Hill & Simon Westrip

Mick Hill presented on his project “Securing Lives and Shaping Futures: a qualitative investigation of a partnership approach to lifelong learning”. This thought-provoking project illustrated that along with austerity and cuts to public services there was an associated loss of well established informal and voluntary group supports. See: http://content.durham.gov.uk/PDFRepository/UNN_Securing_Lives_and_Shaping_Futures_Report.pdf

Presentation 3: IAPT Project
Craig Thompson

Craig Thompson presented his attempts at introducing basic IAPT and CBT skills into pre-registration mental health nursing education. This included a shortened CBT foundation course involving blended learning with a highly motivated sample of students opting to take this course in their own time.

All presentations will be made available on the MHNAUK web site, follow this link
<http://mhnauk.swan.ac.uk/presentations/presentations.htm>

Business Section:

Item: 1 MHNAUK Elections
Michael Coffey

The position of vice-chair will become available once Alan has completed his term as Chair and Michael takes on this role. Ben Hannigan has agreed to once again handle the process of nominations and elections. Nominations are requested from group members with the agreement of the nominee to Ben Hannigan via email to hanniganb@cadiff.ac.uk Where more than one nomination is received we will move to an election. This requires the production of a personal statement which will be circulated to members for voting. Each HEI will have up to 2 votes plus one vote per Professor of mental health nursing. HEI's with more than 2 members need to decide who is voting so that only 2 votes are received. HEI's with less than 2 members can only vote once per member.

Action: The timetable for the process is as follows;

MHNAUK meeting: Oct 24th

Nominations open (to Ben Hannigan): Monday Nov 12th

Nominations close: Friday Nov 23rd

Personal statements in to Ben Hannigan by: Friday Nov 30th

Statements sent to all and elections open: Monday Dec 3rd

Elections close: Friday Dec 14th

New V-C announced: Monday Dec 17th

Item: 2 Reflections and review of activities
Michael Coffey

Michael led a discussion on achievements of the group over its nine year history with the intention of focusing on refreshing and building new directions over the coming years. The achievements of the group include significant influence and impact upon changes to pre-registration education of mental health nurses and engagement and support of the NPNR conference. It was pointed out that this group has also allowed us to come together, network, gain support and build transferrable knowledge on education and research in mental health nursing. It was also noted that we are very good on education focus but less strong on research strategy and responses. We had a discussion on how best to refresh our aims and purpose and question if these are still fit for purpose. We highlighted that the position statements need revisiting and perhaps we need a new position statement on pre-registration education given that this has changed significantly in recent years. There was general agreement that we needed to consider if the web site was fit for purpose. The group web pages currently exist due to the generosity of Swansea University and have been put together for zero cost and maintained as an amateur project. We revisited the funding issue and a useful point was made about what exactly we need funding for? The quick answer to this question is the web site but this did raise the question of how much funding we might need and that perhaps we should cost this out so we have a clear idea of what is needed.

Action: Alan suggested that he and Michael cost this up and return with this to the group.

Item: 3 **Future direction for MHNAUK- some ideas for discussion**

Michael Coffey

Michael ran through a series of suggestions for group developments. Some very useful discussion ensued about discussion lists for the group, using Twitter, developing communities of interest, whether the group might develop or negotiate for control of a journal, maximising networks for the benefit of doctoral students, writing groups on areas of interest, development of officer roles, etc. It was concluded that we should give over a full meeting to the business of the group and to this end it was suggested that the Cardiff meeting should dispense with presentations with the intention of pursuing some of the ideas discussed today. To also consider extending discussions to evening before meeting and to start earlier.

Action: To discuss meeting plan with Cardiff hosts Linda Cooper and Ben Hannigan.

Item: 4 **LETBs and MHN Education: new commissioning/contracting arrangements - key challenges and opportunities**

John Playle

John provided a very helpful overview of developments in England for the commissioning and contracting arrangements for health staff education and training, following on from the 'Liberating the NHS' document. This centred on Health Education England (HEE), an overarching body with national oversight for education and training, and the establishment of 13 Local Education and Training Boards (LETBs) – the 'engine of the system'. Originally only intended to concern pre-registration education, now includes some CPD. There are moves to levy healthcare providers for E&T and plans for funding to providers for clinical placements.

Key opportunities: increased provider involvement and ownership of E&T; better partnership in commissioning and contracting. Risks include lack of true partnership and possible more competition between providers. Mental health may well become (already is?) marginalised.

