

Division of Clinical Psychology

September 2021

DCP in Focus

A monthly news digest for our members

This August edition is reaching you slightly late and rather shorter due to the impact of holidays and the bank holiday. I hope that you have been able to enjoy some respite over the summer despite the dismal weather.

This month we have an update on the HCPC registration issues and highlight an important vote taking place to determine the BPS campaign focus for the coming year. I hope you have time to read the proposals and vote.

In addition to the usual news and update items, there are opportunities to contribute ideas, expertise and time to support the work of the BPS and DCP.

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

Julia Faulconbridge

Update on HCPC registration

In our July edition, we discussed the problems that some members have had renewing their registration this year, and the BPS wrote to HCPC about this.

There has now been a reply in which the HCPC states that these experiences will be fed into its learning for the future. In the meantime it says:

- It has experienced a higher than usual volume in communications by email and phone
- This has meant there has been a delay in responding to some registrants.
- It has reviewed and recently made changes to the way we respond to these communications to improve the service response time
- Any registrant wishing to contact the registration department should use the telephone number 0300 500 4472 and the service hours are from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. You may also contact the registration department by email by using registration@hcpc-uk.org

You can read the HCPC's full response to our letter on the [DCP website](#) (you will need to log in).

Voting for the 2022 Senate policy campaign has now opened

This is the third time that BPS has held a vote to choose its major policy campaign for the year. On the previous two occasions DCP worked with other divisions to develop the campaigns that won the Senate vote, first on mental health of children and young people and second on poverty to flourishing.

The latest update on the poverty campaign, which is still running, is below.

This year, the DCP has worked with the DOP and the DHP to develop a detailed proposal that is also supported by the DECP, the DFP and DCoP, and is based on the intersection between three urgent priorities:

- Recovering from the impacts of the pandemic and learning to live with Covid-19
- Addressing the global threat of climate crisis
- Improving wellbeing and quality of life for all

The goal is to adopt ways of living and working differently for the benefit of people, organisations, and our planet. We will achieve this through:

- Collaborating across all domains of psychology to create positive impact on policy and practice
- Taking a lead in influencing change at all levels - individual, organisational,

community and national

Esther Cohen-Tovee (DCP vice chair) and Jo Hemmingfield (DCP EbE lead) led on this for the DCP, supported by Amra Rao, Tony Lavender, Alison Roberstson, Tony Wainwright and Roman Raczka.

The voting platform for the 2022 Senate policy campaign is now open and for the first time is using an open voting system of all BPS members. The top three proposals will be presented, debated and voted on at the November Senate meeting to choose the successful policy campaign for 2022.

The full proposals and short videos are available to help members decide on their preferred campaigns. The link to the platform is [here](#) and more information is available on the [BPS website](#).

Voting will close at 5pm on Friday 17 September. You only need your membership number to vote.



Influence our policy direction

**Vote for your favourite policy campaign
to ensure it's shortlisted for Senate**

Closing date: 5pm Friday 17 September

WWW.MI-EVENT.INFO/EVENT/BPSSenate2022

SENATE PROPOSALS

Universal Credit uplift campaign

The Goal

The BPS public affairs team has been leading a campaign to prevent the planned cut to Universal Credit in October, on the grounds that this would be a public health concern.

Campaign partners

The public affairs team has successfully established a consortium of organisations to support the campaign which includes:

- Royal College of Psychiatrists
- British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
- Royal College of General Practitioners
- Association of Mental Health Providers
- Association of Directors of Public Health
- Mental Health Network of the NHS Confederation
- Faculty of Public Health
- UCL Institute of Health Equity
- Mind
- British Association of Social Workers

The team also met with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which has been the leading and most highly-publicised organisation campaigning against the Universal Credit Cut more broadly, to gather intelligence on the campaign landscape and how to conduct our campaign in the manner that would have the most impact.

Campaign letter and the result

We then wrote a letter, in consultation with the members of our consortium and the JRF, asking Conservative MPs to write to the Chancellor urging him to reverse the decision to cut Universal Credit. This letter comprehensively called attention to the link between poverty and poor mental health, as well as the impact of poverty on children's health and social security.

This letter was sent to 90 Conservative MPs, selected by the BPS public affairs team in consultation with JRF. We specifically targeted 'red wall' MPs and MPs in the 'One Nation' and the 'Tory Reform' caucuses who have reportedly expressed

concerns about the Universal Credit Cut.

Less than two days after the letter was sent, [BBC news reported](#) that two of the Conservative MPs we wrote to (Peter Aldous and John Stevenson) had responded to our letter by writing to the Prime Minister urging him not to proceed with the planned cut to Universal Credit.

