

## **BAAT Council meeting**

**12 - 2 pm, 18 July 2020**

**Zoom (online)**

**Approved minutes**

### **Present**

**Council members.** Claire Louise Vaculik (Chair), Cliff Free, Colin Sims, Jude Smit, Karen Fenna, Liz Ashby, Nikki Linfield, Richard Whitaker (Vice-Chair), Simon Richardson (Hon. Secretary), Susan Carr, Sophia Cowx, Tim Wright (*ex-officio* Chair), Vivienne Gibbons.

**SIG Representatives.** Julie Watson (Self-employed, Independent and Private Practice), Anne Stegmann (Museums and Galleries).

**BAAT members in attendance.** Mandy Leonard.

**BAAT officers in attendance.** Val Huet (Chief Executive Officer, BAAT).

### **1. Apologies for absence and declarations of conflict of interest**

**1.1. Apologies.** Dominik Havsteen-Franklin.

**1.2. Conflict of Interest.** Claire Louise Vaculik asked if any Council member had a potential conflict of interest for any of the matters to be discussed. None were declared.

### **2. Minutes for the Council meeting on 7 March 2020**

**2.1. Corrections.** No corrections were requested and the minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

**2.2. Matters arising.** The following matter was raised.

**2.2.1 Regulation of Healthcare Professions** (point 3.3). Claire Louise Vaculik and Val Huet met with John Barwick (CEO) and Christine Elliot (Chair) of the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) in July. The HCPC has had no notification from the government that it is presently intending to proceed with possible deregulation of any allied health professions.

### **3. Minutes for the Council meeting on 10 June 2020**

**3.1. Corrections.** No corrections were requested and the minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

**3.2. Matters arising.** The following matters were raised.

**3.2.1. Consultation groups** (point 1). The proposed groups to give advice and support to BAAT members working in the NHS, Education and the Third Sector as they transition out of lockdown are set to go ahead in September.

**3.2.2. Canadian Art Therapy Association (CATA) and the international conference.** CATA has confirmed that it would like to host the conference in 2022. BAAT is currently setting up an online meeting with the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) to discuss the format for the conference and will then be liaising with CATA.

### **3. Co-opting Mandy Leonard (Dual Experience Group Co-ordinator) to Council**

Claire Louise Vaculik first explained that Mandy had not been able to stand for Council at the AGM in May because she did not graduate until July. Mandy talked about her experience of using mental health services and then having worked in the sector for the past fifteen years. She was pleased to have been asked to contribute to BAAT's work on dual experience. Julie Watson felt the reconvened Dual Experience group would help to promote diversity and inclusion in the association and the profession. She talked about her own experience of being a service user and then, after training, her involvement in raising awareness of dual experience through giving presentations to art therapy trainees and practitioners.

**Action:** Mandy was nominated by Karen Fenna and seconded by Susan Carr. Council voted unanimously to approve her nomination.

### **4. Chair's report - Claire Louise Vaculik**

Claire Louise highlighted items from her report, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

**4.1. Engaging with members.** Claire Louise has been focusing on engaging directly with members since being elected and will be running drop-in meetings in August. She has attended meetings of the Art, Race and Culture (ARC) and Sessional, Independent and Private Practice (SIPP) special interest groups. A number of useful proposals had come out of these meetings including (i) a BAAT survey on the areas members work in (ii) developing a BAAT policy on equality, diversity and equal opportunity and (iii) how links with other professional membership bodies, partners and regulators can be strengthened and maintained.

**4.2. Private Practice (PP) register applications and DBS checks.** BAAT has been asked by the SIPP SIG about the requirement to have an enhanced DBS check for people applying to the PP register. Normally it is the responsibility of employers to do this and it has been creating difficulties for people who are self-employed. Julie Watson wondered if BAAT could act as an agency to help facilitate this process? Val Huet explained this is not possible as BAAT is not the employer in this case. She noted the value of art therapists having a current DBS check as, for example, parents looking for a therapist will want to see one. Val added that BAAT is not currently charging people to join the PP register because of the Covid-19 situation and has suspended renewal fees for twelve months. This may be extended depending on how long the pandemic continues.

