

Mental Health Nurse Academics UK (MHNAUK)

Aims and objectives

MHNAUK was formed in 2003 and is a group that brings together representatives from all UK Higher Education Institutions engaged in mental health nursing education and research.

The aims of the group are

1. To represent and promote mental health nursing education, research and practice development, including actively participating in Key National and International committees and working groups
2. To influence and respond to the UK mental health agenda through well-informed debate, discussion and the dissemination of material that reflects our views on a range of issues
3. To act as a source of consultation and advice to mental health nurses and others on mental health nursing education and research
4. To share good practice and innovations in the development and conduct of mental health nursing education and research.
5. To conduct research into mental health nursing education

Membership

- Open to each UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) providing Mental Health Nursing professional education and/or research.
- Each HEI may nominate two or more representatives as members who may all attend meetings or who may delegate attendance to other representatives as required.
- All Professors of Mental Health Nursing will be de facto members.
- Where a vote on any issue is required, each HEI will have up to two votes. The two members entitled to vote will be agreed by the HEI representatives and notified to the Chair prior to voting.
- All Professors of Mental Health Nursing who are part of the group will also have a vote.

Leadership

Chair

- Nominated by members of the group.
- Informal election to take place if more than one nomination.
- Normally a two year term of office, though may, by agreement of the group may be extended one further year.
- Notwithstanding the above, no Chair shall serve longer than three years in total

Role:

- Initiate and pull together task groups to respond to issues or request for advice that arise between meetings.

- Chair the meetings of the group.
- Appoint members to other bodies when representation is requested or appropriate.
- Consider and approve all position statements and other documents emanating from the group prior to them being circulated.
- Maintain mailing list and facilitate communication
- Maintain an up to date list of contacts and groups to whom position statements should be issued

Vice- Chair

- Nominated by members of the group.
- Informal election to take place if more than one nomination.
- Normally a two year term of office though may, by agreement of the group may be extended one further year.
- Notwithstanding the above, no Vice-Chair may serve in the role for longer than three years in total
- The Vice Chair will normally take over as Chair, for a period of two years.
- No person shall serve as Vice-Chair, then Chair, for a total period exceeding five years

At no time should the Chair and Vice-Chair be from the same HEI.

Method of working

Frequency of meetings: At least three times per year, once per term.

- In the interests of promoting involvement and partnership and to benefit from informed discussion the group will ask host institutions to invite service user educators contributing to their programmes and mental health nursing student representatives to attend all or part of our meetings.

Location/venue: To be held at HEIs willing to host around the UK taking into account equity between different parts and regions of the UK.

- Normally at least one meeting every two years shall take place in either Northern Ireland or Scotland or Wales.
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Format of meetings:

- Presentations on MHN (MH) research and educational activity from the Host Institution (+ others nearby as necessary)
- Review of task group outputs and the uses to which they have been put.
- Suggestions for new task groups and any other issues requiring consultation or responses on behalf of the group.

Relationship to others

The Chair (or their nominee) will meet regularly with the Professional Nurse Adviser for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities at DH – England and equivalents in other UK countries.

Members of the group shall also, as invited, represent MHNAUK on equivalent relevant committees in the other three countries of the UK.

Similar appointments or representatives from MHNAUK members may, as requested, be made to other bodies, as considered appropriate from time to time. Such appointments/representatives will be agreed by the Chair, from members of the group who volunteer for such tasks.