

Division of Clinical Psychology

June 2021

DCP in Focus

A monthly news digest for our members

Welcome to the June edition of DCP in Focus, with plenty of news, updates and opportunities.

This month one of our main items is on what we can be doing as clinical psychologists to respond to the climate emergency. This is a DCP priority area and will be an ongoing theme for us over the coming months. We have also [created a page](#) on the website for posting relevant articles and information.

The issue of staff wellbeing is another vital area for the DCP and we are always looking at how we can best support our members. Please take a look at the article on the staff wellbeing survey and the opportunities to join a reflective practice group.

Mentoring is a key area of support, and our scheme is going so well that we now need more mentors. Could you be one?

There are also opportunities to join our sub-committees. This provides great CPD as well as supporting the DCP's work.

We are always pleased to receive any feedback or ideas - please [email me](#).

Julia Faulconbridge

Clinical psychology and the climate emergency

As this decade's pivotal international climate Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November fast approaches, public engagement with the climate and ecological emergency is vital.

Government and business leaders need a strong public mandate to tip them into taking the urgent actions that are needed to limit global heating, and to mitigate the harmful effects that are already underway.

As respected health professionals, with expertise in human change, we can add our voices and influence, showing how climate and environmental actions are consistent with all our responsibilities to promote health, wellbeing, inclusivity and diversity.

This is a major priority for the DCP, and our work is being supported by Tony Wainwright, chair of the BPS's climate and environmental steering group, and Annie Mitchell.

With Alison Robertson as the DCP executive's new climate and environmental champion, we are engaging with faculties to explore how clinical psychologists can take action on behalf of, and with, our particular client groups.

It is clear that, as individual psychologists, we are often struggling to join the dots between our personal, professional and ethical responsibilities, and want ideas about what to do.

So Annie has produced a [draft list of suggestions](#), each with a link to background reading and evidence, as a starting point for those who are hesitant, or who are keen to engage as psychologists, as well as personally, but are unsure how.

We also have two separate but inter-connected DCP climate and environmental webinars coming up in September: an England one, organised jointly by DCP South West and DCP South Central, and a Scotland one.

We have launched a [climate emergency page](#) on the website where we will continue to post useful information.

If you would like to get in touch with any thoughts, ideas or resources, please email [Tony Wainwright](#) or [Annie Mitchell](#).

Staff wellbeing

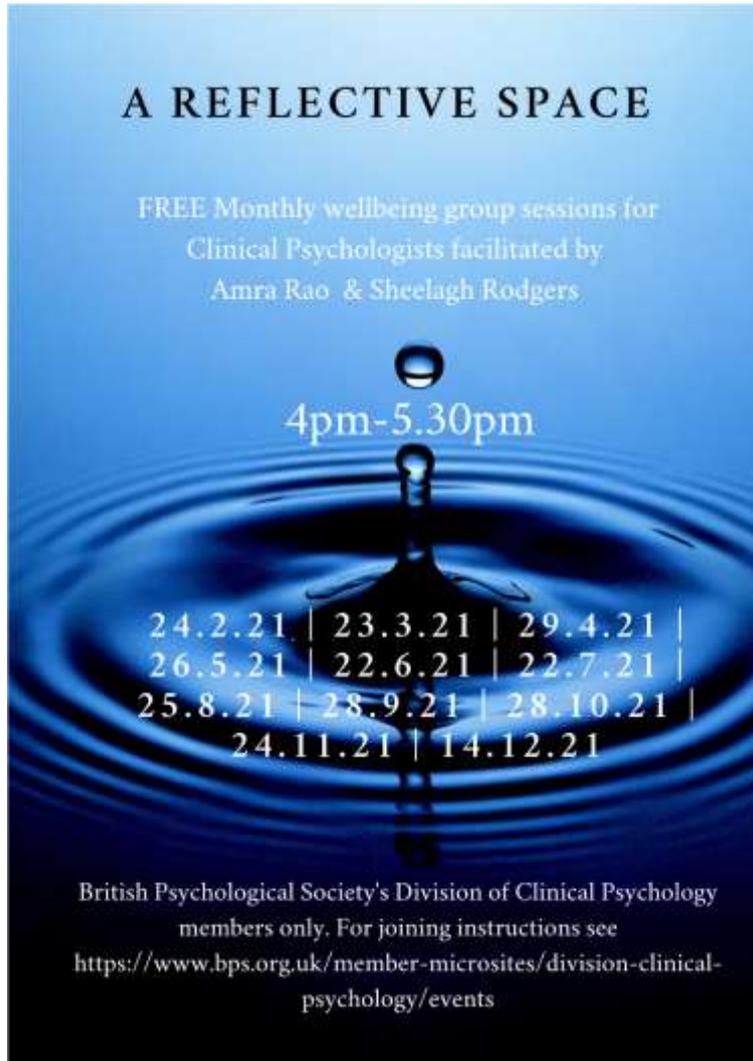
DCP reflective practice and wellbeing sessions