**4.3. BAAT website.** BAAT had been in the process of scoping for a new website before the Covid-19 outbreak. This had been disrupted by lockdown but BAAT has resumed work on it. SIGs have reported problems with the current website's functionality. They have also fed back that many people find the BAAT Forums difficult to navigate. Claire Louise will be working with the new CEO on improving and updating these resources for members.

**4.4. Supervision guidelines.** The SIPP SIG has submitted ideas on how policy reviews around issues like supervision guidelines can be conducted, with the aim of there being a structured procedure that SIGs and Regional Groups can then contribute to.

## **5. Vice Chair's report - Richard Whitaker**

Richard has been providing support to Claire Louise Vaculik and Val Huet around the day-to-day work of keeping BAAT functioning throughout the Covid-19 lockdown. He has also been working with Nikki Linfield around developing the Touch policy (to be discussed under BAAT Council Working Groups, below).

## **6. Chief Executive Officer's report - Val Huet**

Val highlighted items from her report, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

**6.1. CEO post.** Val had not expected to be attending this meeting in CEO role. Anna Playle, the new CEO, was due to start with BAAT in June but this will now happen in October. In the interim Val has been focusing on keeping BAAT functioning for members, supporting staff who are not on furlough to adapt to remote working, and implementing financial measures to ensure BAAT survives the effects of the economic downturn.

**6.2. BAAT website.** Upgrading the website was already part of BAAT's work plan but it has been delayed by Covid-19 and going into lockdown. There have been some problems with the functions for the Forums and BAAT is setting up training sessions so people are confident in using them. The Forums were set up as part of ensuring BAAT is GDPR compliant. BAAT office staff normally help members with using the Forums but because of people being on furlough or reduced hours there has been less support available.

**6.3. Zoom lectures.** BAAT's training courses have moved online through the lockdown and there have also been free Zoom webinars for members. Feedback has been positive with people saying they have appreciated them both as a learning opportunity and a way to stay in contact with colleagues. This has shown what is possible and BAAT will be looking at how CPD can be provided online longer term, as it makes it equally accessible across the UK.

**6.4. BAAT certificated courses.** The Supervision diploma course students opted for an interruption of the in-person taught modules (rather than having them on Zoom) and these will resume in September. The start of the next Children and Young People diploma course has been postponed until 2021 as the pandemic has affected registration.

**6.5. Attachment and the Arts conference.** Mary Ward House Conference Centre has been booked for a new date of 14 November and there will be attendance options of in-person, online and / or access to the conference video. Sadly, Dr Rodney Adeniyi-Jones, who was to have given the keynote address, died in March. The keynote speaker will now be Dr Frank Röhrich, who is an NHS Consultant Psychiatrist and Body Psychotherapist.

**6.6. Health and Care Professions Council.** Claire Louise Vaculik and Val met with the CEO and Chair of the HCPC earlier in the week (see point 2.2.1 above). They had discussed some of the challenges art therapists are facing and the HCPC had made clear it wants to build on its relationships with all the allied health professions.

**6.7. Financial report.** Val asked Council to record its thanks to the staff team for their contribution to ensuring BAAT was not facing financial difficulties. They went on furlough in lockdown (during which they had a 20 per cent drop in salary) and had been working hard on their return. Because BAAT's short training courses had to be cancelled there will be a drop in turnover. However, grant money from Health Education England, Islington Council and others has helped to mitigate this. At the start of lockdown BAAT offered a membership status change and 1 year's free membership to members in dire financial circumstances. Even so, membership numbers have continued to rise and the income from fees has been higher than initially anticipated. BAAT is currently in surplus but this money has largely been allocated to meet a number of significant bills that will come due in the autumn. Financial planning is currently in hand to meet further challenges ahead with Brexit in 2021 and the severe recession that is predicted to follow on from the Covid-19 pandemic.

