

BAAT COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES

Saturday 14th May 2022

Council members. Claire Louise Vaculik (Chair), Sophia Cowx (joined at 1pm), Karen Fenna, Dominik Havsteen-Franklin, Cliff Free, Em Inman (Hon. Secretary), Caryl Sibbett (Vice-Chair), Jude Smit

BAAT officers in attendance. Gary Fereday (CEO)

Chair welcomed Council to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence and declaration of conflicts of interest

- a) Apologies: Clare Boyd, Susan Carr, Vivienne Gibbons
- b) Conflict of interest: Chair asked if any Director had a potential conflict of interest for any of the matters to be discussed. None were declared.

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- a) Minutes were previously approved via email.
- b) Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 5th February 2022:
 - a) Agenda item 3 – The Dual Experience and ARC SIGs had been asked to share ideas about resources and guidance that could be developed to support inclusive practice at BAAT trainings and events. No feedback has been received from SIGs yet, so Chair to liaise with SIGs.
 - b) Agenda item 3 - BAAT Council video has been well received; members have been in touch to enquire about being nominated as council members
 - c) Agenda item 3 – Meeting with HCPC Chair and CEO was attended by BAAT's Vice Chair and CEO. This was an exploratory meeting, at which some of BAAT members' concerns had been raised. Meeting was positive and constructive. HCPC did not feel art therapy was at risk of de-regulation. BAAT CEO will be meeting HCPC senior managers periodically now, to consider issues as they arise in more detail.
 - d) Agenda item 5 – The free CPD events agreed at the last meeting are currently being developed
 - e) Agenda item 6 – The risk register will come to the Council every six months for review
 - f) Agenda item 7 – The query raised regarding provision of supervision to some PhD students had been followed up. It was clarified that this had been agreed with the HEI, so a formal arrangement with clear boundaries.
 - g) Agenda item 10 - HEE apprenticeship procurement is now live and DH-F attending these meetings on behalf of BAAT. This route to training should be available from September 2023.
 - h) Agenda item 12 – Developing a SIG/RG/Country feedback template for reporting to Council was discussed, as this might support volunteers to share reports about their work

- i) Agenda item 9 – The word ‘attachment’ in the conference title was discussed

Action: Chair suggested council members email the CEO with any further suggestions about the name of BAATs annual conference

Action: Add risk register to agenda every 6 months

3. Chair’s report

The Chair shared details from her previously circulated report. She noted that the Spring period has been a busy one, with many strands of work unfolding at pace. Work has continued on the website and re-branding. The Chair has liaised regularly with our CEO about this and met BAAT Operations Manager and the Design Consultant.

She served as an Internal Assessor for the BAAT Supervision Diploma, reading and listening to presentations from art therapists completing this course,. She noted that it was inspiring to see the candidates ‘in-depth thinking about the complex work being held by their supervisees. The Chair was also impressed by their ability to look across all of the layers in the system that might impact practice, which showed a real sensitivity to the possible impact of culture and difference and a good awareness of other professionals ‘roles too.

Due to an unexpected bereavement within the staff team, over the Easter period, she had supported staff with members’ enquiries. Alongwith the Vice Chair, she had worked with the CEO to develop a job description for a Professional Advisor. This is a new role and the postholder will provide clinical and professional advice to support the organisation to deliver our work programme, provide clinical and professional advice directly to members, and ensure BAAT’s guidance is up to date and reflects current best practice across a range of settings and sectors.

Links with NHS Scotland Arts Therapies Strategy Group have been developed and more regular communications with BAAT Scotland have been arranged. Briefings to be provided by our Scottish Officer, who will now provide the practical support needed to enable this.

The Chair attended the book launch for an exciting new publication, “Intersectionality in the Arts Psychotherapies”. She also attended an HEE EDI workshop day, which was run for all of the AHP professional bodies so that we could share practice and ideas to ensure that this important work continues to develop across the professions.

