

# DCP UK Chair's update

## Esther Cohen-Tovée

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**T**HIS UPDATE will be brief, because I have taken some much-needed leave recently. I hope that you will all also have had some leave, or have some planned in the near future. It has been disappointing for many of us that holiday plans have been disrupted or over-turned by the pandemic, but some kind of break from work for those of us who have been working harder than ever during these difficult months is essential. We know that looking after our own wellbeing is a core requirement to being able to fulfil our roles for the benefit of those who use our services and the wider population.

### **Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism**

I am pleased to report that we have had a very good response to our call for Statements of Interest in joining our EDI task and finish group. We are in the process of establishing the Chair/Co-Chairs and the first meeting will take place later this month. Thank you very much to everyone who will be joining the group, which will play a key role in moving forwards our EDI and anti-racism work, in partnership with the work with our existing working groups and the Minorities subcommittee. It will also enable us to co-ordinate the work of our different groups effectively. The group will also be working closely with the BPS EDI Presidential Taskforce, now chaired by Nasreen Fazal-Short, who is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist – Nasreen's blog can be found [here](#).

Our 'Racial and Social Inequalities in the times of Covid' working group was formed as a response to the emerging disproportionate deaths due to coronavirus from people from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups. The group is co-chaired by two members of the DCP Executive committee; Amra Rao (joint lead for DCP Faculties) and Jo Hemmingfield (Experts by Experience lead for England and for the Exec). The group's [live position paper](#) is intended to begin conversations and engagement with stakeholders to co-produce a change strategy to counter racial and social inequalities. It offers initial thoughts on the risks and impact of Covid-19 on pre-existing racial and social inequalities and structural racism. It has started to develop an understanding of why this is happening based on themes emerging at the first listening event organised by the group. It outlines an urgent call to action to centre, support, and learn from at risk communities. A framework for change, informed by the literature, our experiences and consultation with others is put forward for the profession, organisations and policy-makers. The group is developing a campaign to raise awareness, identify and name barriers to change, engage with diverse perspective and key stakeholders, inform DCP/BPS EDI work and mobilise action – inviting individuals, groups and organisations to pledge to anti-racist action. A further [listening event](#) will take place on 23 September, with a particular focus on mobilising action.

### **Clinical psychology training expansion**

We are very pleased to be able to report an increase in clinical psychology training commissions in all the home nations. Compared with the 2019 intake, in 2020 there is an increase in places of 146 (26%) in England, of 4 (27%) in N. Ireland, of 11 (19%) in Scotland and of 2 (1%) in Wales. This begins to recognise the vital role the profession will play in the delivery of the nations' strategic plans and the delivery of services across acute healthcare as well as mental health, intellectual disability and neuro-disability areas. This represents the most significant increase in commissions for many years, and it is clearly the responsibility of the courses in collaboration with the Trusts providing the placements to make this a success. It also provides an opportunity to really tackle

increasing the representativeness of the trainees, and it is imperative that we do so. In addition to our existing initiatives, we are participating in the HEE-led coproduction work on increasing representativeness of Clinical Psychology trainees, which will over time improve our representativeness as a profession.

See also this recent [article](#) in *The Psychologist*.

This achievement in increase in commissions reflects the work of many DCP members and BPS staff involved in influencing policy and workforce plans. Our hope is that this is a new beginning rather than an end to the expansion of training and services.

### **Lived experience papers**

We are very pleased to be able to share our [position statement](#) on lived experience in Clinical Psychology and that the DCP Guide to supporting and valuing lived experience of mental health difficulties in Clinical Psychology Training will also be published very soon. The latter has been produced through a DCP grant scheme funded project. Many thanks to everyone involved in the work to develop both papers, particularly Camilla Hogg, Trainee Clinical Psychologist and Mental Health Lead, DCP Minorities in Clinical Psychology Subcommittee, Natalie Kemp, Chartered Clinical Psychologist and CEO in 2gr-8mentalhealth Ltd, Katrina Scior, Joint Course Director, Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, UCL, Henry Clements, Principal Clinical Tutor and CBT Pathway Lead, Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, UCL, and Kathy Mackenzie-White, Teaching Fellow, Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, UCL.

We will shortly be creating a Task and Finish Group to develop action planning to build on this work. We will advertise for members in the various newsletters and social media so please look out for that if you wish to contribute.

### **NHS in England – key publications**

For those members who work in the NHS in England, I would like to highlight two important documents recently published:

- The [NHS Phase 3 Covid response letter](#) from NHS CE Simon Stevens & COO Amanda Pritchard published on 31 July <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/implementing-phase-3-of-the-nhs-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>
- The NHS England People Plan and context from Chief People Officer, Prerana Issar and Chair of Health Education England, Sir David Behan: [We are the NHS: people Plan for 2020–21 – actions for us all](#)

### **DCP Covid publications and resources**

We are continuing to develop resources and plan other ways to support our members and the public during the pandemic. We will shortly be publishing our Covid Strategy – a live document which will be updated and developed further. Look out for the monthly Covid Bulletins in your inboxes to keep you up to date. All DCP resources and past Bulletins can be found [here](#).

### **New look website**

The BPS is investing in a completely new website which should be delivered late next year. In the meantime we are improving our current one to make it more useful and accessible. This is a work in progress, but do have a look at the [new pages](#) on Equality Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism, Public Health and Prevention and Prequalification Group materials amongst others.

### **Dr Esther Cohen-Tovée**

*Chair, Division of Clinical Psychology*

*chair\_dcp@bps.org.uk, Twitter: @DrEstherCT*