The DCP is developing a member wellbeing and support strategy to respond to fast-shifting horizons and support its members. Following on from the positive feedback from the wellbeing meetings last year, we have been rolling out the next series.

These sessions provide an opportunity to talk in a supportive environment about the current situation from our different roles and perspectives, and consider what these new circumstances means for us personally, socially and professionally.

Remaining dates for this year are: 22 Jul, 25 Aug, 28 Sep, 28 Oct, 24 Nov, 14 Dec.

Sessions will be facilitated by Amra Rao and Sheelagh Rodgers. [Find out more details and access Zoom links on our website.](#)



Wellbeing survey

The 2021 joint DCP Leadership and Management Faculty and New Savoy Partnership workforce wellbeing survey is now [open for responses](#).

The survey will remain open until the end of July, please share it with any relevant services so that we can get the clearest possible picture of wellbeing within the psychological workforce.

One voice statement

The BPS recently [joined forces](#) with a number of other organisations to call for a focus on the wellbeing of health and care staff.

The one voice statement calls for a culture to be created where the wellbeing and psychological health of staff is valued organisations not just in a pandemic situation, but each and every day.

BPS webinar

The BPS Professional Development Centre is [hosting a webinar](#) on the ongoing psychological support needed for healthcare staff. It's on 21 July.

Workforce and training updates - Tony Lavender

National Assessors

Eric Karas (chief national assessor) has been leading the relaunch and revitalising of the National Assessor Scheme. Regular meetings of the lead speciality assessors have been taking place and a new operational system for trusts to secure national assessors via BPS staff been established.

As part of the relaunch an [advert has been placed on the BPS website](#) encouraging applications from senior clinical psychologists to become national assessors. Please, if you are such a person, or know of others who may be interested, apply or encourage them to do so.

The use of the consultant title

The Practice Board is about to set up a task and finish group to review the use of the consultant title. The BPS recently withdrew the document covering the issue as it had become rather out of date. This is an important and complex area. There will be a call soon for members to join the task and finish group and I would urge senior psychologists with an interest in this area to apply.

Training commissions

As people will be aware, over the last two years there has been an unprecedented increase in clinical psychology training commissions in England, with significant increases in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Wales is lobbying for a parallel increase.

Courses have been involved in the selection in the second cohort in this increase, due to start in 2021. The main challenges are securing placements/supervisors in services, appointing adequate numbers of course staff and the continuing support of the trusts that employ trainees. All clinical psychologists have a role to play in taking advantage of this significant opportunity for the profession.

Could you be a mentor and help to support the development of our members?

The DCP mentorship programme is thriving, offering mentoring to all qualified clinical psychologists in our membership. This is a really important service that is being provided, and we are seeing increasing numbers of people asking for membership across the profession.

So, we are looking for more qualified psychologists who could offer to mentor colleagues and we hope that you will consider whether this is something that you could provide - please see the [mentoring page](#) on our website for details.

Family interventions in psychosis

The DCP Faculty of Psychosis and Complex Mental Health's guidance encouraging family interventions for psychosis was [recently published](#).

To support the launch, document authors Jo Allen and Steven Livingstone [wrote a blog](#) for the BPS looking at the importance of involving the families and support networks of people with psychosis in their treatment.



the british
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promoting excellence in psychology

FAMILY INTERVENTIONS IN PSYCHOSIS

INFORMATION FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS
AND PRACTITIONERS SUPPORTING
FAMILIES AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

GUIDELINES

Updating a national psychology standard in HIV care

HIV medical treatment has improved vastly over the last 15 years. This means that a HIV diagnosis is no longer one with an almost certain palliative outcome and is, instead, a manageable long-term condition, often with normal life expectancy for those able to engage with treatment.

