The PSU team has been working on collecting feedback from trainees who have received PSU input. We have developed a survey monkey that will be sent to all Trainees whose cases have closed this year and for all cases from now on. The data collected will be used to ensure the service provided to Trainees best meets their needs.

Richard Mann and Gail Alexander with the help of researchers Rachel Locke and Sam Scallan have almost completed stage 1 of a project on dyslexia, a literature review of the effects of dyslexia on doctors’ work. Funding has also been confirmed for stages 2 & 3 of this ongoing research including a focus group of doctors with dyslexia.

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On the Horizon

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Upcoming Dates for the Professional Support Unit

- **PSU Reference Group** Thursday 5 December 2013 — Southern House
- **Operational Group** Tuesday 1 April 2014 — Southern House
- **UK Performance Group** — Friday 13 June 2014 — Southern House
- **Case Manager/VSG Development days and Case Manager supervision dates will be confirmed**

Statistics

So far in 2013 the PSU has received 93 referrals for doctors in training. Recent referrals include:

- 5 self referrals
- 11 exam referrals
- 24% were from GP
- 16% were from Foundation
- 15% were from Medicine
- 14% were from Psychiatry
Feature - Dyslexia support for doctors in training

What is it and when to consider it

A range of difficulties can underlie ‘dyslexia’ which is best thought of as a syndrome rather than a specific condition.

A useful working definition is that: “Dyslexia is a combination of abilities and difficulties that can affect reading, writing and spelling as well as organisation, memory and sequencing.”

This quote is taken from an excellent resource, with a full description of the kinds of difficulties a person with dyslexia may face, and available on the University of Southampton education support website, view their document: Supporting students with dyslexia in practice placements.

Trainee doctors with dyslexia may experience difficulties in completing tasks in time especially those involving reading and writing under time pressure. A weakness in spelling, formulating written expression and processing print may affect performance.

Is dyslexia considered a disability? - Under the terms of the The Equality Act 2010 a person is considered disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Dyslexic health professionals may fall within this definition and as such are entitled to receive ‘reasonable adjustments’ in the educational institution and in the workplace. The GMC also offers some guidance on Support for Trainees and Assistive Technologies.

Suggestions for the PSU Update

This is our third issue of the newsletter and we would very much welcome your input as to what you would like to see included here.

- Would you like to contribute?
- Do you have a story to share of using our service?
- Are there mysteries about the PSU that you would like to be unravelled?

If you have any ideas or contributions please do get in touch with any of the team.

Changes to the PSU Team

Rachel Kent has left to continue her Masters at Brighton University. Anna Parsons has been appointed to the substantive position of Assistant Programme Manager for Revalidation and PSU. Anna has worked for the Deanery since 2007. First as Recruitment Co-ordinator and then as a Specialty Programme Administrator.

PSU Contact Details

You can contact the Professional Support Unit whenever you have a query relating to our work, or if you’re looking for advice on a referral or active case.

If you have a general query you may find the answer on our web pages: http://www.wessexdeanery.nhs.uk/support/support/professional_support_unit.aspx

Alternatively you can contact us individually as below:

Mrs Julie Worthington, PSU Administrator: julie.worthington@wessex.hee.nhs.uk or 01962 718428
Mrs Anna Parsons, Assistant Programme Manager for Revalidation & PSU: anna.parsons@wessex.hee.nhs.uk or 01962 718413
Dr Richard Mann, Consultant for Professional Support: richard.mann@nhs.net
Dr Rosie Lusznat, Associate Dean for Professional Development: rosie.lusznat@wessex.hee.nhs.uk or 01962 718417