Next Steps

In Parliament, the next opposition day debate will be on Wednesday 8 September. Though it is still yet to be confirmed, speculation in the press indicates that it will be on the planned cut to Universal Credit. The BPS Public Affairs team will be monitoring the debate and reporting back on any relevant points raised which make reference to the campaign letter.

The JRF is going to publish a public letter to the Prime Minister, urging the Government not to go ahead with the cut, which the BPS will be signatory of.

Putting sustainability into practice

The BPS will be responding to this consultation by the Institute for Public Policy Research to help it better understand the practical actions the NHS in England can take to secure sustainability today.

In some instances, that will be about increasing or releasing money - to rise to the new challenges, and harness the new innovations, created by the last 18 months.

But 'more money' alone is not a strategy for sustainability. More staff time cannot simply be 'bought and sold', and the learnings from the significant budget rises of the early 2000s are that funding needs to be attached to clear reform and transformation to be effective.

If you would like to contribute to the society's response, please [send your comments to Nigel Atter](#) before 22 September.

Opportunities to get involved in the DCP

All of the current DCP opportunities are listed on the [new section](#) of our website - we're constantly trying to improve our website for members, [take a look](#) for details on everything that's going on in your division.

Could you be a mentor?

Could you use your knowledge and skills to support the professional development of colleagues? If so, the DCP Mentorship programme is looking for more mentors.

Evidence suggests the DCP mentoring programme helps mentees to develop professional confidence, leadership and service development skills - providing mentoring often needs around an hour a month over six to eight months and can also be of benefit to mentors.

Find out more [via our webpage](#), we'll be happy to discuss joining up if you're interested. Patrick Roycroft, Kathy Nairne and Andrew Walmsley - programme team.

CPF reviewers panel and editorial board

We are seeking DCP members to join both our CPF reviewers panel and editorial board to help us continue improving Clinical Psychology Forum.

For the reviewers panel, we're seeking members with at least five years of post-qualification experience. We're keen to increase the number of specialisms represented on the panel, with reviewers expected to review one paper per month.

The editorial board will support the editors in developing the strategic direction of CPF and generating new ideas for developing the publication. We're keen to hear from members at all career stages and from a diverse range of backgrounds, as well as having representation from experts by experience.

To find out more about both roles and submit a statement of interest, [take a look at our website](#).

the british psychological society
promoting excellence in psychology

Division of Clinical Psychology

DO YOU WANT EXPERIENCE IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PUBLISHING?

New roles available on CPF Reviewer Panel and Editorial Board

VOLUNTEER

News from around the BPS

BPS offices and remote working

There will be a phased return to the office for BPS employees from 6 September, if they wish to. There will be a period of readjustment as they settle into new working practices

The reopening of the office on 6 September will only be to employees. The offices will not be available to book for meetings until at least the end of October, when the situation will be reviewed.

The BPS is also not planning for large scale face to face events for 2021, due to the lead time that is required and also the uncertainty that there continues to be around the winter months and whether further lockdowns might occur.

New Customer Relationship Management system

The BPS is nearing the end of a major project to create a new and much more functional member database - the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. This will make a really significant difference to all communications - we will bring you more details on what it means for you and what you need to do in the next few weeks, and an [update is available on the BPS website](#).

An update on student membership

From the start of the 2021/22 academic session, the BPS will be offering

automatic student membership to all learners on the first year of an accredited undergraduate, conversion masters or wellbeing practitioner programme.

This initiative will allow the society to directly support students entering into the profession through careers advice and guidance, events opportunities, knowledge exchange platforms, research insights and access to the latest developments within the discipline. Following this initial free year, we hope many students will continue to be members either via the University Multi membership scheme or as individuals.

There will also be a programme of careers activity to help support the careers of the membership and represent the many different career pathways that a psychology education can provide. First registrations under this scheme are expected in October.

Black History Month

The theme for this upcoming Black History Month, October 2021, is 'Proud to Be'. We are collaborating with Black History Magazine on a number of initiatives. Black History Month doesn't usually set a theme, but it has chosen to do this for 2021. If you have any thoughts on how the DCP can contribute, please [contact me as soon as possible](#).

Upcoming webinars and online events

The BPS East and West Midlands branches are teaming up for a [joint virtual conference](#) on 7 September.

Free places are available at a joint [Suicide Prevention Summit](#) on 11 September, hosted by the BPS and the Mental Health Academy.

Our Faculty for Children, Young People and their Families is [holding a webinar](#) on neurodiversity in clinical practice on 13 September.

The DCP South Central branch is [hosting a webinar](#) on psychology, the climate and wellbeing on 20 September.

The DCP Faculty for Psychosis and Complex Mental Health will be launching the new 'Family interventions in psychosis' guidelines at an [event on 22 September](#).

