



PPDNF Annual Report 2008-2009

This has been a challenging year for the organisation! The global economic crisis allied with members increasing work commitments have meant that meetings have not been as well attended as in previous years. This however does not mean that the PPDNF is not functioning. Quite the opposite as the use of the website continues to assist virtual support and local networking.

To reflect the growing membership and widening the membership to AHPs, the committee structure changed last year by increasing committee members by a further 2 people. Amorel Allen a Podiatrist and Judy Taylor joined the team. Over the year, it has become clearer that I need to step down from the Chair's role; however the plan to elect the vice chair into that position has also been challenging as due to work and other commitments the vice chairs in recent years have been unable to adopt the Chair's role. A new role of President has been drafted and will be voted on at the 2009 AGM. This role should provide stability for the organisation and support the committee in decision making and representation.

It has been a privilege for me to represent the PPDNF at a national group set up by QIS PDU to create a national practice development framework. This was launched in April 2009 after much consultation and has been well received. It will be interesting to observe how the framework will be used in practice and I certainly will be promoting it in my own workplace.

This year the membership has been working on creating a vision statement through Values Clarification Exercise. This has helped to articulate where we are and what we believe our function is, and also helped demonstrate a number of transformational practice development tools in the process. It is anticipated that we will model more of these techniques at meetings to help members.

Action Learning continues and is working well. The pilot of using skype went well last year and this year there are 2 virtual groups - one meeting during the day and the other in the evening. It was agreed to cut down travelling that we would geographically locate the face to face sets. Consequently there are 2 groups one in the East and one in the West.

The conference held in Dundee this year was an enormous success with excellent speakers and a good number of delegates which helped the bank balance!

Subgroup work of the PPDNF continues with challenges of the members of the groups committing time to these projects as well as their substantive posts. A number of the PPDNF documents have been updated this year to reflect changes in policy, technology etc A good deal of work has been undertaken researching the virtual infrastructure in each NHS organisation which could support virtual meetings, but so far we have not taken the step of organising these

The website continues to provide an amazing opportunity to network and share with others around the world. It's amazing to hear how many have accessed the site from countries all over the world and there are plans to make more use of the website in the future. Anecdotal evidence from members and others who post questions and ask for help is always encouraging.

Looking into the future, there is a need to strengthen our alliance with QIS PDU and plans are in place to have a meeting to explore this

In summary, another excellent year of networking and support has taken place with huge commitment being displayed by the committee and members.

Many thanks to all members of the committee and also the PPDNF for their enthusiasm, support and commitment.

Fiona Cook
PPDNF Chair
June 2009