The British Psychological Society

- The British Psychological Society
- Now and the Future?
- Peter Banister President 2012 - 2013
- Outline of current situation
- Achievements
- Challenges and the Future
Reminder of this

To promote the advancement and diffusion of a knowledge of psychology pure and applied and especially to promote the efficiency and usefulness of Members of the Society by setting up a high standard of professional education and knowledge.
Strategic Plan Vision

To promote excellence and ethical practice in the science, education, research and practical applications of psychology.
Strategic Plan Core Purposes

• To be the learned society and professional body for the discipline
• To make psychology accessible for everyone
• To promote and advance the discipline
• To be the authoritative and public voice of psychology
• To determine and ensure the highest standards on all we do
• [NB major role change from BPS as the regulatory body to HPC (now HCPC)]
The Board of Trustees is the Society’s executive.

- Comprises Presidential Team, Chairs of Boards, Honorary General Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, Representative Council representatives.
- Ensures conformity to the Royal Charter.
- Ensures status under law as a charitable body.
The Board of Trustees

II

- Is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the Society’s objectives are met
- Responsible for the financial transactions of the Society
- Regular meetings with the Senior Management Team
- Meet some six times a year plus an “awayday”
- Regular consultations via e-mail
- Ethics Committee (and *The Psychologist*) directly reports to it
Representative Council

- Trustees plus
- Representatives from the 10 Divisions, 11 Regional / National Branches, 14 Sections, 2 Special Groups, etc
- Recent years a two day “General Assembly” has been held
- Essential means of communication within the Society
- the Representative Council advises the Board of Trustees
BPS Staff

- Chief Executive (Ann Colley)
- Senior Management Team (Finance, Membership Support and Services, Corporate Services, Policy)
- Currently creating new Qualifications and Membership Teams (and Directors)
- Extensive Office Staff, with specific roles
- 70000+ help desk calls per annum
- Reckoned to be some 900 Committee Members of 36+ member networks (plus undergraduate and postgraduate wings)
Boards of the Society
I Research Board

- Science and research policy (and POST)
- Supporting and encouraging research
- Define postgraduate research methods standards
- The funding of psychological research, influencing and liasing with other bodies
- The submission of evidence to other bodies, and liasing with them
- Promote research through the dissemination of results through conferences, seminars and authoritative reports
Mainly academic representatives, including the Sections
Publication of journals of the highest quality
Provision of access to other journals and online resources for Members
Recognition of excellence through Society awards
Research Digest
STEM (and STEM+) developments
Boards of the Society II Professional Practice Board

- Policy, applied research, submission of evidence to other bodies and other matters related to the application of psychological science
- Promotion of psychological practice to policymakers
- Considers how the knowledge of psychology is and can be applied by practitioner psychologists
-Consults and advises on the advancement and diffusion of areas of application and standards of practice
Professional Practice Board continued

- Mainly professional representatives
- Provision of access to journals and books to support members working as “scientist-practitioners”
- Production of guidance documents, reports and position statements
- Provision of conferences and CPD events and online CPD opportunities
- Recognition of excellence through Society awards
- Links with the HCPC, European developments
Boards of the Society
III Psychology Education Board

- Policy, standards, submissions of evidence and other matters relating to psychology education
- Developing and implementing Society policy in relation to psychology education, teaching, teachers and students
- Influencing the national and international policies that affect psychology education – benchmarking / Chicheley Hall / curriculum content and skills
- Promoting academic and scientific rigour in the teaching of psychology at all levels – STEM+ notions
Psychology Education Board continued

- HE and Pre-Tertiary Representatives, HEA
- Division of Academics, Researchers and Teachers in Psychology
- Publication of Society approved Textbooks
- Conferences, Events and Lectures – eg Big Bang, Psychology4Students
- Conference and other learning material – eg “Origins”, demonstrations
- Public engagement grants and awards
- Departmental Liaison Scheme
Boards of the Society IV Membership and Standards Board

- Issues relating to membership of the Society and professional training in psychology (including Psychological Testing)
- Accrediting postgraduate professional training courses and undergraduate psychology
- Overseeing the various Society qualifications: Membership, Chartership, Fellowships, Specialist Registers, EuroPsy (NAC and SNACs), CSci
- Responsible for Appeals
Membership and Standards Board continued

- Academics and Professionals (includes Psychological Testing)
- Accrediting undergraduate courses
- Accrediting postgraduate professional training courses
- “Accreditation through Partnership” developments: Quality Assurance to Quality Enhancement - aim for dialogue rather than an inspection / “tickbox”
- Debates re the future of the curriculum – benchmarking / Chicheley Hall report / content & skills / employability
Some Recent Achievements I

- Financial stability
- Buildings
- Move to HCPC Regulation went smoothly
- HCPC approval for our Qualifications
- The Learning Centre (and Online Shop)
- Web and Social Media developments
- myCPD and e-learning provision
- STEM (+?) recognition
- 100 plus conferences and events a year
- Publications
Some Recent Achievements II

- Research Digest (international impact)
- *The Psychologist* (available in many formats)
- EBSCO and Wiley Blackwell journal access
- PsychSource / Wiley Blackwell developments (increase in sales and impact)
- Public Policy emphasis increasing (e.g., work with the Academy for the Social Sciences, Science Council, Science Fairs, British Neuroscience Association, POST)
- Wellcome / Science Museum / Senate House Library / HOPC
Challenges / Opportunities I

- Membership rose with HCPC coming onto the scene, now static in terms of full members
- Huge numbers of Psychology undergraduates, who do not join or stay with the Society
- Perceived Academic / Practitioner divide
- Proliferation of separate subsections, separate publications, separate conferences and other activities
- Post HCPC ossification (eg Coaching Psychology)?
Challenges / Opportunities II

- Board overlaps
- Reliance on volunteers with spare capacity
- Limited responses to initiatives
- Public image of “psychology” problems
- Influence on public policy could be greater
- Need to go beyond responding to consultations – need to be more active
Challenges / Opportunities III

- Question of role for Society post HCPC
- What is “Membership”? Divisions?
- Trying to cover too much: schoolchildren to retirees?
- Royal Charter
- Charity
- Membership organisation
- Not a Regulatory Body
- Not a Trade Union
Communication problems
International impact could be greater
To what extent is the Web the solution (and open) to all?
Is Social Media the future?
Constant churn of representatives, lack of continuity
Branches variable, not all exist, not well represented in the structure (revive Branches Forum?)
Challenges / Opportunities V

- Considerable outside change
- European Professional Card / IAPT
- Pressures on recruitment and pay of staff
- NHS / Education problems
- “Austerity” Psychology
- Changes in Universities and pretertiary education – funding, variable fees, NSS, REF, HEAR, STEM(±?), “employability”, Open Access, other demands
The Future?

- Other functions, often implicit – social networks, alternatives to academe / professional context, community
- Certainly need for further debate, and for involvement
- As always no simple solutions – living, growing, changing
- Apocryphal Chinese Proverb / Curse “may you live in interesting times”
- We can never please all: it is Our Society, and we all need to play an active part