



# Scientific Development Annual Report 2020

## Membership

Marie Bradley (Director of Scientific Development), Matthew Chuard (Deputy Director of Scientific Development),

Silvina Diaz Bonino (0-3 SCN rep); Valerie Curren (the Bulletin); Claudia de Campos; Alexandra de Rementaria (Journal link); Deirdre Dowling (representative to the European Federation of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy); Jane Elfer (Paediatric SCN rep); Eve Grainger (Research Group); Lonnie Gross (Schools SCN link); Lydia Hartland-Rowe (Journal Editor in Chief); Claire Hopkins (Schools SCN rep); Dr. Grace Jennings (Lay Member); Sue Kegerreis (Research Group); Caryn Onions (Research Group) and Leanne Stelmaszczyk (Events and Development Manager: on maternity leave).

## Role and Functions

The overarching responsibility of the SDC is the promotion of the scientific work of the ACP. This includes:

- contributing to the ACP responses to government policy and consultations;
- the integration of research into the work of the membership by advising and supporting the undertaking of research and audit by the profession and in developing the capacity of the profession to access, use and evaluate research from within the profession and from related disciplines;
- the development and planning of scientific events of relevance and interest to the clinical needs and development of the membership, in line with the expressed and perceived needs of the profession and including the annual conference;
- with the support of the SDC and the ACP Events and Development Manager, to promote the development of supported clinical networks established and maintained by members for members to meet the need for resources which enhance and develop specialist work and which allows them to contribute to the ACP's engagement with the multidisciplinary community, the political debate relating to provision of services and to the public; t
- provide oversight and support for the work of the Journal of Child Psychotherapy, linking with and supporting the Bulletin and with the European Federation of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy.

The Scientific Development Committee contributes to ensuring good communication and collaboration between all the constituent elements of the SDC, the other Directorates, the Chief Executive Officer, the Chair of the ACP and the Board. In the context of the strategy set by the Board the purpose of the SDC remains focused on enhancing the scientific life of the professional group, its increasing engagement with research and the establishing and development of the professional reputation of the ACP within the multidisciplinary sphere and in public awareness.

**Main tasks:** Maintaining and where necessary, developing the terms of reference agreed for the SDC and ensuring a robust and appropriate membership of the committee; creating a programme of events for 2020/21; identifying, piloting and developing Supported Clinical Networks; supporting the Journal Editor; bringing research more centrally into the work of the profession and the ACP; representing the concerns of the Board to the SDC and vice versa.

## Activities, achievements & developments in 2019/20

The work of the SDC has recently been fundamentally shaped by the need to address issues raised by the ongoing pandemic COVID-19. This has been well supported by the ongoing and effective integration of networks within the ACP. The SDC has benefitted from the inclusion of new members who are taking on specific tasks within the group – our lay member, Dr. Jennings, who comes from a research health care setting, Matthew Chuard, the new Deputy Director; Sue Kegerreis and Caryn Onions who form the Research group; Alexandra de Rementaria links the Journal and the SDC.

We have for much of the year been without the support and creativity of our Events Manager who is on maternity leave until the early autumn. She continues to advise and support event planning, particularly the Annual Conference. The Conference 2020, focusing on work with children and families whose lives are profoundly marked by trauma and neglect, has taken shape in an exciting and challenging way. In the context of COVID-19, the conference has now been deferred to June 2021. All of the presenters will continue to plan for the later date and we anticipate a lively and thought-provoking event.

The current focus for the SDC is on contributing to the ongoing work of the ACP in providing the information, guidance and resources necessary for the membership to continue to deliver the most effective range of mental health psychoanalytic psychotherapeutic services for children and families in the very challenging context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Supported Clinical Networks

At present there are four Supported Clinical Networks available to the membership, with further proposals for development when possible (Looked After and Adopted Children and Autism). Each provides a valuable resource for the special interest groups and in bringing information about innovations and developments, best practice and issues facing services to the ACP. They also support service and professional development through generating events, publications, engagement with other professional groups and ultimately aim to inform the commissioning of child psychotherapy as part of a range of generic and specialist services. We are currently having to think carefully about how to develop the reach and scope of the groups. We need to address ways of connecting within the Networks and between the Networks and the overarching ACP structure and functions. Progress has been determined by the need to address technological issues and by organizational changes over the past year.

The **Refugee Supported Clinical Network** continues to have a strong online presence on the ACP website and will be pursuing a more directly interactive webpage which members will use for sharing information, knowledge, skills, needs and resources within and beyond the profession. Currently the Refugee SCN has a vibrant WhatsApp group, sharing information about the issues facing refugees across the world, and both direct and indirect work with and in support of work with refugees. Patricia Langton who has led the SCN from its inception, has stepped down as formal lead and a successor is yet to take her place.

