



# Operations and Liaison Annual Report 2020

## MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE 2019- 2020

Isobel Pick (ACP Chair until October 2019)

Kate Robertson (ACP Chair from October 2019)

Jessica Jarmon (ACP Business Manager)

Judy Cloughton (maternity cover - Press and PR since February 2020)

Kate England

Eve Grainger (Public Sector representative)

Gill Ingall

Milly Jenkins (social media officer until September 2019)

Katie Lewis (IPG representative)

Amanda Mintowt-Czyz (Chair of Income Generation Group)

Claudia Moselhi (Press and PR until February 2020)

Louise O'Dwyer (social media officer since September 2019)

Louise O'Higgins

Hilary-Ann Salinger

Jan Steel (maternity cover - Events and Development Manager until February 2020)

Leanne Stelmaszczyk (Events and Development Manager until November 2019)

Joanne Young (Scottish representative)

## FUNCTIONS

This committee is responsible for internal and external liaison, member engagement and brings together all the communications work of the ACP. Its meetings are chaired by the Chair or Vice Chair of the ACP. It meets in the afternoon on the third Friday of the month, in February, April, June, September, October and December. It consists of elected members of the Association of Child Psychotherapists and lay members and it represents members and the public (including young people) in making recommendations to the Board about priorities for the organisation and the wellbeing of its members.

Recently, the Income Generation Group was formed as a sub-group of the OLC. This group is exploring ways the ACP might generate income in the future, including fundraising and whether the ACP should apply for charitable status.

Lydia Gilbert, Membership Engagement and Administrative Officer is conducting a research project on service user engagement under the auspices of OLC. It is hoped that this project will feed into our future approach to service user engagement.

## BACKGROUND

When Alison Roy stepped down as Director of Communications in March 2018, it was agreed that this function would be held by the Chair of the ACP, who has responsibility as Chair of the Board of Directors for ensuring that the Board is informing members about the ACP's work and consulting them about strategy. The OLC, chaired by the Chair, took on the functions of the media team as well as a broader remit to think about member engagement. Staff and members working in comms and events join this committee to ensure different elements of communication work within the ACP is joined up. Amanda Mintowt-Czyz links with the Trainee Forum. Due to time constraints on trainees, it can be difficult for trainees to attend meetings of the OLC.

In February 2020, the Vice Chair took over the role of chair of this committee with the Chair maintaining responsibility for overall communications work.

## ACTIVITIES 2019/2020

### Communications work

#### *Social Media*

Louise O'Dwyer took over the social media role from Milly Jenkins in September 2019. Louise has been working with the OLC and the ACP PR consultants on both the Twitter feed and the Facebook group. As Twitter is outward facing, we have been continuing to promote the activities of our members to the public, reiterating some of our key campaign messages, as well as engaging with content from partner organisations and supporting their campaigns. We have been linking this work with the ACP communications strategy, so that the social media content correlates with the wider messages from the ACP. We have also tried to increase the ACP's involvement with some of the awareness campaigns that other organisations run during the year. We are very grateful to all those ACP members who have been able to contribute to these. This has enabled us to produce some new resources, which can be archived and possibly used on the website. Participating in these awareness weeks has led to some further opportunities with the media to share aspects of our clinical work and increasing awareness of the different settings that we work in.

#### *Other communications to members*

Website, Bulletin, monthly Newsletter, monthly Events newsletter, weekly jobs email, direct emails to members on specific issues, Facebook page, visits to regions, visits to training schools, Supported Clinical Networks.

**To general public:** Campaign press coverage, Twitter, Rapid Response Network coverage, articles in Guardian's Annalisa Barbieri column etc, radio and TV appearances by members, events, website (which is in the process of being updated).

**To influencers:** Via Press coverage, direct emails of reports etc, face-to-face meetings, events. Influencers and journalists will also use the website. Having all the members and staff involved in these communication activities together on one committee means that we can see the overall picture of what the ACP is doing and ensure that communications through different channels are working together as much as possible.

#### **The teams are:**

- Social Media (twitter, Facebook) – Louise O'Dwyer (posts about ACP news and events as well as highlighting news of interest to the ACP and its members and others.
- Rapid Response Network - Jane Elfer and Rachel Melville-Thomas and Claudia Moselhi (now Judy Cloughton) (Press and PR) with Nick Waggett (CEO) and Isobel Pick (Chair) – this team responds to relevant news stories with an ACP view.
- Treat Them Right campaign team – this team reports to the Board but is represented in the OLC by Isobel Pick and Claudia Moselhi/ Judy Cloughton (Press and PR). Promotes the profession and publicises ACP view on political matters.

Bulletin Team – Valerie Curen, Louise O’Higgins, Holly Dwyer Hall and Leanne Stelmaszczyk (Events and Development Manager), with members of the Trainee Forum. Newsletters and Events newsletters are managed by the ACP Business Manager and Events Manager.

## Member Engagement

### Members Survey

The two member surveys of 2019 helped the ACP as a whole to understand better the needs and concerns of the membership. The results were reported in the bulletin in July and in the newsletter last August. The results can be seen [here](#) and [here](#)

### Regional Networks

The development of regional groups was identified as a priority from responses in the 2019 member survey. As a result, OLC worked on a model Terms of Reference for Regional Groups. These were agreed in November 2019. The committee regularly receives feedback on news from Scotland, via Joanne Young, and from the North East via Louise O’Higgins and Katie Lewis. We have been in touch with members in Northern Ireland which resulted in a visit by Nick Waggett and Isobel Pick in February 2020. We are also supporting members in Wales to respond to a commissioning initiative and planning a visit to the North East Group in May, and to the South West in September 2020.

