

Minutes of the COT Specialist Section Mental Health Annual General Meeting
Held on Tuesday 29th April 2008

At Queens Hotel, Leeds

Agenda

1. Minutes of the last AGM December 2006
2. Matters arising
3. Treasurer's report (Katrina Bannigan on behalf of Rachel Christian-Edwards)
4. Chairs report (Julie Carr)
5. Activity report
6. Membership services
7. Awards
8. Any other business (AOB)

1. Minutes of the last AGM December 2006

- 1.1 That these were agreed as a correct record was proposed by Simon Hughes and seconded by Cathy Ormston.

2 Matters arising

- 2.1 none

3. Treasurers Report.

- 3.1 Katrina Bannigan delivered the treasurers report on behalf of Rachel Christian-Edwards. The financial year runs from the 1st October 2006 to the 30th September 2007, the accounts presented were for this financial period, not the current year.

The total turn over figure is down on the previous year by approximately £2,000, for this financial year operating in a deficit of £641. However the overall retained financial position remains in surplus.

- 3.2 Membership recruitment, each year we loose a percentage of our membership and gain a percentage of new members. Lapsed membership is a continual problem and a range of options are being considered to improve renewal of membership fees offering more convenient methods of payment.

- 3.3 Membership administration, following the change in administration from Able types to COT there has been an increase in the administration costs by approximately £4,000.

- 3.4 The delay regarding the forensic conference income and expenditure caused a delay in the accounts being examined.

- 3.5 The magazine costs have reduced.

- 3.6 Two successful study days were held during this financial year, one of which led to the agreement of payment for an international speaker for the SIG Eating disorder.

3.7 Committee members have been asked to book travel in advance to reduce the costs for attendance for both committee meetings and editorial board meetings.

3.8 The Treasurer conveyed thanks to both Julie Carr (chair) & Phillip Lennon (head of finance COT) for their support and assistance throughout the year.

4.0 & Chairs Report & Activity Report

5.0

Julie Carr delivered the chairs report detailing difficulties with payment methods, change of administration and the affect on membership. Julie also thanked the forensic group for their flexibility in moving their conference to accommodate changes regarding the dates of the 10th annual specialist conference. She also highlighted some of the activity that the committee have undertaken and detailed that this is completed by approximately 1% of membership. Future projects discussed including a comprehensive study programme and the developments of the website. Encouraged members to get involved

4.1 Committee members, Julie conveyed thanks to Ann Forsythe retiring from post of Substance Misuse & Homelessness representative. Helen Mason to stand for the vacant CAMHS rep post. Newly elected members Graeme Smith - PRO & Debbie Alred – Forensic. Katrina Bannigan R&D officer.

6.0 Membership Services

Graeme Smith discussed changes to update the current website to create a more interactive site for members. The website will incorporate news updates, links to other relevant websites, areas for critical debate, service user interaction, video snippets and podcasts. He also requested ongoing feedback from the membership to help shape the future website.

7.0 Awards

Since becoming a branch of COT, we are in a position to offer Honorary Member Awards. Unanimously voted to offer Honorary Members Awards to David Tombs and Gabrielle Richards.

8.0 Any Other Business

Louise Cusack thanked the specialist section committee for all their hard work and thanked Julie Carr for the organisation of the conference.