There was an HEE Arts Therapies Apprenticeship Webinar, which enabled businesses, colleagues working in HEI, and any other interested parties to learn about arts therapies apprenticeships and the HEE procurement process. This stage of the work is now concluded, as the procurement phase has started - HEIs will submit their bids to take on setting up and running this new type of training pathway. This is excellent news for our profession and it should mean that arts therapy apprenticeships could be up and running as soon as September 2023.

Council discussed pay levels for art therapy apprenticeships during and post-qualifying. This led to further discussion about salaries for art therapists / psychotherapists across the four nations, preceptorships and how best to advocate for appropriate salaries for art therapists. DH-F spoke about a recent meeting with HEE, noting that Wales and Scotland seem to have clearer career pathways for AHPs. BAAT are in dialogue with HEE about developing clearer career pathways for art therapists.

The Chair also attended the recent BAAT Educators 'meeting and was able to share a brief update from Council. It was so helpful to hear of some of the challenges being faced by students and colleagues across the UK, but also the many exciting new areas of practice and new approaches being explored by art therapy training organisations.

The Chair noted again how much members had appreciated the video that SC had made to help people to better understand the role and commitment and to encourage people to stand. She thanked each of the council members whose terms are coming to an end for their hard work and their commitment to BAAT Council and our profession.

Action: Chair asked members to think about the new Council member induction and to share feedback about what else should be included in this process.

4. Vice-Chair's report

The Vice-Chair shared details from her previously circulated report. Since the last BAAT Council business meeting, the Vice Chair had been involved in a number of activities pertaining to BAAT generally and also to BAAT related work in Northern Ireland. She has participated in ongoing BAAT meetings and communications, including with the Chair and CEO in discussions about BAAT's work, recruitment, challenges and opportunities. Vice Chair has also worked on the development of a job description for a proposed Professional Advisor role within BAAT. Along with Council colleagues, she has participated in the continuing discussions about the proposed re-branding and development of the new BAAT website and systems.

The Vice Chair met with Stephen Miller, an Art Therapist in the Array Collective, about the potential of them presenting at the BAAT conference and he was very pleased to be asked and has agreed this; staff will liaise with him to discuss this further.

The Vice Chair has been active on the committee of BAAT NI. The committee had held its AGM in March and this included updates on our activities, the regulation consultation, and plans for the future. The meeting also featured an information session / workshop on the HCPC Audit and CPD. More widely, BAAT NI committee representatives had met representatives from the Department of Education, in order to discuss art therapy and the 'Healthy Happy Minds' project in primary schools. She had also participated in the NI AHP Cancer task and finish group and (with several other BAAT NI committee members) is liaising with the *Irish Association of Creative Arts Therapists* to plan an All Ireland Arts Therapy symposium in 2023.

In NI, it is gratifying that Art Therapists are included in both the 'Healthy Happy Minds' pilot for NI primary schools, as well as in the long-standing 'Independent Counselling Service for Schools' (ICSS) in post primary schools. The ICSS Handbook specifies that it includes practitioners registered with the HCPC. The 'Healthy Happy Minds' pilot was extended into June and the continuation of the service is dependent on being signed off by the Minister of Education. This may or may not be affected by the recent election in NI and subsequent events.

5. Chief Executive's report

The CEO highlighted items from his report, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

a) Operational plan 2022 update -

Areas the Chief Executive flagged for Council members to consider included:

- a) The ongoing need for the terms of reference and guidance for SIGs and RGs to be reviewed, so this is clearer for members and easier to use in practice.
- b) Strategic work relating Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and need for a clear four nations approach.
- c) Improving communication between Countries, SIGs RGs and BAAT Council / office.
- d) Discussions with AATA and CATA regarding International Art Therapy Conference. The 2023 conference has been postponed, due to significant personnel changes at AATA.
- e) Members survey and the need to encourage as many members as possible to respond – current results are positive so far.
- f) Long-term financial planning, working with finance manager to work up 2023/2024 budgets.
- g) Recruitment to Professional Advisor Role - important that the person is a BAAT full member
- h) Improvements include answering queries in a timely manner and reporting back themes in these to CEO. Now recruiting to a full-time administrative post to continue improvements.

