

## Looking Forward – What/where next?

### Chair's Summary: Key issues for discussion with the UKAGP community

Dear Community,

Please find below a number of issues that we, the UKAGP Organising Committee, have identified as items for conversation with you during our Annual Meeting and CPD seminar on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> September. We would really appreciate your feedback to help us identify your priorities and preferences. Please feel free to send me your thoughts and ideas if you are not able to attend the meeting.

#### **New membership category**

We are considering creating a new membership category of 'Organisational membership and would like your comment on this either in the meeting or writing to me consequently.

#### **Inclusive Practice – Towards Conference 2022**

Reflecting on this year's Healing Dialogues conference, we also need to think ahead to our residential conference in 2022. We are interested to know your thoughts on what and where next? As I reflect on this year's conference, I recognise the importance of continuing the theme of building alliances, so that our clients do not suffer because of our ignorance, unconscious biases or carelessness.

At this year's conference we made a start, ably facilitated by Carmen Joanne Ablack and Eugene Ellis, founder of the Black African and Asian Therapy Network (BAATN). By the end of the day, it was clear that there is so much more work to do if we are to be really inclusive and a safe place for individuals and groups who have been systematically marginalised, discriminated against and oppressed.

Personally, I would like the UKAGP community to develop our capacity and reputation for allyship, by actively seeking to support the work of other therapy organisations, such as BAATN, Pink Therapy or Respond (Therapists supporting clients with learning disabilities, autism and trauma). Our intention would be to move closer by actively exploring our commonalities and differences, so that we might learn together and potentially work together as allies in support of mental well-being within and across our communities. **We would welcome your thoughts and responses on this vision.**

**Are you interested in being part of a UKAGP working group on inclusive practice? This group could shape the next stages of our journey together, including next year's residential conference, critically examine the name and identity of UKAGP, and inform the work of the Organising Committee so that change and development is an ongoing process.**

### **UKAGP Newsletter Editorial Team**

The UKAGP Newsletter has undergone profound changes over the past couple of years and now has more diverse range of contributions and contributors as well as more global reach. It is noticeable that it has become less of a newsletter and more of a journal. Do you miss the newsletter? Should we have both?

**The Organising Committee is keen to appoint an editorial team from our membership. The aim would be to sustain, consolidate and secure the future of the newsletter/journal over time.**

**Might you be interested in being part of this team?**

### **Engaging Trainees**

We have worked hard to bring trainees together across institutes. This has been a challenging process.

**Should we continue to try and engage trainees to provide a sense of belonging to a national community? If so, how might we achieve this? If not, how might we serve trainees better?**

### **Bursary Fund**

Thanks to voluntary donations and contributions to our seminar series, our bursary fund is growing steadily. As a national organisation we would like to ensure that geographical location is not a barrier to attendance at one of our conferences.

**We propose to use the bursary fund to support the travel expenses of people living at some distance from a UKAGP conference venue. We would welcome your thoughts on this proposal.**

### **Sustaining momentum**

As a committee we are always touched by the enthusiasm of those attending our community meetings and conferences. We receive many offers of help and support, and we draw on those offers as much as we can. We are also aware that some peoples' generous offers are not responded to. Clearly, we appreciate and value their willingness to support UKAGP, and we do not want people to feel missed by us. We are however a small group of nine people actively engaged in a lot of work behind the scenes. **We would welcome your thoughts on ways we might sustain the enthusiasm and passion of all those who volunteer.**

Belinda Harris  
September 2021