

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **LIAISON PSYCHIATRY FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** held on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 at The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.

No.            SUBJECT

44.07           **PRESENT**

Professor Elsepth Guthrie (chair)  
Dr Melanie Temple (honorary secretary)  
Dr Peter Aitken (finance officer; part of meeting)

Dr Jon Bisson, Dr Jeremy Bolton, Dr Jim Bolton, Dr Sarah Burlinson, Dr Janet Butler, Dr Paul Gill, Dr Jackie Gordon, Dr Judith Halford, Dr Max Henderson, Dr Andrew Hodgkiss, Dr John Holmes, Dr Khalida Ismail, Dr Jagadish Jajoo, Ms Jackie Macklin, Ms Suzanne McKeever, Dr Anne-Marie O'Dwyer, Dr Gopinath Ranjith, Dr Geraldine Swift, Dr Tayyeb Tahir and Dr Alfred White.

In attendance:

Gill Gibbins  
Greg Smith

On behalf of the executive Professor Guthrie welcomed Dr Burlinson on her first attendance as a co-opted member with special interest in Payment by results; Suzanne McKeever on her first attendance as the faculty's Royal College of Nursing representative; and also Greg Smith, who would be succeeding Gill Gibbins as the faculty administrator.

Dr Gill drew the committee's attention to the recent death of Dr Helen Blackwell and gave a brief resume of her work for the faculty, particularly in relation to self-harm issues. The executive observed a minute's silence in tribute.

45.07           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from: Dr Ananth, Dr Anderson, Dr Bass, Dr Cantwell, Dr Davison, Dr Feinmann, Professor Hotopf, Dr Kelly, Dr Longson, Dr Malik, Dr Miller, Dr Mitchell, Professor Peveler, Dr Rao, Dr Rogerson, Dr Shankar, Professor Sharpe and Dr Sheehan.

46.07           **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 were approved and signed as a correct record.

47.07 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

47.07.1 Health psychology

Dr Feinmann would be asked to give an update at the March meeting (minute 34.07.3 referred).

**Action: CF, agenda**

48.07 **CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

48.07.1 Report from CEC

Professor Guthrie reported briefly on the new structuring of the CEC and the way in which it made decisions; there was now a small decision-making group active between meetings, though always referring and reporting back to the CEC. The question of the College building had also been discussed and whether to move from Belgrave Square when, or before, the current lease expired in 2034. Professor George Ikkos, College Treasurer, was leading on this exercise.

Professor Guthrie also reported on the document created by Dr Anderson, Professor Lelliott and herself on quality standards within the hospital. This had now been submitted to the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges and once the bid outlined in the paper had been accepted, this faculty executive would be involved in the work.

Professor Dinesh Bhugra, the present Dean, had been appointed unopposed as President to succeed Professor Hollins in early July, 2008. Professor Hollins had agreed to speak at the faculty conference dinner in March; Professor Guthrie referred to Professor Hollins' general support of liaison psychiatry and to the fact that the President had raised liaison psychiatry as an issue at her meetings with Lord Darzi.

48.07.2 Successor to Professor Hotopf as faculty academic secretary

Subsequent to the meeting, the job description for academic secretary was emailed to the executive, with interested members asked to contact Professor Guthrie as soon as possible.

**Action: all members, agenda**

48.07.3 Feedback from lunchtime discussion on quality standards

Dr Aitken **tabled** copies of his draft paper 'Mental health policy implementation guide: liaison psychiatry and psychological medicine in the general hospital'. Following discussion, it was agreed that Dr Butler would send Professor Guthrie and Dr Aitken her current paper on this, so that they could use this additionally in preparing an executive summary of Dr Aitken's

48.07.3 paper. A telephone conference call would be arranged in January in order to finalise the text.

