

# FHCP update



Since my last update it has been an incredibly busy time for the FHCP leads. As we attempt to stand back a bit from the more operational side of things, our Lead Healthcare Advisor, John Eatock, and NHS Campaigns Manager, Louise Robinson, have been incredibly productive in raising our profile. Much of

this occurs behind the scenes, and if you would like to be kept informed via our regular e-healthcare bulletin, please send your email address to [samantha.hinds@bacp.co.uk](mailto:samantha.hinds@bacp.co.uk) Sam, who is a recent addition to the staff of FHCP/BACP, is a good first point of contact for any queries you may have; she also has the unenviable task of managing John's diary.

We are in the process of revamping our website, and with help from BACP's IT department hope to launch a more user-friendly and informative site soon. More on this to follow.

Highlights of the last quarter include a recent report from the Welsh Audit Office on mapping adult mental health services, which shows that some 63 per cent of GP practices now have counsellors, although there are still many gaps in service provision. More information on this can be found at <http://www.wao.gov.uk/>

In Scotland, the counselling provision that exists continues to be very patchy, with some pockets of excellence and others with little or no counselling presence. I continue to be involved with The Scottish Executive's Doing Well by

People with Depression Campaign, but it seems that many of the new service developments revolve around offering 'new' approaches, such as guided self-help, bibliotherapy, or training for nursing staff in mindfulness or interpersonal therapy. So far no new projects have involved the creation or expansion of counselling services, though I continue to 'bang the counselling drum'.

In a concerted effort to improve matters, John Eatock has been travelling all over the UK 'flying the flag' for counselling in the NHS, perhaps most notably in his responses to Lord Layard's recent report, which called for 10,000 new cognitive behavioural therapists'.

Within the NHS Agenda for Change, the Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF) continues to keep many of the rest of us busy with answering queries and getting skilled up on the documentation via additional training, together with our union partner, UNISON. We are hoping to produce KSF outlines for the NHS counsellor 'job family' for January 2006, and are exploring the possibility of offering KSF training and information events regionally over the coming year. ■

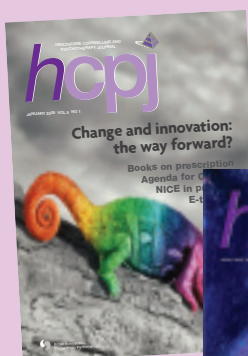
*Shane Buckeridge is FHCP Chair*

## Reference

1 British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. Yes we need more therapy but not 10,000 more therapists. Press release, Sept 2005. Available at [www.bacp.co.uk/media/](http://www.bacp.co.uk/media/)

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