### 70<sup>th</sup> birthday Programme

The ACP turned 70 in 2019, and a working group put together a range of activities to mark the occasion. These included a conference held in Bristol in November called “The Observing Relationship” which brought together documentary film makers and child psychotherapists to consider different ways of observing and their impact on observer and subject; collaboration with a Wellcome -funded exhibition at the Freud Museum looking at how infants influence their worlds; production of some short films of members who trained in the very early days which are now available on the website; illustrated articles in the bulletin on the development of the ACP over the 70 years; and working with the Wellcome on the transfer to their collection of our archives, which has now taken place.

### The Independent Practice Group (IPG)

The IPG continues to meet termly and in between to manage general enquires regarding private practice within the ACP. The main area of work that has been completed this year has been new Independent Practice Guidelines which have now been adopted by the Board. The IPG also continues to liaise with many different aspects of the ACP including training, safeguarding, professional standards, competence and ethical issues and the impact of corona virus on our working lives.

The structure of the group has changed in that Ryan Lowe, after chairing and being a member of the group for many years has now left, and Leslie Ironside is now chair. Helen Ritzema continues to be the secretary and new members, Paul Bell, Zahr Ngah, Belinda West and Jaqueline van Roosmalen have joined the group. Judith Golberg, Valerie Alison, Maïke Enngelen and Jurag Kralik have left the group. Group members attend the OLC, PSG, the VAT group, and more recently the Covid-19 Response Team and feed back to the IPG from these meetings. The group now meets virtually, using zoom as this does mean that a less ‘London Centric’ can be more easily embodied into the working of the group. In March 2019 representatives from the IPG attended the ACP Board to ensure the Board was aware of specific issues for those in independent practice. A key message to the Board was about inclusivity for all members, regardless of whether they are working independently or in the NHS.

### Employment Standards Group

The reason that the Lead for Employment Standards is a member of the Operations and Liaison Committee is because of the role of the ESG in providing support to members around employment issues. In addition to the ongoing advice to members and promoting the importance of assessors being involved in recruitment to senior posts the ESG has been very preoccupied with the issue of how to support members with career progression and the development of leadership skills. Following a workshop at the 2019 Annual Conference a leadership survey is currently being trialled by members of the Operations and Liaison Committee as well as members of other committees. This will be rolled out to members and the results used to develop training and events for members on leadership. One area we hope to develop is a competency framework for leadership. The Spring 2020 issue of the ACP Bulletin has career progression and leadership as its theme which we hope will generate further interest and ideas.

### **Links to Institute of Psychoanalysis**

Gill Ingall has continued to explore ways of linking the ACP to psychoanalysts and child analysts. It has been clear that in some regions, good links and CPD opportunities are already established and valued. It is hoped that as regional groups of the ACP develop, this will be one possible interest that can be developed further. In July 2019 the highly successful conference “Child and Adolescent Psychoanalysis in a Changing World”, jointly sponsored by various members organisations of the IPA and the ACP, took place in London with speakers from the ACP. This was a welcomed model of joint working which demonstrated how fruitful such links can be. A small working party has also looked into establishing post graduate CPD supervision opportunities, based on a model widely used at many IOPA conferences. We were delighted to have got agreement from experienced ACP supervisors, representing the regions and different theoretical backgrounds to offer supervision seminars before the start of the conference. Sadly, the conference has now had to be postponed but it is hoped to provide members with similar opportunities in the future.

### **Trainee Forum**

The trainee forum continues to meet on a monthly basis, now using the new Microsoft Teams online platform. Currently it has two main functions: one is to contribute to the bulletin and the other is addressing trainee matters. Its monthly meetings encompass both these aspects through separately allocated time. The forum recently said goodbye to members who are moving on and has welcomed new members to its group. A member of the Operations and Liaison Committee has recently taken up the role of link to the trainee forum and is attending some of the forum meetings. Collaborative thinking about how best to use this link is in its initial stages but there is enthusiasm on both sides to develop this relationship. The members are keen to raise the profile of the forum particularly with trainees and have developed some initial thoughts about ways in which this could be done. Due to training workload and commitments it has been difficult for a representative from the group to attend OLC meetings. There is, however, ongoing discussion as to how it may be possible to establish this in the future. Members of the ACP executive group have met with trainees in their training schools as a way of linking the ACP more effectively with trainees.

### **ACP Archives**

We have now reached an agreement with the Wellcome Trust who have now taken our archives and are storing them securely. Part of this agreement involved ensuring anonymity of sensitive material. They will be stored in “deep storage” until the Wellcome has the capacity to sort and catalogue the material, when they will be available for viewing by researchers under rigorous access conditions.

## **THANK YOU**

We would like to thank Isobel for her huge contribution as Chair of OLC until October 2019 and for bringing together the communication functions under the auspice of the OLC which has enabled communications internally and externally to be more integrated. We would also like to thank Leanne Stelmaszczyk for her hard work on events for the ACP, including the highly successful conference in Glasgow last year; Claudia Moselhi for her press work, particularly in relation to the ‘Treat them Right’ campaign.

We wish both Leanne and Claudia well and look forward to their return from maternity leave later in 2020.

We would also like to welcome Kate England who has recently re-joined OLC and to Amanda Mintowt-Czyz who joined the OLC earlier in the year.

**Kate Robertson**  
**Vice Chair of ACP, Chair of OLC**