**Royal College of Psychiatrists**

**Volunteering & International Psychiatry Special Interest Group (VIPSIG)**

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

Friday 29th January 2016

Uffculme Centre, Birmingham

**Present**

Peter Hughes (Chair), Ruairi Page (Secretary), Heather Dipple, Madhu Mitra (CT2), Gabriel Logo (CT2), Joe Althaus (CT2), Sajid Muzaffor (Consultant)

**Apologies**

Sophie Thomson, Mandip Jheeta, Alice Spencer, Lena Jewad

**EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**Minutes of last meeting (29.5.15)**

Discussed

**Matters arising**

* VIPSIG- Evening meeting in London discussed, the general opinion is that it would be easier to attend an evening meeting, due to clinical commitments
* Peter discussed that Royal College building is easier to book in the evenings, and available from 5-8pm
* General consensus from meeting is that an evening meeting would be favourable
* Publicity of meetings discussed: Currently there is no block email invitation provided by College
* Advertisement of meeting via Facebook is main form of advertising of meeting. This is not ideal for those who do not have access to Facebook
* Advertising also available on VIPSIG website
* MM: Lived in Calcutta, Medical elective in Banglore, Would like to explore volunteering opportunities here. Has contacts in Calcutta to arrange preliminary discussions.
* HD: Ongoing work in Ethiopia discussed
* GK: Interest in setting up training in Nigeria. Has made contact with local hospital services. Awaiting further response
* JA: Medical elective in Brazil. Would like to hear more about opportunities for international volunteering.
* Discussed ongoing work in Cashmere
* PH discussed Cairo training- nearly all attendees were medics. There was lesser attendance from other specialties.
* Discussed re: ongoing need for podcasts. Agreed: PH Iraq, RP Somaliland, HD Ethiopia
* Agreed action: Executive meeting before next VIPSIG meeting (May 13) to produce podcasts for website
* Video: Ongoing requirement for 70second video advertising website.
* Website: Agreed design of website requires updating. Need “Opportunities” section: Somaliland, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Jordan, Meanmar, India, Pakistan
* Medicine Africa: Discussed opportunities for involvement, Looking for volunteers for Psychiatric Emergencies Course (Somaliland)
* SM: Discussed re: working in Birmingham with local mosques and Imans, patients presenting to Imans prior to MH services
* SM: Discussed re: ongoing requirement to work alongside traditional healers. Agreed case studies will be formulated regarding working alongside traditional healers.
* Violence and aggression workshop: Discussed that there is a big requirement for this training. ? Training to be arranged.
* Discussed potential to set up training regarding Traditional healers and how to work alongside them.
* GK: Has been in contact with hospital in Nigeria (Jos University Hospital), who are happy to proceed. They would like more information, and for the programme to be accredited by College of Psychiatrists in Nigeria. They required facility for drug/alcohol misuse which they now have. Use of mhGAP was deemed appropriate by the hospital management in Jos for primary care workers. Team are happy that work will be arranged by VIPSIG and not an individual member. The Hospital would like case examples from work elsewhere- e.g. Somaliland, Ethiopia. GK optimistic about setting up mhGAP based training which will be funded by them. Action plan: To compile case examples to provide to this project. There have been concerns from local psychiatrists about setting up training of other professionals in mental health. GK has been in contact with John Minto.
* Discussed Videos for International Medical Corp, re: training in mhGAP
* Discussed re: opportunity for Birmingham mhGAP training, central location, sadly poor attendance at this meeting. Birmingham members would like video link to be set up for future SIG meetings.
* Discussed Ghana programme: For higher trainees, Approved for training in General Adult Psychiatry, 3 months, Action plan: to email TPDs to advertise this programme, currently there is poor uptake
* Link to MSF/NGOs: PH to discuss with Aoife Singh re: progress with this.
* Discussed re: Prizes. Peter has received approximately 20 submissions. Still awaiting judges to assess.
* Discussed re: acceptance from Congress for ½ day workshop. Still awaiting date.
* Still awaiting arrangement for (War Foundation World Vision) Psychological First Aid course. PFA event is committed to London.
* Discussed re: Use of videolink for sessions.
* Webinar 2nd February: Syrian Task Force. Peter Ventivoogal. Mental Health in Syrian Refugess. Require to sign on to MHPSS website
* Still requirement for more MDT, other specialty involvement with group and projects. Nurse prescribers
* Discussed requirement to check VIPSIG global email list- some people reporting not receiving newsletters
* Newsletter discussed- Discussed it being well formatted, ? too long
* Future event: Syrian refugee event

**mHGAP Orientation Weekend**

* Awaiting confirmation of date, location, number of attendees etc

**Future events**

* PFA training
* mHGAP Training

**Feedback from VIPSIG leads**

* As above

**AOB**

* Sadly, poor attendance at Birmingham meeting. Apologies received from 4 Consultant colleagues who had initially expressed interest

**Dates of next committee meetings**

Venue: Royal College of Psychiatrists, London. 1:30pm- executive meeting, 2:00pm- general meeting.

* Friday 13th May 2016
* Friday 19th August 2016
* Friday 11th November 2016
* Please join us. All disciplines, students, trainees and non-psychiatrists very welcome.
* (Please email PBarton-Hanson@rcpsych.ac.uk beforehand to inform of your attendance as per building security policy)