**Action: JButler, EG, PA, agenda**

It had been agreed to approach the Royal College of Physicians on this issue, and to identify faculty members around the UK to help in subsequent work; to that end Dr Temple undertook to forward to Professor Guthrie a list of people Professor Guthrie could contact once feedback had been received from the Southwest group, which would be some time in March. Professor Guthrie also confirmed that she was in regular contact with Dr Roger Banks, vice president for primary care (commissioning).

**Action: MT**

It was agreed that Dr Gill would reference Dr Aitken's paper in his own paper on emergency care for the Academy, and would send Professor Guthrie and Dr Aitken a copy of the final text as soon as possible.

**Action: PG**

48.07.4 Progress report on survey

Professor Guthrie would ask Dr Malit to send this as soon as possible, and also to advise the committee whether there was or would be a successor to him as PTC representative to the executive.

**Action: EG, agenda**

48.07.5 Chronic pain coalition policy

Professor Guthrie confirmed that she has written to Baroness Fritchie to offer the faculty's support in improving awareness of pain in medical student training, and also to include it in healthcare assessments. With her apologies, Dr Feinmann had sent an expression of interest in being involved in this area. It was agreed that Professor Guthrie would write again to Lady Fritchie to draw attention to the use of the term 'fifth vital sign' and also to highlight the work being undertaken by Dr Burlinson on the 18-week chronic pathway project led by Dr Simon Nye, and to Dr Feinmann's willingness to help and support the Coalition.

**Action: EG**

The email recently received from the Royal College of Physicians about their joint work with the British Pain Society and the British Geriatrics Society on concise guidance about the assessment of pain in older people would be forwarded to Dr Temple, Dr Burlinson and Dr Holmes.

48.07.6 Liaison with the eating disorders section executive

It was agreed that Dr Gordon would serve as executive link to receive the section's minutes, rather than Dr Butler.

48.07.7 Inter-Collegiate cancer group

The circulated document was noted.

48.07.8 Revision of the College strategic plan

Copies of the revision plan were **tabled**. Professor Guthrie and Dr Aitken would be linking items within this to the faculty business plan and Professor Guthrie would write to the College CEO outlining these. Members should send any further comments to Professor Guthrie before the end of December.

**Action: EG, PA, all members**

48.07.9 Proposed visit to the executive by the associate dean for revalidation

Copies of Dr Mynors-Wallis' letter were **tabled**. It was agreed that Dr Temple would ask Dr Mynors-Wallis to write a piece for the next faculty newsletter and that Professor Guthrie would suggest to him that he come either to the March or May executive committee meeting.

**Action: MT, EG, agenda**

49.07 **PAYMENT BY RESULTS**

This had been the lunchtime discussion topic and the committee were reminded that the Registrar led the College group on PBR. Dr Gill referred to a point raised in email correspondence by Professor Peveler, namely the wish of the NHS Confederation to facilitate a meeting with acute trust CEOs on the subject of liaison psychiatry, and asked if the faculty would support this – there was general agreement. Dr Gill would forward the email to Professor Guthrie so that she could contact Professor Peveler and also keep Dr Anderson informed.

**Action: PG, EG, agenda**

50.07 **TRAINING AND EDUCATION: CURRICULUM**

Professor Guthrie reported that the faculty appeared to be well ahead of most faculties in its development of its curriculum. Dr Gill reported briefly on the faculty's proposal to PMETB for a new curriculum; he would discuss the latest draft paper at the next meeting of the FECC, with a final version then circulated to FECC members before its onward submission. Dr Gill was thanked for his lead on this important work, as chair of the FECC.

**Action: PG, agenda**

51.07 **FINANCE/INCOME GENERATION**

In Dr Aitken's absence from the meeting at this point, Professor Guthrie drew the committee's attention to the circulated draft business plan and the intention to build up a small surplus over the next few years. Members were

51.07 encouraged to ask trusts to pay for their attendance at executive committee meetings.

**Action: all members**

Dr Aitken's plan was accepted without amendment.

