

Establishing an Old Age Liaison Psychiatry Network

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Aims

- To establish a network for clinicians working in or with an interest in the growing specialty of old age liaison psychiatry to provide peer support (inclusive of disciplines and geography) and access to continuous professional development (CPD).
- To raise the profile of this subspecialty, enable its development and foster links with other relevant organisations
- To facilitate collaboration and integration with related disciplines and clinical pathways
- To strengthen lobbying for improvements in mental health services for older people in the general hospital.

Background

Following widespread investment in liaison services in line with Department of Health strategy, Old Age Liaison Psychiatry is a growing subspecialty in the UK (and internationally), This brings an increased need for CPD, networking, shared learning and, collaboration opportunities to nurture the specialty and those working in it.

If you are interested in joining the network please email josie.jenkinson@sabp.nhs.uk

Methods:

Initial discussions between the Faculties of Old Age and Liaison Psychiatry led to the decision to form a network, which was then publicised in faculty newsletters, relevant Jiscmail mailing lists, Twitter and word of mouth. Responders were added to a mailing list. An initial informal webinar was held on 4th November 2022 via Zoom to introduce the network and learn from an invited speaker on the new Liberty Protection Safeguards .

Results:

Over 100 people registered for the webinar, and over 50 viewed the recording. We attracted a multidisciplinary audience of old age and working age liaison consultants, clinical nurse specialists, emergency medicine and frailty consultants with participants from England, Ireland, and Chile. The webinar was positively received, with many suggestions made for future topics and events. The network has since grown to 350 members. Two further events have attracted large audiences and excellent feedback.

Conclusions:

The network has been established successfully and founders are planning future events with the support of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The next planned event will be a half day online webinar in November 2022