**6.8. BAAT research.** A report by Dr Sue Holttum (BAAT Research Officer) was circulated prior to the meeting. Val highlighted the main points from this, including the work Sue has been doing on setting up a survey on the use of BAAT's art therapy and psychosis guidelines and providing support to art therapists working on PhD research.

## **7. BAAT Council working groups - updates**

**7.1. Psychosis Task and Finish Group.** Tim Wright and Richard Whitaker gave an overview of the work the group had done in drawing up BAAT guidelines for art therapists working with psychosis. Over the six years of its existence the group has drawn up professional consensus guidelines, which were published in IJAT Inscape, and then the evidence base for art therapists working with psychosis, which has been published as a separate handbook. Tim paid tribute to the work Sue Holttum and Ioanna Xenophontes had done on this document.

**Action:** Claire Louise Vaculik asked that Council's thanks for the work all members of the group had done to be minuted.

**7.2. Self-employed survey.** Val Huet, Liz Ashby, and Nikki Linfield have been working on identifying the issues the group will focus on. This working group will contribute to planning for the new website, as the survey will help with understanding what services art therapists are offering and the most appropriate and GDPR-compliant ways for them to be made contactable by potential employers. Claire Louise Vaculik suggested that when there is a draft document for this it should be circulated to the relevant SIGs for feedback.

**7.3. Review of the Regional and Special Interest Group Co-ordinator guidelines.** Dominik Havsteen-Franklin had sent his apologies for this Council meeting. Claire Louise Vaculik had talked about the guidelines at the SIG Co-ordinators meeting (held immediately prior to the Council meeting) and would be giving him feedback. She asked for other Council members to come forward to work with Dominik on updating the guidelines.

**7.4. Guidelines on Touch guidelines.** BAAT's current guidelines on Touch were circulated prior to the meeting. They provide guidance on appropriate physical contact when working with children, including restraint and intimate care. Richard Whitaker and Nikki Linfield suggested the next step is for them to be circulated to Regional groups and SIGs for comment and feedback.

## **8. Black Lives Matter - ARC and BAAT actions**

Claire Louise Vaculik gave an overview of the actions BAAT has already taken. Val Huet mentioned that a number of Zoom webinars have been scheduled, led by Jacqui McKoy-Lewens, which were due to be held in August but will now be taking place in September. In preparation for this Val had talked with Jacqui about what could make the profession more accessible. They had discussed issues around the status of art therapy and post-qualification employment prospects, along with the financial cost of doing the training. This led into a Council discussion about how the profession might be made more accessible. Clifford Free suggested the new apprenticeship scheme could help remove some of the financial barriers. Claire Louise Vaculik mentioned the UKCP pathway model into a professional qualification, which she felt could be adapted for people wanting to train in art therapy. Mandy Leonard talked about how the training courses offer a very Eurocentric approach to practice and should integrate more culturally diverse approaches into the curriculum. Karen Fenna suggested BAAT should do a survey of current and newly-qualified students to find out their experience of training courses and how accessible and inclusive they are. Liz Ashby noted that people going into professions like psychology are paid while on training. Sophia Cowx highlighted the presence of trauma for potential practitioners and the people they will be working with. Art therapy itself is marginalised and this could amplify the feeling of not belonging for people with experience of discrimination and prejudice.

## **9. AGM 2020 - feedback**

Val Huet reported there had been positive feedback from members about having the AGM on Zoom and felt it could have potential for future meetings. Council will need to discuss at the September meeting where the next AGM is to be held and whether it will be in-person or online.

## **10. Newsbriefing - Susan Carr**

Both 2020 issues of Newsbriefing will be published online only in the form of a PDF. The summer edition will include a special section on the impact of Covid-19 on art therapy practice. The winter edition will be a special issue on the experiences of BAME people of art therapy both as clients and therapists.

## **11. International Journal of Art Therapy: Inscape - Susan Carr**

Susan highlighted items from her report, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

**11.1. IJAT Inscape profile.** In the year to 30 June 2020 article downloads increased by 43 per cent on the same period in 2019. The journal's Cite score is ranked at 66 out of 111 in the Rehabilitation Scopus category. The editorial team is working to improve on this and believes the availability of IJAT Inscape to AATA members will increase cross-citations.