52.07 **FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE FACULTY WEB PAGE**

Professor Guthrie would contact Dr Longson to discuss further updates. In addition, Dr Butler would contact a colleague to explore whether they might be able to give time to the faculty web page; if so, that person could perhaps be put in touch with the forensic faculty web lead to discuss their plans for re-design and content formulation.

**Action: EG, JButler, agenda**

53.07 **MEETINGS**

Sonia Walter and Sally Fricker were welcomed to the meeting for discussion of this item, and Mrs Walter received the committee's good wishes for her coming confinement.

53.07.1 Feedback from TNC meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2007, Jury's Doyle Hotel, Bristol

Dr Henderson **tabled** copies of his report and spoke briefly on the success of both the group and of this meeting, which had received very positive feedback from delegates, including a number of nurses.

53.07.2 Faculty residential meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2008, Assembly Rooms, Newcastle upon Tyne

The programme was finalised and would be mailed out shortly. The breakeven number of delegates had been set low at 65, so the meeting should generate a reasonable surplus.

**Action: agenda**

53.07.3 College annual meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2008, Imperial College, London

The faculty's programme stream would take place on 1<sup>st</sup> July; the complete programme was expected to be on the College web site by the end of December.

53.07.4 Faculty residential meeting: March, 2009

It was agreed that the conference office would research venues in Barcelona and Brussels.

**Action: agenda**

53.07.5 The faculty medical student essay prize

Professor Guthrie confirmed that the prize was in abeyance for 2008 but would be reintroduced from 2009 with a prize of £500; there would be no additional expenditure on either advertising the prize in the *Student BMJ* or on supporting attendance of the prizewinner at the faculty conference. Dr Aitken would include this in the faculty's 2009 business plan.

**Action: PA**

Revised wording for the prize would be put before the executive in good time to allow its inclusion in the 2009 booklet on the College web site and Dr Bisson undertook to explore ways on advertising the prize in due season via the medical school deans.

**Action: JBisson**

It was agreed that all those who might have prepared an essay in the hope of submitting it for a 2008 prize would be advised that they could submit the essay for the 2009 prize with a covering letter to explain that they had been a medical student at the time of writing it.

54.07 **POLICY AND WORKING GROUPS**

54.07.1 English Policy Committee

54.07.1.1 *CR 127 'Guidelines for the prescribing of medication for mental health disorders for people with HIV infection', 2005*

Dr O'Dwyer reported on work to date and the approach to it, asking for feedback on what had been done so far. Dr O'Dwyer would email the document to Greg Smith for discussion at the March meeting.

**Action: A-MOD, agenda**

54.07.1.2 *CR 155 'Report of the working group on the psychological care of surgical patients', 1998*

It was agreed that Professor Guthrie would contact Dr Feinmann to suggest that Dr Butler and also Dr Adrian Flynn in Truro might work with her on this revision, and that the names of the group membership set up by Dr Bass a year ago would be sent to Dr Feinmann again for their possible contributions.

**Action: EG, agenda**

54.07.1.3 *College working group on traumatic stress training*

Dr Bisson confirmed that the group expected to have its report ready by mid-2008, with curriculum recommendations for all psychiatrists.

**Action: 9/08 agenda**

54.07.1.4 *College working group on risk management*

Professor Guthrie confirmed that she received the minutes of this group.

- 54.07.1.5 *College scoping group on psychological therapies*  
Professor Guthrie briefly explained the group's purpose, part of which was to seek information on the availability of psychotherapies in liaison services.
- 54.07.1.6 *Code of Practice – College submission*  
Professor Guthrie asked members with issues to raise to contact her as soon as possible. The committee noted that Dr Marcus Hughes would be attending the consultation on secondary legislation and would report back to the executive in due course.
- 54.07.1.7 *Consultation on deprivation of liberty*  
Professor Guthrie reported that very few people appeared to be using the Mental Health Act to detain patients in hospital because the detained patients could not then be moved on to care homes, which could be in conflict with their best interest. This consultation would close in December and members were asked to email Professor Guthrie with specific points within the general hospital context, and with case examples, so that she could prepare a faculty response. Professor Guthrie, with her response, would also request clarification of the definitions of restriction and of deprivation of liberty.

