

AGM Co-Chair Report.

1st February 2015.

1. Introduction

I am sorry I am unable to join you for this years AGM however I am pleased to report that there has been some positive work occurring and SPN continues to have a presence in terms of promoting the social approach in mental health.

Thanks are due to Jean as usual for making sure the newsletter gets out to our members and maintaining the website.

2. Activities

As an organisation we continue to contribute to the National Involvement Partnership (NIP) via a number of the trustees, notably Alleyn, Terry and Patsy, and we are also continuing as a member organisation of the Mental Health Alliance via myself, with work this year focusing on the use of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and ensuring people who may lack capacity have their human rights protected.

We continue to feature in Mental Health Today magazine, contributing a regular column – the bigger picture – usually penned by myself. We are also present as a member of the editorial committee for the magazine and continue to have a positive relationship with Pavilion (publishers). Should any of the trustees, executive committee members or SPN members wish to contribute a short column (800 words) on any issue impacting on social perspectives and mental health please let me know, I can be emailed at daisy.bogg@spn.org.uk

This year marked the anniversary of the Human Rights declaration and SPN were proud to be co-signatory to an open letter which appeared in The Telegraph

Towards the end of this year we have had the opportunity to work alongside BASW once again and took part in a joint meeting, chaired by Terry Bamford, as

a member of both organisations, with the All Party Parliamentary Committee for Mental Health (APPG), a number of key themes emerged from this meeting and BASW have agreed to prepare a short paper for circulation summarising these discussions. These included –

- evidence based practice -open dialogue etc
- roles and identity
- resources and pressures
- education and training
- discrimination and stigma
- coproduction
- leadership

Whilst we are in the run up to a general election the APPG members did express a commitment to mental health social work and the social perspective post-election and we look forward to working with this group in the future regardless of political persuasion.

A conference is now planned to follow up on some of the issues raised and again will be hosted jointly with BASW. This will be held in London on World Social Work Day (17/03/15) and is titled “*Revisiting Social Models of Mental Health Social Work*”. Speakers will include Lynn Romeo, Chief Social Worker Adults, our own long-term committee member and reader at the University of Birmingham, Jerry Tew, and Russell Razzague, Consultant Psychiatrist who will be presenting on the emerging evidence around the Open Dialogue approach.

More information can be found on both our website and BASW’s where online booking can be made, see - www.basw.co.uk/event/?id=381 . As usual a small number of free places for service users and carers has been made available funded this year by St Andrew’s Healthcare.

3. Moving Forward

The response from the executive committee in terms of continue with their roles within SPN was universally positive and I am pleased to report a number of other expressions of interest from those involved in the sector, We also have a

nominee for co-chair which will strengthen the executive group and ensure service user and carer perspectives remain central to our activities. I

The nominees for the executive group for the 2015/16 period are as follows:

Co-Chair – Dr Richard Peacock

Richard was a previous supporter of SPN but withdrew from involvement several years ago to concentrate on completing his PhD. He is now looking to re-join the group and has accepted the nomination for co-chair.

New Committee members nominated to join the executive are –

Claire Barcham

Claire is a long-term friend of SPN, a practicing mental health social worker and manager of Islington Out of Hours Social Work Team. She has been involved in the mental health sector for many years, was chair of the AMHP leads network from 2004 – 2010 and continues to support and develop a social approach in many different forums.

Dr Ruth Allen

Ruth has worked with SPN in the past, she is currently Director of Social Work at South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust and is the chair of the Mental Health Faculty within The College of Social Work. Ruth is also the author of 'The Role of Mental Health Social Work' paper

Judith Varley

Judith is a long term carer and has previously been involved with SPN, she is now looking to join the executive committee in order to promote the carer perspective further in our work.

Rob Hayles

Rob is a long-term service user that has wide knowledge of the issues involved. He has completed a Fellowship at Northwest London CLAHRC based on his work in developing the patient as the project leader of their care, treatment and well being.

Catherine Pestano

Catherine is a mental health social worker of many years experience, including management and training, and serving on the Women and mental health network for a number of years. Her own experience of mental health and distress has been informed by two low periods, one in response to bereavement and one in relation to issues with the menopause, a current area of interest.

Current Committee Members wishing to continue in the role –

Jerry Tew,
Peter Ferns
Nick Hervey
Stephanie
Suman Fernando
Vicki Coppock
Jane Shears
Rob Goemans
Mike Young
Sarah Carr
Lisa Morriss

I have also been asked to continue by Terry and Alleyn and am happy to do so.

It's a strong group this year and with a joint BASW conference to start the year and further work with the APPG planned it is looking to be a positive year for SPN.

Daisy Bogg
Co-Chair
1st February 2015