

Health Professions Council
4 October 2006

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AT EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The attached feedback forms have been received the following members of Council, reporting back from meetings at which they have represented the HPC;

Diane Waller

Decision

The Council is requested to note the document. No decision is required.

Background information

None.

Resource implications

None.

Financial implications

None.

Background papers

None.

Appendices

Copies of feedback forms.

Date of paper

22 September 2006.

July 2006 FEEDBACK SHEET TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE MEETING

Name of Council Member	Diane Waller
Title of Conference/Meeting	World Psychiatric Association International Congress
Date of Conference	12-16 July 2006
Approximate number of people at the conference/meeting	About 2-3000
<p>This conference is mainly attended by psychiatrists, psychologists, neurologists and other medics, with very few other health professionals being invited to present papers.</p> <p>My paper was in the symposium concerning Art and Anti-Stigma, which is an ongoing preoccupation of the WPA and the WHO and was entitled: Dementia, A Stigmatizing process. This was based on a recently completed research project. There were at least 10 parallel sessions each day with satellite symposia also held. I tried to attend those which would relate to HPC's work, namely on Ethics and Values, Developing mental health services and User led research in mental health. A very interesting session (poorly attended) featured the Kings College Research Unit which is devoted to developing user led as opposed to user collaborative research. Diane Rose (Director's) paper outlined the difficulty of such an initiative when involving service users with mental health issues, and moreover having the notion of user led research accepted by major funded bodies (due to the stigma of being a mental health patient and the assumption that such patients will not be rationale enough to participate). Ethics sessions focussed on how to maintain highest ethical standards when faced with bare minimum of resources. Projects from Georgia, Turkey, India, S.America were discussed. In these countries there is a dire lack of qualified people and hospital beds, so alternative ways of delivering services had to be found. Some participants illustrated their talks with slides of the shocking conditions they were working in (including two or more patients to a bed, restraint by binding to the bed, electro-convulsive therapy without anaesthetic). Maintaining the highest codes of medical and nursing practice in these conditions was, to say the least, challenging. There were some interesting and hopeful developments using community networks and training local women to act as health assistants in India. (The last, on ECT without anaesthetic, was the focus of a major symposium, as this practice has only just been outlawed in Turkey).</p> <p>The best attended symposia were on bio-medics, particularly treatment of bipolar disorders and depression.</p> <p>My thoughts are that HPC might make a connexion with the Unit at Kings and also organise a training day about Ethics. An excellent workshop was offered by Prof Bill Fulford of Warwick University concerning the identification of Ethics and Values. This was of particular importance when operating the Mental Health Act concerning Sectioning of patients (compulsory treatment). We were asked to respond quickly to 14 case vignettes saying yes or no to Sectioning. He has found a remarkable correspondence between responses over many groups, including users of services, suggesting that 'gut reaction' plays an important role in our decision-making.</p> <p>I was able to spend time with some Turkish counsellors and psychologists, finding</p>	

out about practice at the coal face. It is tough. The family and social networks are still the main source of support when people have mental health problems, except when these become severe, when, if they are rich they can get private treatment and if not, they take their chance in the state hospitals.

Currently there are few professions in HPC centrally involved with mental health, but if/when the psychologists join this will change, so it would be good to give a little more attention to this field.

I am very grateful to HPC for the chance to participate in this important event.