The **SCN for work with children 0-3 and their families** is led by Silvina Diaz Bonino who represents this network on the SDC. The tasks of this network include developing a comprehensive understanding of the very extensive multi-disciplinary group of professionals working in differing ways with the parents and children in this group and exploring the possibilities of working together with clarity and co-operation. This group is not yet operational on the website.

The **Paediatric SCN** is led by Andrea Pedraz; Jane Elfer represents the Paediatric SCN on the SDC. The network continues to promote the place for a specialized child psychotherapy paediatric network within the ACP and continues to pursue the commissioning of multi-disciplinary psychological services in hospitals. The SCN are planning a workshop for multidisciplinary staff working with children who are terminally ill. This may offer the possibility of similar workshops for colleagues working in a range of other settings. The network has made available to the membership guidance written for staff working with children and families who suffer bereavement.

The **SCN for Child Psychotherapy work in Schools** is led by Milly Jenkins and Claire Hopkins and draws together the wide range of work done by child psychotherapists in educational settings as clinicians, supervisors and service creators. The SCN is not quite operational on the ACP website but is a lively and informative group. A conference is planned for the autumn in Leeds, looking at the work child psychotherapists are doing in educational settings. It is hoped that COVID-19 restrictions will be sufficiently reduced to allow this to go ahead.

SCNs of potential interest to members are identified via the Registration process, and they continue to be featured in the Bulletin and Newsletters. It will be good to establish a regular update slot for each SCN.

Further interesting possibilities proposed for future development are a network which focuses on issues relating to complex trauma and the role and function of child psychotherapy as part of coordinated care intervention, suggested by Andrew Dawson. This is likely to include issues of clinical work in response to the current pandemic. Mark Carter has proposed an SCN to engage with contemporary advances in neuroscience, particularly with children with neurodevelopmental difficulties. We look forward to exploring these in due course.

## **Research**

The research group has reconvened and is set to include new members. It has been reaffirming its remit and its relationship with the SDC and the wider membership. While not working in exactly the same way as the Supported Clinical Networks it will operate in a similar manner and aims to establish a network of research-active ACP members for mutual support and development.

A key area of discussion has been the range of potential areas of activity of high value to the profession, such as monitoring and disseminating key research findings of relevance, monitoring and developing links between the ACP and universities interested in psychoanalytic research, promoting grant applications, capturing the information gathered in regular audits to further build the evidence base and developing the growing archive of child psychotherapist doctoral studies (approximately 150 thus far) as a valuable research resource and indicator of where further research is most urgently needed.

The research brief of the SDC is to support a growing engagement with research within the profession; to promote and support research activity within the profession and to equip our membership with 'research literacy' skills. These can be thought of as the capacity to make sense of and interpret research findings from within and beyond the profession in ways which guide and develop our understanding of the complex issues in our work with children, in the consulting room, within the wider professional world and in the social, cultural and political contexts in which children and families live.

In addition, the Research group is now coordinating the ACP's responses to NICE and representation on their committees.

## **Events**

As noted above, the annual conference is deferred to next year.

A substantial range of training and CPD events are in progress of development. The Level 3 Safeguarding Training will continue to be offered and, as noted above, there will be a conference in the autumn addressing the work of child psychotherapists in educational settings.

The ACP is working to develop the delivery of training and CPD events via webinars and podcasts.

## **European Federation of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy (EFPP)**

Deirdre Dowling is the ACP representative to the EFPP. Access to the EFPP Journal will be made available, without charge, to ACP members via the ACP website. ACP members are able to access information from the Child and Family Therapy section of the EFPP (CaFTtr) without becoming members and this is an increasingly useful source of information about ongoing research in the field.

## **The Journal**

Lydia Hartland Rowe is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal, with Maria Papadima undertaking content review and development. The most recent Journal Strategy Group found the Journal to be in very good shape with processes streamlined and production up to date. The Editors continue to develop the scope of the Journal to reach a broader national and international audience, and to increase the range and volume of citations from the Journal.

## **The Bulletin**

Valerie Curren and Leanne Stelmaszczyk continue to produce informative and lively editions of the Bulletin.

## Acknowledgements and Recruitment

The SDC says goodbye to Patricia Langton who has played a huge part in developing and leading the Refugee Supported Clinical Network. Her hard work, quiet determination and dedication have been central to establishing a very vibrant resource. Patricia is much missed.

We are delighted to have the new members I have mentioned – Dr. Grace Jennings, Lay Member; Matthew Chuard, Deputy Director, Sue Kegerreis and Caryn Onions, Research Group. We were very sad to say goodbye to Jan Steel, locum Events Manager, who joined us for five months. Her energy and vision were invaluable in that time, particularly in taking forward the development of the Annual Conference.

**Marie Bradley**  
**Director of Scientific Development**