

This might detail training, experience and personal development; including a statement of areas of weakness and proposals for addressing them.

The panel of peers might then ask the counsellor any questions they thought relevant, including perhaps questions about ethical practice and additional training. The whole process would be overseen by a chairperson who would ensure that the group process was given a helping hand where necessary, and that the panel embodied the core conditions of counselling when carrying out their assessment. The group could also use their immediate experience of the applicant to reflect on whether they, as individuals, would feel comfortable receiving counsel-

ling from them.

Such a model makes far less inflexible demands on minimum hours of training. Counsellors should be trusted to identify their own areas of learning and personal development needs. When they personally felt they had reached a level of competency that would justify accreditation, they should have the opportunity to go before peers for a broader opinion. Any counsellor who was unable to identify their areas of required learning would probably not be ready for accreditation anyway.

I look forward to hearing about the AHPP's development of and decisions about this issue in future editions of *S&S*.

Kevin Pickard

The AHP Page

Sue Mickleburgh

This is the last AHP page I shall write; my term of office finishes at the AGM on 13th April and someone else will be elected to carry the torch.

We spent some time in the last Committee meeting talking about who might take on the role of Chair (I have to say no one jumped at the chance!) and exploring ways of devolving the work of Chair even further so that the role was almost that of figurehead and the work was shared by everyone. We also discussed the idea of rotating the functions of Chair, but that seemed more complicated, because one person has to be elected and named for purposes of the Charity Commission and our Constitution. Anyway we shall con-

tinue to explore alternative ways of organising ourselves and will happily tell you all about it at the AGM if you like.

The year has gone quickly; it seems no time at all since I agonised publicly in this Journal about what direction AHP might take, and I feel pleased and relieved to be able to say that we have an enthusiastic, active Committee who are all putting energy into new AHP projects. I have mentioned some of these to you over the past year — the Festival, our exploration of Economics and Power, and the wider availability of *Self & Society*. All of these groups are working hard and we hope that you will find the result of their efforts useful and stimulating.

We have an additional working group which is taking networking as its theme, and is being coordinated by James MacKenzie and June Green. They have asked me to tell you that they are exploring networking of members, bringing people together on a local basis or for a social weekend. If you like the idea of meeting other members in your local area, then they would like to hear from you. Please write c/o the AHP Office, BM Box 3582, London WC1N 3XX.

I am also very pleased to be able to tell you that our membership has increased substantially in the last couple of months

and this is due in no small part to the leaflet which we have been distributing (you might have seen it in *Counselling*). Subscriptions to *Self & Society* have also increased as a result of this advertising, and we owe thanks to the Editors of *Self & Society* whose idea the promotion was and who did the administrative work necessary to make it happen.

So on that happy note, I shall leave you. I will still be around on the Committee and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM and the Conference.

The AHPP Page

Whiz Collis

Writing this newsletter amid the gloom and greyness of January I am having to make a large jump in imagination to the time when you will be reading it in the March issue of *S&S*. By then the spring will have arrived — like a lion or a lamb — and we on the conference sub-committee will be sending out details and maps to those of you who have booked to join us at Leicester, and generally tearing our hair out trying to make everything RIGHT. An impossible task, as I well know from previous conferences but, maybe because it will be my last conference as an organiser, I feel this one really is going to be great! Even at this stage, bookings are going particularly well, but I am sure that March won't be too late for you to book. So go ahead, spoil yourself and join us: details from me on 0117 955

9600.

In response to the wishes of the counselling members that replied to Brenda Rogers' letter, and after board discussion, we have applied for organisational membership of UKRC. This would mean we had a good input into setting up the kind of national organisation that would suit us best. Watch this space for details of progress.

Chris Coulson and I, as your UKCP delegates, attended the Annual Conference in York at the beginning of January. We went rather apprehensively, feeling that many of the proposals from the Governing Body were not to our liking, and that we were probably the only ones who felt this. Imagine our surprise to find that not only those in the HIPS section thought similarly, but that the whole floor of the conference were in unison at defeating