

Gay and Lesbian Special Interest Group Report 2006

The Special Interest Group has again been very active over the course of the last year.

1. Newsletter Contribution

Our Chair, Annie Bartlett was invited to write for the London Division Newsletter. Alongside other contributions on aspects of diversity she wrote a piece on gay and lesbian mental health issues for metropolitan psychiatrists "Sex in the City".

2. College Annual meeting 2005

Our session at last year's AGM entitled: "The Impact on psychological and physical health of civil partnerships for same sex couples" was well received. The three speakers discussed the involvement of Humanism in commitment ceremonies for LGB couples, the evidence for health benefits of marriage and partnership, and the legal implications and next of kin issues relating to civil partnerships.

3. Are you gay? Normalising the therapeutic relationship.

This one day conference hosted by the L&G SIG and organised by Confer took place on Saturday 17th September 2005 at 120 Belsize Lane, NW3. The aim of the day was to explore the dilemmas for psychiatrists and psychotherapists in acknowledging their own and their clients' sexual orientation in clinical practice when the context of training has historically pathologised homosexuality, and to explore perspectives on these issues from different psychotherapeutic ideologies. The conference attracted a substantial number of delegates from a wide variety of professional backgrounds. All speakers were excellent and there was a great deal of thought provoking material presented, leading to some lively discussion, expertly Chaired by Annie Bartlett. Notes from the day and presentations will be posted on the SIG's page of the College website (www.rcpsych.ac.uk).

4. Training pack

The Diversity Training Pack is currently being piloted in three sites. It will also be possible to try it out yourself at this year's College Annual Meeting as Ian Hall and Annie Bartlett will be facilitating a workshop session for delegates to

find out more about it. The pack will be further developed into a final version after piloting and we then plan to explore how best to disseminate it. We are in discussion with a specialist marketing organisation and we are also considering whether the College might be interested in using it for on-line and other CPD resources.

5. Glasgow Meeting July 2006

The SIG has been successful in putting forward 3 sessions for this meeting. These are: "Boundaries and Therapeutic Relationships" with the Women in Psychiatry SIG and the Spirituality SIG, "Gay and Lesbian Mental Health Matters" a workshop of the Training Pack and "Diversity and Identity" a half day session on aspects of diversity.

6. Suggestions for sessions for the 2007 College Annual meeting

The theme of the conference is "Recovery". With this in mind we will be suggesting two sessions. Firstly a plenary debate "This house believes that sexual relationships between mental health professionals and patients are not permissible". Secondly a session on "Sex and psychosis" including speakers on the subjects of sexual side effects of antipsychotic medications, sexual dysfunction and psychosis and issues of capacity and consent in sexual relationships for people with psychosis.

7. Seminar on Multiple Diversity and Wellbeing.

This event will be held early next year and will address interacting diversity and its effect on individual's wellbeing. The format will be similar to that of other previous successful seminars.

8. Next SIG AGM

The SIG AGM will be held at
1pm 13th July in Glasgow during the College Annual Meeting.

Annie Bartlett
Chair Gay and Lesbian SIG