

Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry Special Interest Group

Newsletter January 2005

Dear Member

This is a newsletter to welcome you to the New Year, inform you of some of the events of the previous year and of forthcoming events. It seems that so many of us clinicians are currently burdened with what seems to be the relentless burden of health service change and ever increasing demands on our time that there is less and less time to support and develop areas of parallel interest. With this background in mind, our SIG and special area of interest has prospered reasonably well over the last year.

Nominations for Chairman

Many thanks go out to Alison Westman who has retired as our first Chairperson. Alison gave the development of the SIG strong leadership and her hard work has been much appreciated. A form is enclosed with this newsletter for the nomination any candidate who may wish to stand to fill the vacancy that Alison leaves as chairman to the SIG.

We would also like to thank Paul Bester, who is also retiring, for his contributions to the SIG and welcome his involvement as an active non-exec member.

Action: Please see enclosed nomination form.

CAMHS forensic inpatient psychiatric services

The last year has seen a great deal of progress in the development of a national network of forensic (secure) inpatient beds. Following the dramatic closure of the remaining youth treatment centre in Birmingham, Glenthorne five years ago, The National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group (NSCAG) commissioned a new 28 bedded unit on the same site, Ardenleigh which opened to join Newcastle and Manchester as current NHS providers. Refurbishment work in South and West London commenced with two 10 bedded units due to open this year. Last year also saw the decision (subject to funding issues) to build a new CAMHS forensic unit for the South West at Ravenswood House, near Portsmouth. Provision in the independent / private sector has also expanded significantly with developments at St Andrews Hospital in Northampton.

NSCAG are currently discussing the development of forensic beds for young people with learning difficulties.

Contact email Anne.Jasper@bsmht.nhs.uk

CAMHS forensic outpatient psychiatric services

The Oxford service opened in the autumn of 2004. A description of this service follows

The Development of a Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Forensic Mental Health Service in Oxfordshire.

The Oxfordshire Child and Adolescent Forensic Mental Health Service (CAF team) is a new initiative. The team is located within core mental health provision for children and adolescents (CAMHS) within Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare NHS Trust (OMHT) and is funded by prison in-reach monies and Oxfordshire Youth Offending team (YOT). There are service-level agreements with local primary care trusts for mental health in-reach to HMYOI Huntercombe (360 trainees aged 15-18yrs) and also with the YOT.

The development of the team centred around the need for a comprehensive approach to provision of mental health services to young people in contact with the criminal justice system or to those presenting elsewhere with particularly concerning or risky behaviours. This group of young people with high prevalence of mental health problems has traditionally not accessed core CAMHS provision. In addition, young people within the group are to be identified in a variety of community and custodial settings.

The CAF team has clearly defined responsibilities to the YOI and YOT. In addition it has sought to develop strong links with other agencies including social services, substance misuse services, education and a project working with young sexual abusers. The team's location within CAMHS is intended to facilitate access to core community mental health services for young people and to foster joint initiatives such as dialectical behaviour therapy (DBT) for those who self-harm and may be developing personality disorders. Furthermore, the need for Clinical Governance frameworks to guide the team's work has meant that therapeutic relationships can be supported in challenging settings such as prisons.

The team's composition means that it provides a variety of interventions to individuals and institutions; these include consultation, education and support for primary workers (such as prison officers and YOT workers), delivery of a range of generic mental health interventions, multi-agency liaison work and specialist tertiary assessment of complex and demanding cases. (The range of the work therefore covers tiers 1-4 in CAMHS jargon). The team also has a development brief to promote services within Oxfordshire and regionally so that clear strategic management of risky complex-needs cases can be established and linkage with national secure adolescent forensic mental health services can be made.

The CAF team is: Dr Nick Hindley, Consultant Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatrist; Dr Lynda Meina, Principal Clinical and Forensic Psychologist; Alan Robertson, Community Psychiatric Nurse; Mandy Leather, Mental Health Practitioner; Lorraine Matthews, Administrator.

Address: the Oxfordshire Child and Adolescent Forensic Mental Health Service, The Warneford Hospital, Warneford Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3 7JX.

Tel:01865 226309

Email: nick.hindley@oxmhc-tr.nhs.uk

Nick Hindley

A new forensic out patient service has been commissioned in Wales

Youth Offending teams

Many CAMHS services have been active in developing links with their Local YOTs. Developments across the country appear to vary considerably with a few well developed models (see Oxfordshire above). Many initiatives have run into major difficulties. A common problem has been a lack of sufficient management. It is accepted by both the NHS and Youth Justice Board that the proportion of health resourcing to YOTS is inadequate. A lead role in this area is now assigned to Bob Macdonald and his team in the DOH who last year carried out regional workshops in conjunction with his counterpart in the Youth Justice Board, Bill Kirlslake. Contacts: Email: Bill.Kerslake@yjb.gsi.gov.uk tel 020 bob.mcdonald@doh.gsi.gov tel 020 7972 1394.

