



## **Newsletter for the Lesbian and Gay Special Interest Group of the Royal College of Psychiatrists**

**June 2010**

### **ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST YEAR**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting was held on 3 June 2009, at the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Annual General Meeting at the BT Conference Centre Liverpool. Michael King was elected as Chair, and Sandra Evans was elected as Finance Officer, both unopposed. Attendance at the AGM was poor and possible reasons for this were discussed. It was felt that the SIG member's views of the SIG and its activities would be helpful in determining the future direction of the SIG.

#### **Academic Contributions**

The SIG contributed to three sessions at the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Annual General Meeting at the BT Conference Centre Liverpool, on 3 June 2009:

Therapies that claim to change sex orientation – historical and current perspectives. This was chaired by Michael King.

11.30 – 12.45: Cultural Competence: This was chaired by Sandra Evans.

16.15-17.30: Workshop on cultural competence.

Sandra Evans was a co-facilitator.

All three events were well received.

#### **College Position Statement on Sexual Orientation**

The SIG had been planning to have a joint meeting with the BPS, BACP and

UKCP to draft and issue a joint statement of reparative therapy. However, following the issuing of the College Position Statement re Sexual Orientation, in February of this year, and the other organisations having issued similar position statements, it was decided that there was no longer the need for such a meeting. Members of the SIG contributed to the Position Statement.

[http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pdf/PS01\\_2010x.pdf](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pdf/PS01_2010x.pdf)

#### **Survey of Membership**

A survey of members, drafted by the SIG, is currently being undertaken, with questionnaires having been circulated in May. It was the view of the SIG Executive Committee that little was known about the membership of the group and how the executive could engage the members more actively. Areas covered by the survey include: members' opinions of the aims of the group, members' participation in academic activities organised by the SIG, members' attendance at SIG AGM meetings, and member's personal sexual orientation and any difficulties in the workplace relating to this.

The results of this survey will be reported in next year's Annual Report.

#### **DoH Standards on high risk groups of suicide**

Members of the group commented on these standards, as there was no mention of gay, lesbian and bisexual service users.

#### **Training package on the needs of GLB Service Users**

This remains available to organisations wanting to use this as part of their diversity training. Training can be delivered by some members of the SIG. The training package is being modified to be a CPD online module.

#### **Media Stories**

The SIG issued a press statement in April 2009 expressing concern about

organisations Claiming that they could provide therapy to help gay, lesbian and bisexual people to change their sexual orientation.

### **Website**

The layout of the website has been recently updated. The SIG Executive Committee is of the opinion the website also serves a public information function. Consequently additional links to websites that would be of interest to the general public, have been added.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **Academic Meetings**

The SIG has organised one session at this year's International Congress of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, which is being held in Edinburgh (21 - 24 June 2010), with the theme of Advancing Science:

Thursday 24 June 9.45 – 11.00

**The evolution of psychiatric diagnoses - past and present**

### **controversies**

Chair: Dr Sandra Evans, Queen Mary University of London and East London Foundation NHS Trust, London

**The rise and fall of homosexuality as a diagnosis**

Professor Michael King, University College London Medical School,

**Transsexualism as a current ICD10 and DSMIV diagnosis**

Professor Stephen Whittle, Professor of Equalities Law, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester

**The rise (and fall) of Asperger Syndrome**

Professor David Skuse, Institute of Child Health, London.

### **Business Meeting 2010**

The SIG annual business meeting will be held at **8.00 am on Thursday 24 June 2010** during the International Congress of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. This will be a breakfast meeting.

### **Executive Committee**

Michael King was elected Chair of the SIG at the AGM held in Liverpool on 3 June 2009. Other members of the executive committee are Sandra Evans (finance officer), Luke Mearns, Helen Killaspy, Shawn Mitchell, Gian Galeazzi and Steve Hopker. The executive committee would welcome any new members, or people wishing to attend to learn more about the committee. If you are interested please contact Michael King.