



Private and Independent Practice Special Interest Group

September 28th 2016 1p.m. at Ripley Castle **Minutes**

Present: Drs. Danny Allen (Chair), Lesley Haines, Paul Divall, Tom Carnwath, John Sharkey

Apologies: Dr. Katy Briffa

1. Finances

TC has taken over provisionally as Finance Officer following the retirement of Dr. Anney Varghese. He reported that the finances are in a healthy state, principally because of the successful Telepsychiatry conference last year. At present there is a balance of £3,736. DA reported that the November conference on *Starting out in Private Practice* is fully booked, probably leading to a further increase in our balance. The College reportedly does not like large surpluses accumulating. We should therefore start thinking about beneficial uses for our funds. Ideas included supporting geographically distant members attending meetings, or alternatively holding meetings in the regions, including perhaps Northern Ireland (see below).

Action: TC will talk to College officers about their attitude towards surpluses.

2. Update from Regions

PD reported active involvement in the South West. He continued to promote PIPSIG in his group of retired psychiatrists, and was also attracting interest from younger psychiatrists. LH reported useful and well-attended meetings in the Midlands. PD reported that Scotland had two subgroups in their College Regional Division, one for retired psychiatrists who were not working, and one for retired psychiatrists who were working. Hopefully contact will be made with them at the Edinburgh conference. JS reported that revalidation was still a problem for private psychiatrists in Northern Ireland. As elsewhere practitioners tried to associate themselves temporarily with locum agencies, but this was becoming more difficult. JS proposed preparing a series of podcasts on relevant professional experiences, which might perhaps be incorporated into CPD Online. This idea was welcomed.

Action: JS will explore further the possibility of podcasts.

3. RCPsych Conference in Edinburgh

There will be sessions for retired psychiatrists on the day of the gala dinner. LH and PD reported that it was probable that a PIPSIG session would be included therein, but College approval was still awaited.

4. Other conferences

- DA has proposed an academic conference next year. Morning sessions would focus on Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) and afternoon sessions on the Neuronix neuroAD programme for Alzheimer's Disease. Both treatment modalities are for the most part employed in the private sector, and so this would be a suitable theme for PIPSIG. It was likely that Neuronix would subsidise the meeting, for example funding attendance for foreign scientists who had carried out relevant trials. The committee approved this proposal, but stressed the importance of including a range of opinion, to satisfy College guidance concerning financial support. DA proposed as speakers Professor Tony Barker from Sheffield and Professor Vince Walsh from UCL

- In view of the high demand for the *Starting Out in Private Practice* conference, it was proposed and agreed that similar meetings could be held elsewhere in the country.
- JS proposed running a 2-day conference in Northern Ireland, in partnership with PIPSIG. This idea was enthusiastically supported by the committee.

Action: DA will continue to take the lead on the academic conference, and on setting up a *Starting Out* conference outside London. JS will develop his ideas further for a Northern Ireland conference.

5. **Revalidation**

The GMC revalidation examinations had now been developed. Sample questions could be viewed online. A PIPSIG member Simon Halstead had actually taken the exam, and would be asked to report back on his experience, perhaps in the newsletter. LH reported that she had brought up with the College the idea of appointing a Suitable Person to assist revalidation, as happened in Occupational Medicine. This would need approval by the CPD committee. Although initial enquiries had been met supportively by the Vice-President, the view of the committee was that final approval by the CPD committee was unlikely.

Action: LH will continue to liaise with the CPD committee. PD will contact Simon Halstead.

6. **Newsletter**

PD agreed that he would take responsibility for preparing the next newsletter.

7. **Telepsychiatry Guidance**

LH reported that this document still awaited official approval by the Policy and Public Affairs Committee.

8. **AOB**

KB was unable to attend the meeting, having given birth seven weeks ago to daughter Zara. The Committee sent its congratulations.

9. Next Meeting

To be held within six months, the date to be agreed via Doodle Poll.