

Addictions Faculty Executive Committee Report June 2011



Residential Meeting. An important focus of the Exec's work this quarter has been delivering the Faculty's major event of the year, the Annual Residential Meeting, which took place on 11-12 May. Despite having to be postponed to avoid clashing with the Royal Wedding, the event was a great success, with 90% of those giving feedback saying their overall experience of the event was excellent or good. Key speakers included Paul Hayes (Chief Executive of the NTA), Clare Gerada (Chair of RCGP) and David Burrowes MP (Parliamentary Private Secretary to Cabinet Office Minister Oliver Letwin). The programme was designed to be challenging as well as informative, presenting views that may be controversial within addictions psychiatry, but which are currently influential, for example on recovery.

Engaging and Influencing. The Exec has been continuing to engage with the developing recovery agenda. It submitted a [formal response](#) to the NTA's consultation on *Building Recovery in Communities*, which drew on a successful [focus group](#) meeting of patients and carers. It has been representing the Faculty at public events such as the NTA's [National Skills Consortium conference](#). More informally, the Chair is meeting with a number of Ministers, MPs and Ministers' Special Advisers to explain the role of addictions psychiatry in recovery, and raise issues about the long term consequences for patients and their communities of any disinvestment in skills and services as a result of service redesign.

Best Practice. Since the last Exec meeting, a number of working groups have been set up involving Addictions Faculty Exec members:

- On alcohol and brain damage, convened by the RCPsych Neuropsychiatry Section
- On Pain and Substance Misuse, to update existing guidelines published by the British Pain Society, RCGP, ACMD and Addictions Faculty.
- On Substance Misusers in Police Custody, to update the "Blue Guidelines", a revised edition of which will be published in the next few months.

Drug and Alcohol Core Competencies (DACC) project. With funding from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, a new project has been launched to find consensus across all medical specialities on the core competencies that all doctors need in order to adequately identify and manage patients who use drugs or alcohol. This is intended to build on [previous work](#) on drug and alcohol competencies in the undergraduate curriculum, by embedding core competencies in the curricula of all the Medical Colleges.

Website. The Exec is in the process of designing new Faculty webpages on the College website, which will be of use to both Faculty members and non-members. Members are invited to send any website links, articles, academic papers or other material that they have found useful or interesting, and feel would be good to include on the Faculty webpages, to addictionsfaculty@rcpsych.ac.uk.