**11.2. Practice papers format.** A template to assist authors when submitting Practice Papers is being developed to ensure consistency in format and content. The journal has introduced the use of structured abstracts for all articles submitted for publication, to ensure they include key information from the article.

**11.3. Editorial team.** Ali Coles has joined the editorial team as an Associate Editor. She is a lecturer in the Faculty of Life Sciences and Education in the University of South Wales and works as an art psychotherapist in NHS adult community mental health teams.

**11.4. IJAT Inscape special issue.** A special issue on the inaugural International Art Therapy Practice / Research Conference will be published in the autumn, with the next special issue on Co-Production in Art Therapy Practice, Research and Publication.

## **12. Service user involvement**

Mandy Leonard was co-opted on to Council at this meeting (see point 3 above). She will be reporting on her work in the Dual Experience lead role at future Council meetings.

## **13. BAAT Website and Social Media**

A report from Alex McDonald (Communications, Advertising and CPD Courses Manager) was circulated prior to the meeting. Over the past 6 months traffic on all BAAT's social media platforms has continued to increase. However, because of the Covid-19 lockdown, planned developments of BAAT's social media presence have been on hold since April as Lex Bágust (Social Media Officer) was working reduced hours and Alex McDonald was on furlough.

## **14. Educators**

Claire Louise Vaculik had attended the recent Educators meeting and had arranged for representatives of the ARC SIG to attend too, so they could share ideas about working with diversity and the issues raised by Black Lives Matter. There had been a useful discussion about how diversity and inclusion issues could be better covered in trainings and the need for the cultural assumptions underpinning some art therapy theory to be examined. The meeting also looked at the accessibility and cost of trainings more generally, which Claire Louise would like Council to explore over the next year.

## **15. Regional Groups and Countries**

**15.1. Regional Group Network Co-ordinator.** Val Huet asked for a new Council member to take on this role, which became vacant when Jayne McConkey stepped down at the AGM in May. Karen Fenna volunteered to take it over.

**15.2. Scotland.** Val Huet has been supporting Kerry Ramsaidh (Chair of BAAT Scotland) in challenging the Scottish government about the exclusion of art therapy from funding for counsellors in schools. Kerry has written to John Sweeney, MSP, about this situation.

**15.3. Wales.** Karen Fenna will now be representing Wales on Council

**15.4. Northern Ireland.** Colin Sims had attended the Council meeting but left before this item.

## 16. Special Interest Groups

**16.1. Sessional, Independent and Private Practice.** The SIG has been providing input into the review of BAAT's Supervision guidelines and members have raised concerns about the need for a DBS check to join the Private Practice register. Julie Watson asked that the Newsbriefing special issue in response to Black Lives Matter and art therapy include the experiences of therapists as well as clients. She was concerned it could reinforce an idea that diversity is only considered in thinking about users and not providers of services otherwise.

**16.2. Museums and Galleries.** Anne Stegmann added to Julie Watson's comments on the Newsbriefing special issue by mentioning that the MAG SIG has been running sessions on sitting with discomfort. She suggested this might be a useful resource to include as part of the special issue.

## 17. Dates of the next Council meetings

19 September 2020

5 December 2020

## 18. Any Other Business

There were no requests for any other business to be discussed.

## 19. Elected Council members

### Present

**Council members.** Claire Louise Vaculik (Chair), Jude Smit, Karen Fenna, Liz Ashby, Nikki Linfield, Richard Whitaker (Vice-Chair), Simon Richardson (Hon. Secretary), Susan Carr, Sophia Cowx, Tim Wright (*ex-officio* Chair), Vivienne Gibbons.

