

Notes of the PPN North West Inaugural Counselling Network Meeting 12th June 2014, 1300 – 16.00, Kings Meeting House, Manchester M1 7HB

It is hard to believe that it is only three months since the launch of PPN North West when the idea of establishing a Counselling Network was put forward by counsellors present at the launch and now the very first Counselling Network meeting has taken place. The support received from PPN North West and BACP (who co-hosted this event) must be acknowledged and has been greatly appreciated.

The day was a success with 50 counsellors in attendance and taking part in lively and constructive discussions

The aim of the Counselling Network meeting was to provide a springboard for the creation of a professional network for counsellors (in statutory and third sector organisations in the North West) working with NHS patients in order:

1. To promote the contribution of the counselling profession to NHS patients
2. Encourage networking and the development of professional leadership
3. Support continuation of professional development
4. Contribute to the aims and objectives of PPN North West as part of the Centre for Professional Workforce Development.

The day was introduced by Clare Baguley who spoke about the aims of and opportunities available through PPN North West (attached). This was followed by a presentation by Louise Robinson on the challenges faced by counsellors at both a national and local level (attached).

A presentation by Andy Hill followed on the 4 non-CBT IAPT additional trainings with particular focus on Counselling for Depression (CfD) (attached).

Two table top discussion exercises followed the three presentations and focussed on the following areas (themes from the feedback collated have been attached).

1. Improving access to CPD – aimed at what CPD needs were seen as priorities for counsellors and how the network could support this
2. A Consultation on ways to develop the Counselling Network and professional leadership – aimed at identifying ways to support the aims and objectives of PPN NW.

Feedback on Discussion Exercises:

A number of actions and work streams have been identified from the feedback received on the day and will form the basis for future work and development of the NW Counsellors Network with the support of PPN North West and the BACP

Key Themes:

- Promoting the role and contribution of the Counselling professions
- Having an active professional presence within PPN North West
- Access to appropriate Continuing Professional Development
- Collating and developing the evidence base for counselling
- Sharing expertise and supporting the development of local communities of practice

Actions:

1. Explore opportunities for collaboration on the collation of existing evidence and the development of new research that demonstrates the effectiveness and application of counselling across physical and mental health care.
2. Raise the profile of counselling and its contribution to Psychological Therapies in the NHS with commissioners/IAPT/ through development of profile and links within PPN North West
3. Establish a North West 'Hub and Spoke' Counselling Network model with the establishment of local Special Interest Groups feeding into a single North West Counselling Leadership Group that has representation on the PPN North West Workforce Board
4. Locally identified leaders of these networks will liaise with PPN North West in order that support from both PPN North West and BACP can be identified and provided as appropriate
5. Local networks will contribute to the aims and objectives of PPN North West through the identification of a representative from within a Counselling Leadership Group representing individual local networks – It was agreed that Zubeida Ali would act as interim representative for the counselling network
6. Review progress at a further North West Counselling Network event in 4 months' time.

Zubeida Ali

Professional Lead for Counselling, Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust
& PPN North West Steering Group Member

1st July 2014