

Gay & Lesbian Special Interest Group Report 2007

The Special Interest Group has had another active year.

1. The SIG has been operational for six years now and we felt it was time to revisit and update our aims as follows:
 - To promote and research the mental health of LGBT people
 - To promote training for all mental health professionals re: the mental health of LGBT people
 - To support and advocate for LGBT mental health professionals
 - To advise on mental health, social and other local and national policy relating to LGBT mental health.

2. **The Training Pack**

The training pack for mental health professionals '**Gay and Lesbian Mental Health Matters**' is piloted and now in a final version ready for use. It provides material for a half day workshop to train clinical teams to better understand the needs of their LGBT clients. It provides factual information about gay and lesbian mental health and encourages participants to explore common clinical scenarios adapted from real life practice. It is designed to improve the confidence and skills of the mental health workforce in relation to gay and lesbian issues. We are delighted that the College has endorsed it and asked us to adapt it for use as an on-line CPD resource as well. We are in discussion with Inequality Agenda, a specialist marketing organisation, regarding how best to disseminate this. Anyone who would like to commission the workshop for their team can contact Annie Bartlett at Annie@work04@aol.com.

3. **Website**

Our website is currently being overhauled, thanks to Steve Hopker. It will contain information on how to join the SIG, information about the SIG's past achievements, forthcoming events and copies of SIG documents and presentations from previous events, as well as links to other useful resources and organisations.

4. **The Anglican Church**

The above church is currently carrying out a 'Listening Exercise' to gather opinions from a wide range of groups across the world on attitudes towards homosexuality. The SIG has been asked to respond on behalf of the College and Michael King has agreed to draft a response.

5. **College Annual Meeting 2006**

The SIG were involved in three sessions at last year's AGM:

'Boundaries and Therapeutic Relationships' was a joint session with the Women in Psychiatry SIG and the Spirituality SIG. This was one of the best attended sessions in the whole conference. Helen Killaspy presented a distillation of the main themes that came out of our one day conference held in September 2005 on 'Therapeutic Boundaries and Sexuality'. The other speakers were Fiona Subotsky on 'Professionals' Abuse of Patients' and Peter Byrne on 'The Portrayal of Female Psychiatrists in Film'. Michael King then led a panel discussion and provoked a number of interesting questions from the floor.

'Diversity and Identity' was a half day session chaired by Glen Roberts during the Rehabilitation and Social Faculty's Institute. Annie Bartlett represented diversity issues from a sexual orientation perspective, Kam Bhui represented from a trans-cultural perspective and Liz Mayne from NIMHE represented issues around gender sensitivity.

The **'Gay and Lesbian Health Matters'** workshop gave delegates the opportunity to try out the Diversity training pack. This session was facilitated by Ian Hall and Annie Bartlett.

6. College Annual Meeting 2007

We have had one session suggestion accepted to take place on **Thursday June 21st at 14.30-15.45 pm. at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre** on the theme of **'Sex and Psychosis'**. The session will explore the interaction between sexuality and psychotic disorders from a range of perspectives, including consent to sexual relationships, sexual dysfunction and sexual side-effects of antipsychotic medication. The learning objectives for this session are not only to develop knowledge in this area, but also to help psychiatrists develop skills in addressing sexual issues with their patients who have psychotic disorders. Speakers are Dr. Shubulade Smith, Maudsley Hospital, London; Professor Kam Bhui, Queen Mary's University, London; and Dr. Gwen Adshead, Broadmoor Hospital, Berkshire. The session will be chaired by Dr. Ian Hall.

7. Next SIG Business Meeting

The SIG Business Meeting will be held on **Thursday 21st June at 12.45-13.45 pm. at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (room tbc)** during the College Annual Meeting.

Annie Bartlett,
Chair, Gay and Lesbian SIG.