Mental health nurses: NHS workforce numbers same as in 2006. Number of registered MHNs has increased 20%; 35% working outside NHS. Implications for provider levy. Increased vacancy rates for MHN. Meanwhile there is a 19% cut in commissioning of MHN training in England (higher in some areas, e.g. London?).

The Willis Commission (RCN) Report will identify major problems in clinical placements for students. Jane Cummings, CNO – all about recruiting the 'right people'.

In Wales, there is a move towards greater competition with an open tender and a possible move towards a single education provider in certain regions. In Scotland, there has already been a move towards fewer providers.

More information can be obtained from the HEE website and newsletters

<http://www.hee.nhs.uk/>

John's slides are on the MHNAUK website:

<http://mhnauk.swan.ac.uk/presentations/presentations.htm>

Item: 5 **Willis Education Commission**

Michael Coffey

This report was due to be published following our meeting and is now available:

<http://www.williscommission.org.uk/>

Importantly:

The commission found no major shortcomings in nursing education that could be held directly responsible for poor practice or the perceived decline in standards of care. Nor did it find any evidence that degree-level registration was damaging to patient care. On the contrary, graduate nurses have played and will continue to play a key role in driving up standards and preparing a nursing workforce fit for the future.

Items: 6**Mental Health Nursing Metrics**

Sue McAndrew, Fiona Nolan, Mary Chambers

Sue McAndrew Therapeutic metric – progress:

Mary Chambers facilitated a morning for academics, practitioners, service users and carers to further explore what is important in terms of therapeutic engagement and how this might be better achieved and captured within mental health nursing. From this and other previous work we have done as a small group (Fiona, Paul Watts, Ben & myself) Mary has now put together a survey/questionnaire, utilising the 5 rather than 6 C's, for practitioners and service users that goes some way to capture what is perceived to be happening. Mary presented this yesterday when we met and we have agreed to look at the questionnaire and give feedback re refinement within the next 2 weeks. Ben Thomas will inform the Directors of Nursing meeting on the 16th Nov of the questionnaire and our intention to pilot it. Piloting will take place in each of the 4 Trusts we link with and we have agreed to feedback the results on the 18th December

Sue also passed on a message from Ben Thomas:

1. DH has commenced a project to consider the nursing contribution to dementia care and to consider how the nursing contribution can support the PM's Dementia Challenge by:

- Raising the profile of the wider nursing contribution to dementia care through a range of areas including public health
- Considering the expectations from each field of nursing linking to 'No health without mental health'
- Understanding the fit with social care and other areas of policy
- Scoping what is already happening and clarifying the range of documents that will link into this work
- Considering educational standards and CPD needs
- Ensuring a seamless fit with 6Cs

Please send any examples of good practice, ideas or challenges facing nursing to Ben

2. CNO 6Cs Vision out for consultation <http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/nhscb/nursing-vision> please respond if you have not already done so.

3. England's Implementation Group for 'Strengthening the Commitment' is to be chaired by Elaine Strachen-Hall, DoN, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, first meeting due to take place on Tuesday 27 November. Nurse academics are represented by Sue Beacock, Council of Deans and Helen Goulding, Birmingham City University.

Does the MHNAUK want to nominate a representative for this work on Learning Disabilities Nursing?

- Kath Padgett kindly agreed to be our representative.

Items: 7**Feedback from NPNR**

Alan Simpson

This years' NPNR was generally very successful with good keynote speakers, high quality concurrent sessions and posters, over 190 delegates and very positive feedback. However it is still likely that the conference will not break-even financially. The NPNR Steering Group (which includes Alan, Michael and Russell Ashmore from MHNAUK) will meet in November to review this year's event and begin plans for 2013. Suggestions for consideration included:

- Move start date to earlier as clashes with start of term for many so cannot attend
- Explore alternative funding
- Consider moving to different venues outside Oxford (e.g. Nottingham, Warwick, Birmingham conference centres) to perhaps reduce costs and hopefully attract wider range of delegates.
- Consider other UK country to reflect UK-wide focus of MHNAUK

- Film sessions
- Perhaps have Eileen Skellern Lecture presented at NPNR

Action: Alan, Michael & Russell to feedback to NPNR Steering Group.

Future dates and hosts for meetings

Date	Host	Link people
8th March 2013	Cardiff University, Wales	Linda Cooper & Ben Hannigan
20th June 2013	Liverpool John Moores University	Grahame Smith & Lisa Wood
October 2013	University of Teeside	Gordon Mitchell & Diane Ellis
Spring 2014	tbc	