A document relevant to the development and provision of mental health care and input to the Youth Justice system Key Elements of Effective Practice - Mental Health can be downloaded from the practitioners portal at the Youth Justice Board web site:

<http://www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk/PractitionersPortal/Health/MentalHealth/>

We would like to hear about your experiences of mental health linkages with the YOTS and the youth justice system

Contact email: Peter.Misch@slam.nhs.uk

Prison estate – STC and YOIs

The SIG is establishing a Secure Estate Link within the Adolescent Forensic Special Interest Group (AFSIG), we hope to provide a point of focus for mental health work within juvenile prisons and Secure Training Centres (STC's). It is hoped that the link will serve:

- as a means whereby contact details can be established between mental health teams providing input to juvenile prisons and STC's
- as a point of reference for sharing information about new initiatives and about the particular strengths of teams working in juvenile prisons and STC's
- as a lobby group which, having identified deficiencies in practice or care within the secure estate, will then be able to communicate this to senior officials in organisations such as the Prison Service, DoH or YJB
- as a means of representing the mental health issues of young people in prison within the Royal College of Psychiatrists

As an initial step we plan to compile a register of mental health in-reach services to all juvenile prisons and STC's.

Current concerns voiced by members of the AFSIG include:

- delays with transfers to appropriate settings of boys identified as vulnerable in normal prison settings
- difficulties with transfer to in-patient settings within the juvenile estate of young people with identified mental health needs from establishments which have no in-patient beds
- difficulties with future care-planning for section 91 prisoners with mental health needs who are due for transfer from juvenile prisons at the age of 18

- 16 year-olds being held in healthcare centres in adult category A prisons because there is no other accommodation for juveniles who are so categorised.

If you are responsible for, or linked to, a mental health in-reach service for a juvenile prison or STC, we would like to hear from you.

Nick Hindley
Contact email: nick.hindley@oxmhc-tr.nhs.uk

Local Authority Secure Units (LASUs)

Policy changes in the provision of secure accommodation to young offenders culminated in the closure last year of a number of Local Authority Secure Units including Stamford house in North London. We have heard that the new chief executive of the Youth Justice Board has given his commitment that this type of provision is needed and will be retained under his leadership. The SIG will be carrying out a survey of current mental health provision to these units.

Contact email Peter.Misch@slam.nhs.uk

Trainees News

I would like to introduce myself to all the trainees as their representative on the SIG. I am aware that we are a very small number scattered around the country. I would specially like to invite everyone to contact myself so that we can get together to discuss any relevant issues or difficulties. In my experience people doing dual CCST usually feel isolated and find it difficult to be part of any peer group, it's therefore important that we are in communication with each other as much as possible. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the meeting at Belfast but I can be contacted by email on vingupt@aol.com.

If you are aware of people who are interested in doing dual CCST in Forensic CAMHS and need help in organising their programme then please pass over my details to them.

Dr Vinesh Gupta
Specialist Registrar
Forensic CAMHS
Birmingham

The College SIG Web Site

www.rcpsych.ac.uk/college/sig/adolforen/index.asp

Please look this up and leave comments via the *Contact AFP SIG* page, it will become an increasingly important communication portal!

Research

Developmental CAMHS research featured significantly with presentations by Prof. David Farrington, Prof Johnathan Hill and Dr Essi Viding at the excellent conference the National Forensic Mental Health R&D held in November 2004, London. The programme may be downloaded at

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/ResearchAndDevelopment/ResearchAndDevelopmentAZ/ForensicMentalHealth>

The SIG has a library of the presentations which may be shared by email from Peter.Misch@slam.nhs.uk

An overview of ongoing FMH commissioned research (Page 11 of the annual report 2003) can also be viewed on the above site

Forthcoming meetings

- Workshop / SIG meeting: 11.30am, **Thurs 3 February 05**, Faculty of forensic Psychiatry Annual residential meeting, Europa Hotel, Belfast.
- Three day workshop: Structured approaches to the assessment and management of risk in Young People **23,24&25 February 05**, London, includes training in the use of SAVRY, PCL-YV and Sex Offender assessment instruments. Details from Peter.Misch@slam.nhs.uk
- Adolescent Forensic SIG annual general meeting and conference, July 05 (date to be confirmed), Royal Bethlem Hospital, London
- Workshop / SIG meeting: September 05 (date to be confirmed), Faculty of Child Psychiatry Annual residential meeting

The forensic Executive