

Rainbow SIG: Annual Report to Council 2020



Rainbow SIG

The Sexuality and Gender Diversity Special Interest Group

Annual Report to Council 2020

Activities

During 2020 the Rainbow SIG has held the following meetings/events:

Date	Venue/Location	Subject/purpose of meeting/no. of attendees
18 th June 2020	Webinar	<p><i>"Pride 2020: the new normal"</i></p> <p>Chair: E. Hynes</p> <p>Sessions:</p> <p>Supporting lgbt+ mental health through grassroots sports Leap Sports Scotland</p> <p>Being LGBT+ - what the research tells us about mental health University college London</p> <p>Lockdown Pride Pride London</p>
1 st July 2020	Virtual	Rainbow SIG Annual Business Meeting
25 th July 2020	Postponed due to COVID-19	<p>Rainbow SIG RCPsych International Congress session - accepted</p> <p><i>'Addressing substance misuse in LGBT+ communities'</i></p>
1 st August 2020	Virtual	<p>Involvement in RCPsych Equalities Taskforce</p> <p><i>Participation and chair at roundtable discussions.</i></p> <p><i>Rainbow SIG has agreed to ongoing involvement in these initiatives.</i></p>
Upcoming 16 March 2021	Webinar	<p>Rainbow SIG Symposium</p> <p><i>Sexual and Gender Diversity - why should it matter to mental health professionals?</i></p>
Throughout 2020	Webinar	5 Executive Committee meetings attended by majority of Committee via videoconference

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Background

In February 2001 a Special Interest Group in Gay and Lesbian Mental Health was established in the College to promote discussion and research, provide expertise within the College and contribute to education.

We have 1408 members as of November 2020.

The Group's current aims are to:

- promote and research the mental health of LGBT people
- promote training for all mental health professionals regarding the mental health of LGBT people
- support and advocate for LGBT mental health professionals
- advise on local and national policy relating to LGBT mental health

The group is open to anyone and everyone who has an interest in LGBT issues

Executive Committee

Name	Role
Dr Maire Cooney	Chair
Dr Pavan Joshi	Chair-Elect (2021)
Dr Daniel Hodgson	Immediate Past Chair
Dr Josep Vilanova	Finance Officer
Dr Jonathan Gibb	Secretary
Dr Louise Theodosiou	Social Media Officer
Dr Alan Mackenzie	Website Officer
Prof Michael King	Committee Member
Prof Helen Killaspy	Committee Member
Dr Elinor Hynes	Committee Member
Dr Rajesh Mohan	RCPsych Lead for Equalities

Commentary

Objectives for 2020 were to:

1. Continue to promote the mental health of LGBT+ people and to challenge discrimination
2. Hold at least one educational event for college members on matters of importance to LGBT+ community
3. Increase the involvement of college members in the work of the SIG
4. Hold an annual business meeting

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We have undertaken the following activities in 2020:

1. Represented the SIG at college meetings related to college practice and policy in areas of importance to LGBT+ people, including the ongoing Equalities Agenda
2. Reviewed and updated our SIG page on the RCPsych Website
3. Broadened our Executive Committee membership and involvement
4. Chaired and contributed to the RCPsych Pride Celebrations in July 2020, which were very well attended
5. Organised an upcoming RCPsych Webinar on LGBT+ Mental Health (*Sexual and Gender Diversity - why should it matter to mental health professionals?*)
6. Held 5 Executive Committee meetings via videoconference

We are therefore delighted to have achieved our stated aims for 2020

Objectives for 2021

1. To continue to promote the mental health of LGBT+ people and to challenge discrimination faced by patients as well as promote equality for LGBT+ staff
2. To hold at least one educational event for college members on matters of importance to LGBT community
3. To support the RCPsych in achieving the aims outlined within the Equalities Action Plan and to assist the College in becoming part of the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index
4. To continue to meet with the College President quarterly

Máire Cooney

Rainbow SIG Chair

December 2020