



# APPG for Psychology Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Psychology's newsletter, providing you with a roundup of the group's latest activity as well as our exciting plans for the remainder of 2018.

It certainly has been a busy first half of the year for the group! Our meetings have covered a diverse range of important topics, from children and young people's mental health, to internet trolling and mental health in the criminal justice system.

The level of support we have continued to receive throughout 2018 from our APPG Members, stakeholders, and the psychological community has been fantastic – we're very grateful to all those involved and we look forward to continuing to work with you moving forwards.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lisa Cameron'.

**Dr Lisa Cameron MP,**  
*Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Psychology*



## Upcoming activity

Our next meeting will take place on 14 November and will focus on the topic of obesity. We look forward to circulating further details about this meeting in due course.

If you would like any further information in the meantime on this meeting, or the group's activity more generally, please contact the APPG's secretariat at **[Lisa.MorrisonCoulthard@bps.org.uk](mailto:Lisa.MorrisonCoulthard@bps.org.uk)**.

## Prevention and intervention – supporting our children’s mental health and psychological wellbeing

On 25 April, we held a panel discussion event focused on the importance of prevention and early intervention in supporting children and young people’s mental health and psychological wellbeing.

The event explored how psychological approaches can help tackle mental health conditions for children and young people. Attendees heard a range of perspectives on this topic, including from educational and clinical psychologists as well as teachers involved in prevention and intervention strategies in schools.

Educational psychologist Dr Viv Hill spoke about the role of educational psychologists working in schools and the types of interventions that can be put in place.

Consultant clinical psychologist in adolescent and adult mental health, Dr Nihara Krause, spoke about her work on early awareness and intervention in schools and colleges.

Attendees also heard from Professor Miranda Wolpert about the work she is undertaking as Director of the Child Outcomes Research Consortium and her psychological research focused on improving children’s mental health and wellbeing.

Three case studies were also presented at the meeting by teachers – Paul Fitcher, from Wimbledon College and Nana Kennedy and Emma Lewis, from Heathmere School – about programmes they have set up to equip students and staff with the knowledge and skills to manage their own mental wellbeing.

We have produced a summary of key findings from the meeting and our recommendations for action to address issues around children’s mental health and wellbeing, which you can read on our website: [www.bps.org.uk/appg](http://www.bps.org.uk/appg)



Alex Chalk MP, Dr Lisa Cameron MP & Dr Lisa Morrison Coulthard

## Internet trolling – the nature and experience of being trolled and understanding what lies behind it

On 13 June we held an event on the relatively new and growing phenomenon of internet trolling. Psychologists Professor Catriona Morrison and Dr Shazia Akhtar, from the University of Bradford, presented their research into parliamentarians and their staff’s experience of online trolling and its impact.



Dr Shazia Akhtar, Professor Catriona Morrison, Dr Lisa Cameron MP, Professor Abigail Locke & Dr Nelli Ferenczi

Key findings included that male MPs received more abuse and threats than their female colleagues. This tended to involve defamatory or false information and attempts to damage their reputation by, for instance, calling into question their professional competence.

By contrast, abuse and threats directed at female MPs was more varied and included abuse of a racial, sexual or religious nature and threats of rape and violence. In addition, in most cases MPs knew the identity of the troll. Where the identity of the troll was known, 90 per cent of trolls were male.

Attendees also heard from Professor Abigail Locke, from the University of Bradford, on trolling and gender issues on social media, and Dr Nelli Ferenczi, from Brunel University, on why individuals endorse and engage in misogynistic behaviour online.

An interesting discussion followed, exploring what makes people engage in this behaviour, the characteristics of internet trolls and fundamentally what the most effective tactics are in dealing with trolling.

Minutes from the APPG meeting can be read here:

[www.bps.org.uk/appg](http://www.bps.org.uk/appg)



Stuart Andrew MP & Nicola Gale

## Mental health and criminal justice: Managing transitions from youth to adulthood

We held our final meeting before the summer recess on mental health in the criminal justice system on 18 July. The discussion focused on managing youth to adult transitions in the criminal justice system, and explored whether young adults should have a distinct, focused and flexible approach at every stage in the criminal justice process in

order to reduce reoffending and improve social outcomes for them and their families.



Dr Lisa Morrison Coulthard, Professor Jessica Woodhams, Dr Jenny Taylor, Dr Lisa Cameron MP, Professor Huw Williams, Dr Emily Glorney & Nicola Gale

Attendees heard from Professor Huw Williams, from the University of Exeter, about the link between traumatic brain injury and crime. Clinical psychologist Dr Jenny Taylor then spoke to attendees about mental health in under 18's in the criminal justice system, and the importance of a holistic approach considering psychological and social consequences for mental health.

about mental health and wellbeing in prison and the kinds of interventions that can be effective. Attendees also heard from forensic psychologist Professor Jessica Woodhams, from the University of Birmingham, about mental health among those working in the criminal justice system.

Dr Emily Glorney, from Royal Holloway, spoke to attendees

The group will be producing a summary of key findings from the meeting and our recommendations for action to address issues around mental health in the criminal justice system shortly. If you would like any further information in the meantime please contact the APPG's secretariat at [Lisa.MorrisonCoulthard@bps.org.uk](mailto:Lisa.MorrisonCoulthard@bps.org.uk).

## AGM

The group also held its AGM on 18 July and we were delighted that the following individuals have been re-elected as officers of the group:

- **Dr Lisa Cameron MP**, *Chair*
- **Luciana Berger MP**, *Vice-Chair*
- **Baroness Hamwee**, *Vice-Chair*
- **Lord Alderdice**, *Officer*
- **Lord Balfe**, *Officer*

## About the APPG

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Psychology was established in 2017 to raise awareness amongst parliamentarians and policymakers of the importance and relevance of psychology, and to provide MPs with an evidence based approach to some of the major challenges facing society currently.

The British Psychological Society (BPS) is supporting the work of the APPG in the role of Secretariat. The BPS is the representative body for psychology and psychologists in the UK. The Society is responsible for the promotion of excellence and ethical practice in the science, education, and practical applications of the discipline.



**The British  
Psychological Society**  
Promoting excellence in psychology

More information on the work of the APPG can be found at: [www.bps.org.uk/appg](http://www.bps.org.uk/appg)