**Action: all members, EG, agenda**

- 54.07.1.8 *Alcohol-related brain damage working group*  
Dr Jim Bolton spoke briefly to his circulated report. The Department of Health was now interested in including this in its alcohol strategy. The hope was that guidelines to a care pathway might be forthcoming, with information on who should co-ordinate the care. Dr Bolton undertook to reference Dr Aitken's paper in the group's document.

**Action: JimB**

54.07.2 Scotland

No report had been received.

54.07.3 Wales

Dr Bisson reported on lobbying successes and on a recent meeting with the Welsh Assembly. The all-Wales mental health review continued. Dr Tayyeb reported briefly on a newly created post.

54.07.4 Northern Ireland

No report had been received.

54.07.5 Republic of Ireland

No report had been received.

55.07 **COMMUNICATION**

55.07.1 Regional representatives' report

Dr White (West Midlands) reported that Payment by results was policy locally. Dr Burlinson reported that on the breakup of the service in Oldham because there was no national tariff and therefore money could not be reclaimed from the PCT; however, the service had recently been extended for a year. Dr Jim Bolton on a new consultant position within the London division (Dr Peter Byrne) and that the Kingston service was being dissolved because no one would pay for it. For Sheffield, Dr Gill reported on changes over the past three years, especially in providing help to acute trusts to write their mental health strategy. Regional representatives were reminded to report all local developments to the executive.

**Action: all RRs**

55.07.2 Newsletter

Dr Temple was congratulated on her first newsletter. Contributions to the next edition were requested; final copy should be ready by the end of January for mailing in February.

**Action: all members**

55.07.3 Public education

Dr Jim Bolton reported that the chair of the committee, Dr Peter Byrne, would be a liaison psychiatry consultant from 2008. The College campaign on 'Images of psychiatry' was under way, with a number of national projects. The College would have a full-time press officer in the near future whose task it would be to take a proactive stance on reaching out to the media and to faculties and divisions.

55.07.3.1 *Leaflets relevant to liaison psychiatry*

Members were asked to forward to Dr Bolton any local leaflets that could be useful in generating more or better College leaflets for liaison psychiatry; these could be in the style of the College's 'help is at hand' leaflets or in the form of a factsheet.

**Action: all members**

It was agreed that this would be a discussion item at the October, 2008 strategy meeting with regional representatives, to explore better ways of explaining what a liaison psychiatry service was.

**Action: strategy agenda**

55.07.3.2 *Patient network liaison*

Ms Macklin reported that she had finished her role with the Royal College of Physicians' group and proposed that she extend her remit somewhat to explore user groups from other areas of medicine with an interface with

55.07.3.2 liaison psychiatry. This was agreed with enthusiasm; Ms Macklin would report back in March.

**Action: JM, agenda**

56.07 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Professor Guthrie reminded members that Gill Gibbins would be leaving the College in December and spoke warmly of her support of the section and later faculty. Gill would be the faculty guest at a special dinner later in the evening.

57.07 **DATES OF 2008 MEETINGS**

Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March: a.m. meeting with regional representatives, Assembly Rooms, Newcastle upon Tyne, followed by dinner at a local restaurant

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> May: 1.00 p.m. working lunch and 2.00 p.m. executive committee meeting, Council Room

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September: 1.00 p.m. working lunch and 2.00 p.m. executive committee meeting, Council Room

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October: strategy meeting with regional representatives, Council Room, 15 Belgrave Square

Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December: 1.00 p.m. working lunch and 2.00 p.m. executive committee meeting, Council Room

**Diary**