

Dynamic Divisions





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The Divisions of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Our 8 Divisions play a central role in the delivery of services to the 12,000 members in England. The Divisions support members via core activities which are coordinated locally by each Division's Executive Committee and staff. Each Division consists of all members and associates of the Royal College of Psychiatrists working or living in that area.

Divisions not only provide a vital voice for psychiatrists at a local level, they also give members the opportunity to debate and input into College policy and participate in College initiatives and campaigns. Divisions carry out vital work to quality assure job descriptions for all consultant and non-consultant appointments.

Divisions promote psychiatry to medical students and support psychiatrists for the length of their careers, from welcoming and encouraging trainees, to mentoring services for members whatever stage their career; running excellent CPD and networking events and running a programme for retired members.

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Excellent Events: Supporting Members through Education and Networking Events

The Divisions organise over 120 courses, academic and networking events a year, both online and at venues all over England. The programmes delivered by the Divisions are varied and innovative and support psychiatrists across the length of their careers.

Every Division organises annual or bi-annual conferences. The **Eastern Division** Spring and Autumn conferences provide an opportunity to invite keynote lectures from esteemed psychiatrists, for local trainees to showcase their research and for matters of national and local interest to be debated. The **Trent Division** have organised a Spring Conference in conjunction with the RCPsych in Northern Ireland to improve joined up working, create educational and networking opportunities for current members and to attract new members.

Since 2018, the **North West Division** have organised the first regional College awards ceremony outside London. The Awards

recognise excellence within the Division, from medical students to consultants, and are a great way to get people from the North West together to celebrate the invaluable work being undertaken in the region.

A number of Divisions run events to support those as they become consultants. The **South Eastern Division** and the **London Division** “StartWell” events provide the necessary tools to new consultants to help them undertake their new/forthcoming role. These Divisions also run a joint “StayWell” event to support the wellbeing of substantive Consultants and SAS Doctors.

South West Division Training (SWDT) provides a comprehensive programme

of training for doctors at all stages of their careers. Courses are developed in accordance with demand and topics reflect local mainstream needs. For example, they have developed a programme of events for Retired and Resting Psychiatrists to enable them to gain affordable CPD and offer peer support with Revalidation.

The **Northern and Yorkshire Division** run “Well” Conferences to offer members support for personal issues, ranging from the early years to retirement. The conferences include three streams; “StartWell” for higher trainees and new consultants, “Live well” for more established consultants and “Age Well” for those approaching retirement.

Section 12 (2) Induction Course

by Dr Abdul Raoof



Section 12(2) and Approved Clinician Induction and Refresher Courses

The RCPsych delivers these mandatory training sessions both online and at venues around the country. The **Eastern Division, South Eastern, South West Division, Trent and West Midlands Divisions** have traditionally run over 50 Section 12(2) and Approved Clinician Induction and Refresher

Courses each year. These are often sold out and are supported by experienced Solicitors, Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) and Consultant Psychiatrists, with additional valued lived experience from service users.

Promoting Psychiatry

The Divisions play a key role in ensuring medical students have exposure to psychiatry early in their careers. Working with staff in the RCPsych Training and Workforce team and to compliment the College's successful "Choose Psychiatry" campaign, the Divisions ensure that the College is linked with Psych Socs at every medical school across the UK. The **London Division** hold the 'Discover Psychiatry' evenings for medical students and foundation doctors. The evening includes a range of interesting talks and a personal account from a patient representative.

The **Trent Division** support the Medlink Careers Fayre and poster presentations are opened up to Medical Students and

Foundation Doctors who are invited to attend the Trent Annual Conference when displaying a poster. The **South Eastern Division** runs successful bespoke events for both foundation year doctors and for core trainee psychiatrists and these vital events promote recruitment into Psychiatry, engage directly with foundation doctors and medical students to highlight the benefits of a career in Psychiatry. The **West Midlands Division** opens competitions for research and clinical audits at academic meetings as well as inviting posters for display. The Division encourages medical students, foundation doctors and core trainees to attend conferences by offering complimentary registrations.



Investing in Trainees

The Divisions support psychiatric trainees throughout their training. The RCPsych Psychiatric Trainees Committee (PTC) includes representatives from every Division and discounts for trainees are available at almost all Division events. Conferences provide opportunities for trainees to present and Divisions often offer prizes and bursaries. Divisions organise essay prizes for trainees, run awards for posters at their

annual conference and arrange bursaries for trainees to attend their conferences as well as the RCPsych International Congress. The Executive Committee for each Division is keen to work closely with the Division PTC Reps to ensure the views of local and regional trainees are able to be represented and integrated into the work of the committee.

Job Description Assessment and Approval Process

The RCPsych's psychiatrists' job description assessment and approval process is a free service for Trusts and Health Boards in England, Northern Ireland and Wales to promote and support the recruitment of consultant and specialty psychiatrists. Divisions carry out vital work to quality assure job descriptions to ensure psychiatrists' roles are attractive, that jobs are manageable and result in the best outcomes for service users. Through this process the College offers help and guidance to employers when they carry out their recruitment processes. This process relies on key members from the Divisions who take up roles as Regional Advisors, Deputy Regional Advisors, Regional Specialty

Representatives, Deputy Regional Specialty Representatives and College Assessors. Members in these Senior College roles play a vital role in carrying out its functions and represent the College on all matters relating to postgraduate education, professional development and the review and approval of appropriate job descriptions in psychiatric posts.

Across the College there are currently over 1,350 members in these posts and they are involved in processing approximately 750 job descriptions a year and attending interview panels on behalf of the College around England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



Helping Members Through Mentoring Schemes

Whilst the College's mentoring schemes are run centrally, to further support members there are a number of initiatives that have been run locally. For example, the **Northern and Yorkshire Division** and the **North West Divisions** have worked together to create a great programme of mentorship events and the Divisions are now looking to create a mentorship network from those who have received training at their events.

Regional Representation

Representatives from the English Divisions sit on the central committees of the RCPsych. Chairs from each English Division sit on Council and other members represent the Divisions on the RCPsych Faculties and on committees such as the Policy and Public Affairs committee. This representation is vital to ensure that the RCPsych has a current and realistic understanding of the needs of members across the whole country.

Engagement: Divisions for Members, by Members

The Divisions rely on their active executive committees and their RCPsych Division staff to set and deliver their activities. The executive committees engage members as widely as possible to ensure their work reflects the needs of local members. Social media and surveys are used to ensure Division members' views can be received directly and video conference technology is being more widely used to increase participation. Divisions use different venues across their regions for conferences and meetings to make them more easily accessible to a wide range of members and achieve active representation from relevant NHS Trusts and independent organisations.

Get Involved

The Divisions actively encourage members from diverse backgrounds to apply for College positions in the Division. Details of all Division vacancies are listed on the Divisions webpages: **www.rcpsych.ac.uk/members/england** and are promoted on Twitter and via emails. Being on a Division executive committee provides opportunities to get them involved with events or to lead on projects and new initiatives.

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For more information visit:
www.rcpsych.ac.uk/members/england

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