

BIMHN AGM 2016 – Secretary Report

It has been a very busy twelve months for the Bristol Independent Mental Health Network (BIMHN). I have included updates on the main work areas for me over the last twelve months, however this isn't an exhaustive list, so please so let me know if you have any questions at all.

Development of BIMHN/Governance

I have continued to work on the development of BIMHN and its structures so that we can continue to best meet the needs of our members and member groups, exploring how we could ensure we enter our third year as an organisation on a strong footing to go forward and have an increased impact for those experiencing mental health issues in the city.

This has included the development of new roles, new role descriptions and a proposed new model for BIMHN that have been brought to the AGM for discussion and (hopefully) approval after consultation with BIMHN members over the last six months.

Representation at Meetings

I have continued to work hard to improve our voice in different areas, including:

- Ensuring effective representation at performance monitoring meetings with Bristol CCG;
- Compiling a list and spreadsheet of our representation opportunities and mapping where we currently do and don't have representatives;
- Successfully negotiating representation on some internal Bristol Mental Health performance meetings to better join up user voice (including – Service User Carer Council, Bristol Mental Health Partnership Committee, Performance & Improvement Group, Equality and Diversity Steering Group, Information Group)
- Began development of training to support representatives in their roles at meetings;
- Led on the development of a model of representation to support our representatives to be as effective as possible in meetings;
- Negotiated involvement of BIMHN in the development of the Bristol Anti Stigma Alliance (BASA) that is currently looking to bring together work tackling mental health stigma and discrimination from across the city.
- Negotiated involvement of BIMHN in the LGBTQ+ Manifesto work currently taking place in the city, which includes a mental health sub-group that has been set up and will officially meet for the first time on Tuesday 18th October 2016;
- Represented BIMHN at a BME-led event exploring mental health from the perspectives of BME people, including the Somali community.

Finance

I have continued to work closely with the Treasurer and Committee to review our finances and ensure the utmost transparency in how our small amount of funding is spent. Budgets have been circulated for you to review as well as a modelling paper looking at pay/hours options for the proposed paid roles.

We have also secured a small pot of funding to support our work with the Council (£750 for six months) at the Suicide Prevention Audit Group (SPAG) and Men & Boy's Stakeholder Forum, which could also include supporting our involvement in BASA.

We have also secured £1,500 to support the development of LGBTQ+ involvement in our organisation after the closure of the LGBT Healthforum.

Crisis Line Campaign

I have supported the development of the crisis line campaign to ensure the voices of service users and carers were adequately heard in the proposed changes to the line. This included the development of a petition which to date has almost 4,500 signatures, with approximately a minimum of 3,800 of the signatures being from concerned people in the Bristol area, showing just how strong the feeling is about the proposed changes.

There have been some successes from the campaign, which has ensured a full review takes place with proper user & carer involvement (there will be a presentation after the AGM) so that the changes do reflect the needs of our communities as much as possible. It has also led to a review of how people can access mental health services and where that information is available, which should have a long-lasting and positive impact for some people trying to navigate the mental health system in Bristol.

IAPT

I have supported user involvement in the IAPT re-commissioning process through the administration of a Reference Group that has been effective in influencing the development of some of the draft specifications. This process is currently on hold due to work currently taking place with Sustainability & Transformation Plans (STP's).

Tom Renhard

BIMHN Secretary 2015/16