**Co-opted members** (non-voting). Mandy Leonard.

**In attendance.** Val Huet (Chief Executive Officer, BAAT).

**19.1. Succession and forward planning for Chair and CEO.** Claire Louise Vaculik has taken over the post of Chair, having been elected at the AGM in May. Because of Covid-19 and the lockdown period following it (when BAAT staff either worked reduced hours or were put on furlough) the start date for the new CEO, Anna Playle, was put back from June to October. Val Huet requested Council members contact her if there are things they think need to be added to Anna's induction.

**19.2. BAAT staff update.** The Professional Officer, BAAT Scotland, post is currently vacant. The role will be advertised and Claire Louise Vaculik and Kerry Ramsaidh (Chair, BAAT Scotland) will be on the interview panel for the shortlisted applicants.

**19.3. Kickstart job scheme.** The government is introducing a new Kickstart employment scheme for 16 - 24-year olds, in which it will pay 100 per cent of their wages to organisations hiring them for a 6-month job placement. The scheme runs from 1 August and will be open

to employers to start a young person on a placement any time up to 31 January 2021. Val Huet suggested Council consider BAAT offering an Office Administrator post. She circulated a draft job description for a role. This would be paid at the London living wage rate but would be open to applicants across the UK, as the successful applicant could work remotely. The post would be supervised by Alex McDonald (Communications, Advertising and CPD Courses Manager). There would be the possibility of BAAT continuing the post after the government funding ended. Val asked if Council was happy for BAAT to proceed with this.

**Action:** Council voted unanimously for BAAT to set up a Kickstart job placement.

**19.4. Children and Young People's Level 6 Diploma course.** Val discussed the possibility of developing the course into two courses: one for qualified art therapists and the other for people using the arts in their work with clients. Val suggested a course for the latter group could provide a step towards taking an MA training for those who are considering it but are not yet ready to do so. It would be made clear that completing the course would not qualify someone to practice as an art therapist. The aim would be to promote best practice in the use of the arts with children and young people and steer those interested in taking this further to recognised training courses. She asked if Council was happy for BAAT to proceed with this.

**Action:** Council voted unanimously for BAAT to set up the proposed new diploma course.

**19.5. Request for a review of past BAAT Council meetings minutes.**

Responding to a request for corrections to be made to two sets of published minutes, BAAT followed legal advice from its solicitors and BAAT Council agreed the following statement:

*Catherine Stevens has requested that a correction is made to two sets of previous BAAT Council minutes. After taking advice about the appropriate process for this, BAAT Council has agreed that the minutes of September 2018 and December 2018 meetings could be corrected. The British Association of Art Therapists can confirm that there are no grievances or outstanding grievance procedures against Catherine Stevens.*

*Corrected 04/11/21*

**Action:** The statement agreed by the current BAAT Council will be included in these Minutes; the Chair will share this with Catherine Stevens. Following legal advice from BAAT's solicitors the two sets of minutes will be corrected and then uploaded onto the BAAT website.

**19.6. Scheduling reviews of BAAT guidance and governance policies.** Val Huet explained to the new Council members that BAAT's guidance and governance policies are regularly reviewed and, where necessary, updated. Policies currently being reviewed are:

**19.6.1. Control and Restraint for clinicians.** BAAT will be requesting feedback from members who are being asked by employers to do this kind of training.

**Action:** Val to develop a draft position statement to be circulated to Council for approval.

**19.6.2. Guidelines on supporting colleagues who are called to court.** Nikki Linfield and Val are working on developing a draft set of guidelines on supporting colleagues



who have to give evidence in court. This can often involve them being drawn into acrimonious custody disputes which can be very stressful.

**Action:** Draft guidelines to be circulated at a future Council meeting for discussion.

**19.6.3. Adult clients' disclosure of historical abuse.** BAAT is aware of a good set of guidelines that has been developed by the Trust where Phil McFadden works.

**Action:** Val to contact the NHS Trust to seek permission for BAAT to use these guidelines.

Val mentioned that the 'Note-writing and the Law' guidelines are due to be reviewed and updated. They may need to be amended to ensure they apply to working in Education, the Third Sector and Private Practice, as well as for the NHS. Karen Fenna volunteered to be involved in this. Claire Louise thought Colin Sims would have suitable experience too.