Break 1.30 - 2.00pm

b) Website/database - project update -

Project remains on target for a September launch, following a period of testing to ensure functionality. Members will be given a preview at the July AGM. Test data from current website has been successfully transferred to the new database. Web page content is now being developed. Council discussed the tone and language used, in order to make this as useful and accessible for as wide an audience as possible.

c) Finance

a) management accounts Q1 2022

The CEO presented the first quarter accounts (to end of March 2022) – these are broadly as budgeted. Actual income and expenditure are now being presented against what had been budgeted, in order to help Council members to review the data and identify any areas of concern.

b) approval of annual accounts year end 2021

The CEO presented the end of year accounts that will go forward to Companies House, after receiving Council approval. He suggested developing a more comprehensive Directors Report, in order to support people to understand our activity better.

Council queried social media costs; the CEO explained that this denotes staff costs. He agreed to look at how this might be better presented in future accounts, so that it is clearer what is meant.

Decision: Council voted unanimously to approve the end of year accounts

Action: CEO will draft a more comprehensive longer directors report

Council also considered some of the CPD events currently being offered, noting that a range of courses are offered – some for art therapists only and others for other professionals too. It was noted that it is important to be clear of the scope of the training being offered by BAAT, so that the protected title ‘Art Therapist’ or ‘Art Psychotherapist’ is not used by non art therapist attendees in error.

A further discussion around the use of therapeutic arts and art therapy ensued, which identified the challenge of developing and growing as a profession while also helping other associated professions to understand what art therapy offers.

6. All member survey – headline findings and next steps

The CEO reported on the emerging themes arising from responses so far. It was hoped more members will respond to give as broad a perspective on membership views across the UK as possible. Findings will help to guide thinking on the organisation’s strategic aims and the development of the organisation’s activities

Break 3.30 – 3.40

7. AGM - update

There are 10 nominations for Council and 3 member proposals and arrangements are on track for July 16th. The speaker for the afternoon lecture has been confirmed; this session will be delivered by Linda Thai. The lecture will be pre-recorded and members will be able to access the lecture for 12 months. Council discussed moving the date to earlier in July in future years, in order to avoid the Northern Irish holiday season.

Action: Council members to write a brief statement of their activities for the AGM report and send to CEO and Chair, as these will form part of the review of our activities in the year.

8. Annual conference - update

Speakers have been confirmed for annual conference, which will be held online on the 5th November. BAAT will be sending out a call to members for case studies that highlight innovation in art therapy practice working with trauma/social activism.

9. Climate Change initiatives

Members have approached the CEO about raising awareness of and bringing climate change conversations to the fore as part of BAATs work, so that art therapists / psychotherapists can add their voices to this discussion.. BAAT is already involved in several partnerships within the psychological professions that focus on this subject.

This has subsequently been presented as a member proposal for the AGM. Council discussed the wider context of climate change, looking at how we might embed thinking about sustainability and climate change into our policy and ethical framework and within the organisation too.

10. Feedback from

a) **BAAT Council SIG Network Coordinator** - EI gave an update on the meeting held for SIG coordinators in March 2022, which was a very helpful and supportive meeting,

- b) **BAAT Council Regional Network Coordinator** - KF gave an update on regional groups. She explained that she will be restarting these meetings for coordinators shortly. She spoke of some barriers that had been reported.
- c) **BAAT Country Representatives** – Caryl had provided an update on NI in her Vice-Chair report. Karen provided an update from Wales, noting that WATAF meetings include all arts therapies. No report was received from Scotland.

11. **AOB** – Council members reminded again to share their ideas for new Council members' induction by email.

Closed at 4.30pm.

Scheduled meetings

- Saturday 16th July 2022 – AGM, ONLINE. Times to be confirmed
- Saturday 24th September 2022 from 12.00pm to 1.30pm, then 2.00pm to 4.30pm
- Saturday 3rd December 2022 from 12.00pm to 1.30pm, then 2.00pm to 4.30pm