

columns

lobby of Parliament on 7 June to press for changes to be made to the Government's proposals. The Alliance is made up of a number of charities including Mind, the National Schizophrenia Fellowship and the Mental Health Foundation. Meanwhile, College representatives have held discussions with Department of Health officials regarding the Green Paper. As Parliament rose for the summer recess it was announced that a White Paper (i.e. government proposals) for Mental Health Act reform will be published by Christmas. There will also be White Paper proposals about people with personality disorder from the Home Office.

For further details on any of these issues contact Dr Roger Freeman, Chair of the College's Parliamentary Liaison Sub-Committee at armfreeman@doctors.org.uk or Christopher Walden, Parliamentary and Policy Officer at cwalden@rcpsych.ac.uk. For information on Scotland contact Dr Ian Pullen at ian.pullen@scotland.com or Dr Denise Coia at gillian.duncan@glasgow-hb.scot.nhs.uk.

References

ALL-PARTY DRUGS MISUSE GROUP (2000) *Dual Diagnosis*. London: Drugscope.

HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE (2000) *Provision of NHS Mental Health Services (HC373)*. London: The Stationery Office.

HOME AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE (2000) *Managing Dangerous People with Severe Personality Disorder*. (HC 505) Government Response. London: The Stationery Office.

Proposal for a Special Interest Group in Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry

Procedure for establishing a special interest group:

(a) any member wishing to establish a special interest group should write to the Registrar with relevant details;
(b) the Registrar will forward the application to Council;
(c) if Council approves the application on principle it will direct the Registrar to place a notice in the *Bulletin*, or its equivalent, asking members of the College to write in support of such a group and expressing willingness to participate in its activities;
(d) if at least 120 members reply to this notice, Council will formally approve the establishment of the group concerned.

In accordance with this procedure, Council has approved application for the establishment of a Special Interest Group in Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry, to provide a focus within the College for this area of practice. The aim is to facilitate the common goals and objectives of the Child and Adolescent and Forensic Psychiatry Faculties in times of great change, with the current focus on the development of child and adolescent mental health services and the high profile of youth justice matters. In addition, it is anticipated that a special interest group in this area will draw in the expertise of members working in other specialities, such as learning disability and addiction in young offenders.

Members are invited to write in support of this group and express interest in participating in its activities. Interested members should write to Miss Sue Duncan at the College. If 120 members reply to this notice, then Council will formally approve the establishment of the group.

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'Poet in residence' to work with elderly patients and families in Birmingham

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is delighted to announce that the Birmingham poet, David Hart, will be working as the poet in residence over the next year in South Birmingham Mental Health Trust, which is the largest NHS trust providing care for people with mental illness in the West Midlands. The project is being managed by Professor Femi Oyebode, who is the Medical Director and a well-known poet in his own right, acting as Literature Advisor to West Midlands Arts.

This unique and innovative residency project has been funded by the Arts Council of England through West Midlands Arts as one of the 'a thousand artists in a thousand places' Year of the Artist awards, with arts lottery money. It is the first of many initiatives planned by the Royal College of Psychiatrists over the next 2 years to coincide with its new initiative, '2001: A Mind Odyssey' (see below).

Initially, David Hart will be working 1 day a week within the older adults' psychiatry services, with continuing care and day patients and their relatives. In the future he will work in other departments in the trust.

David Hart is a well-known poet. He has previous experience of working within the health arena, having been involved with general practice and in running poetry workshops for psychotherapists and people with mental health problems. He has also participated in the Arts Week at Heartlands Hospital in Birmingham and was a poet in residence at Worcester Cathedral. Among his publications is a book of poems *Setting the Poem to Words* (Hart, 1998).

2001: A Mind Odyssey

'2001: A Mind Odyssey' is a celebration of the arts, psychiatry and the mind and aims to help and inspire those involved in mental health services, both professionals and service users, to express their creativity through the arts. This celebration of the arts is designed to raise awareness of the therapeutic benefits of artistic expression and explore other aspects of people's lives and their creativity.

The project will be launched at the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Annual Meeting in London, 9–13 July 2001 and will finish at its Annual Meeting in Cardiff in 2002. A number of major musical, artistic, theatrical, dance, film, literary and photographic events are planned throughout the country during this period.

For further information contact Deborah Hart or Alexi Wedderburn at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, tel.: 020 7235 2351, ext. 127 or 149; e-mail: dhart@rcpsych.ac.uk.

Reference

HART, D. (1998) *Setting the Poem to Words*. Five Seasons Press.

corrigendum

Comparing GPs and specialist alcohol services

On page 214 of the paper by Naik *et al* (*Psychiatric Bulletin*, June, **24**, 214–215), in the 'Study' section, the second sentence should read:

"The questionnaire was sent to randomly selected GPs in Nottingham (n=147) and all SAS (n=**37**) as listed in the Alcohol Services Directory."

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