However, as stigma still looms large for those living with HIV, complex psychosocial issues persist for many and there is growing recognition that mental health support should be central to care delivery. This not only supports psychological and emotional wellbeing, but also has implications for health outcomes, given that difficulties engaging with treatment are usually underpinned by psychological distress.

However, to date, this situation is not reflected in the staffing of HIV care teams, many of which have no in-house mental health support.

[Read the full article by Sarah Rutter on our website.](#)

Power Threat Meaning Framework

The PTMF Committee continues to collate and develop a range of articles, videos, good practice examples and other resources, which are being added to the [recently-updated website](#).

If you have an example of using PTMF ideas that you are willing to share on the site, please do let us know about it [using this form](#).

We are pleased to say that interest in the PTMF is growing internationally - there is already a Spanish version of both documents, and interest has been expressed in developing Italian, Danish, French, Hungarian, Portuguese, Swedish, Norwegian and Korean versions.

Faculty of Perinatal Psychology webinar

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, perinatal services have needed to adapt to remote delivery of most interventions. This webinar will present top tips and insider insights for delivering a range of individual and group delivered psychological interventions online during the perinatal period.

This webinar presents Interpersonal Psychotherapy, Systemic Family Therapy, Circle of Security and Behavioural Couples Therapy. Expert-by-experience perspectives and case examples will be shared, as well as data collected for evaluation.

You can [book now to join us](#) 12-2pm on Tuesday 13 July.

Could you support our work by joining a sub-committee?

There are [currently vacancies on three DCP sub-committees](#) - communications, research, and professional standards. We hope that you will consider getting involved in the running of your division.

There is more information about the roles and expectations on the link above, and you are welcome to [contact Julia Faulconbridge](#) for an informal discussion.

News from around the BPS

You have until the end of June to [respond to a survey](#) on proposed changes to the BPS member grades.

The BPS will be [launching a new customer relationship management system](#) in September, to replace the current membership database.

The [BPS AGM](#) is taking place on Monday 26 July.

You can see highlights of BPS members' media work on the website's [communications page](#).



Upcoming webinars and online events

This is your last chance to book for the BPS [annual conference](#), set to be held across two days on 1 and 2 July.

Our Faculty for Children, Young People and their Families is [holding a webinar](#) on neurodiversity in clinical practice on 6 July.

Our Faculty for Perinatal Psychology is holding a [virtual webinar](#) on delivering perinatal therapies in a pandemic and beyond on 13 July.

A [BPS webinar on 20 July](#) looks at the impact of trauma on the brain, and people's physical and psychological responses to trauma.

A [webinar on developing services](#) which are accessible and suitable for older people in seldom heard groups, hosted by our Faculty of the Psychology of Older People, is taking place on 21 July.

Our Faculty of Holistic Psychology holds its [annual conference on 30 July](#).

Your vote is your voice

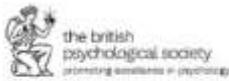
The end date for the election of the BPS president for 2021-22 is fast approaching with voting closing at 12 noon on Friday 23 July. We encourage you to take the time to vote in the election. You can read about each of the candidates [here](#).

If you need any help using the voting site, please contact Mi-Voice, which is an independent organisation supporting the society with this process.

If you are registered for online voting and haven't received your unique voter code, please contact Mi-Voice by calling +44 (0)23 8076 3987 or emailing support@mi-voice.com.

If you aren't registered for online and haven't received your postal ballot pack, please contact Mi-Voice on +44 (0)23 8076 3987 or emailing support@mi-voice.com.

If you have received your unique voter code or your postal ballot, please contact Mi-Voice on +44 (0)23 8076 3987 or emailing support@mi-voice.com.



VOTE
NOW

Your vote is your voice

Voting for our President for 2021–2022 is now open

You can vote online: www.mi-vote.com – Voting closes at 12 noon on Friday 23 July 2021

