



Royal College of Psychiatrists

Volunteering & International Psychiatry Special Interest Group (VIPSIG)

Committee Meeting Minutes

11/01/19 Royal College

Present

Sophie Thomson (Chair), Ruairi Page (Secretary), Mandip Jheeta (Finance Officer), Anis Ahmed, Emily Lewis, Jane Mouny, Peter Hughes

Apologies

Bradley Hillier, Heather Dipple

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Held after the general meeting. No minutes available

GENERAL MEETING

Introductions were made to the group.

Emily Lewis introduced herself to the team as the new trainee representative

Minutes of last meeting

Discussed and feedback received

Update on website- ST discussed new website, ST wants to go through the old content, wants to keep the list of volunteer opportunities.

What do people want to see on the website:

All: Volunteer experiences, volunteer recruitment, newsletter, resource section with links to other charity links and international volunteering links,

RP Discussed videos he has taken from mhGAP training weekend

ST has asked MJ to email Mark Turner from the college and Lena to discuss how we evolve the website

ST: Discussed in Myanmar funding a film regarding mental health awareness

MJ: Discussed last newsletter was very well written, ST said that it went really well, got great feedback

ST: Wants to encourage the newsletter

PROJECT UPDATE/ Future events/ Matters arising

E-Learning conference was well received

Elen Cook wants to organise a day on volunteering later this year. "Volunteer Day" set for 4 October 2019, Run by the college

PH: Happy with plan for volunteering day.

Peter discussed possibility of project in Bangladesh.

mH Gap: Request for training in Aberdeen from Scottish Division this year. PH discussed it being better early in the year.

Elen has requested PH to discuss mhGAP workshops being done on a divisional basis.

PH attended divisional meeting this morning and can put this idea towards the team. ST and PH are happy with this idea; would like to encourage others to be involved in running the weekend.

PH discussed an idea of a VIPSIG book around the work of VIPSIG

PH discussed his work in Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, HR lecturing in Pakistan, is due to Ukraine for further training, and to work with the Rohingya project in Bangladesh

AA: Has just returned from Bangladesh; discussed delivering a module on mhGAP and AA delivered a mental health module, second cohort has been done, looks likely for the programme to be continued, programme is based at junior doctors, was able to build relations with the Bangladesh psychiatric associations

PH: Had request in for project in Bangladesh only today; led by WHO and mhGAP orientated. Unsure at present how VIPSIG can support this

AA: really keen on delivering the hand technique for Rohingya project

ST: Discussed writing a summary of the VIPSIG toolkit, including the hand technique, discussed very good feedback around the world for the hand technique. Awaiting evaluation figures from Myanmar prior to submitting for publication.

ST: Wants to include trainees to be involved in the Rohingya project

AA: Discussed possibilities to join the "Doctors worldwide" programme in Rohingya, programme is usually run over the weekend; 1-1 ½ day of lecture and seminar based teaching; then the following day the teaching is done on the field and the trainees are evaluated on the field.

ST: Highlighted the importance of evaluation of the projects. AA: stated the programme he has been involved with has finished one cohort, and they will evaluate after the second cohort has completed

ST: Uganda- There has been a request for volunteers to help trainings in Uganda

JM: Discussed Guatemala- possibility of involvement/projects to be commenced

MJ: Discussed the essay competition- Planned for later in the year. Discussed the topic. MJ discussed to leave the essay topic open which covers research, projects. Prize is TBC but to include trophy or small cash prize and entry to one of the VIPSIG conference. Last time- 20 entries. ST discussed some of the entries last time were very moving.

ST: Looking to the future:

RP: Discussed the need to evolve with e-volunteering to emulate the successes of the Medicine Africa programme

AA: Discussed need to evolve volunteering by video production with the correct subtitles.

MJ: Discussed the importance of getting the basics right; working on the mhGAP promotion as this is the most popular course/intervention we run, also discussed replication of the PFA course that we previously ran

JM: Arising from the workshop, E-intervention, could have better spent the time from finding ideas from our volunteers and audiences. Would also like to create opportunities for those who attend our trainings.

MJ: Discussed the popularity of VIPSIG for trainees and suggested a trainee day/conference

EL: To improve awareness of the VIPSIG group; to improve marketing and publicising of the group

ST: Would like to promote the enjoyment factor of the trainings and volunteering opportunities

ST: Discussed the focuses for the year being electronic volunteering, reaching out more, publicising the group

RP: Discussed the need to meet the regional reps

ST: Discussed next meeting Friday 8th March 2019; 2pm; Royal College; London

ST/RP: Would be keen to invite Prof Burn (College President) for a meeting; everybody in agreement; ST and RP to liaise for a 10 min presentation at the next meeting to promote e-volunteering projects

ST/MJ: Proposed Friday 13 September for PFA/HIG conference at Royal College of Psychiatrists. EL will look into organising trainee presentation.

FINANCES

MJ- Finance officer

Stated the finances were stable, looking good. MJ produced the Business Plan for VIPSIG.

ST: Stated that we have struggled with finances on attempting to engage GP college with mhGAP/mental health work, but that efforts were continuing regarding this project

Dates of next committee meetings

Next meetings-

8 March 2019 2pm Royal College of Psychiatrists, London

14 June 2019 2pm- Royal College of Psychiatrists. President attending

8 November 2019: TBC