

BAAT Council meeting
12 - 4 pm, 10 December 2016
24 – 27 White Lion Street, London N1 9PD
Approved minutes

Present

Council members. Tobias Arnup, Emer Douglas, Jayne McConkey, Nicki Power (Vice-Chair), Simon Richardson (Hon. Secretary), Whittaker Scott, Ami Woods, Tim Wright (Chair).

SIG Representatives. Rodney Dee (Art Therapists in Education), Hayley Berman, University of Hertfordshire (Educators group).

In attendance. Mary Rose Brady (Director of Operations, BAAT), Val Huet (Chief Executive Officer, BAAT), Alex McDonald (Social Media and Advertising Officer, BAAT), Patricia Watts (Professional Officer, Scotland), Joan Woddis (Vice-President, BAAT).

1. Apologies for absence and approval of minutes

1.1. Apologies. Den Cox, Nigel Durkan, Catherine Stevens, Frances Walton.

1.2. Corrections to the Minutes for the Council meeting on 24 September 2016.

Minor amendments were made to the wording of points 7 and 16.1 and a typographic error in points 2.2 and 3.2 was corrected.

2. Matters arising

Minutes for the Council meeting on 24 September 2016.

2.1. Brexit (point 2.5). A formal position statement will be put on the BAAT website this week.

2.2. Research funding bids (point 5.5.2). The funding bids made to the Wellcome Trust and the Johnson Trust were unsuccessful. However, BAAT has been invited to resubmit the bid to the Johnson Trust for a lower amount.

2.3. Update of Supervision Guidelines (point 6). Tim Wright has circulated BAAT's current supervision guidelines to Council members for review.

2.4. BAAT Region 7, Wales (point 11.4). No-one has yet come forward to offer to be the BAAT Council representative for Wales. The position has been vacant since May 2015.

Action: Val Huet to ask Tiffany Care if she would be interested in taking on the role.

2.5. IATE criteria for therapists list for trainees (Point 15.4). Tim Wright has written to Gary Nash to acknowledge his letter but say that BAAT has no jurisdiction over how IATE runs its courses.

3. Chair's report - Tim Wright

3.1. Meeting with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Val Huet and Tim met with Marc Seale, Chief Executive and Registrar of the HCPC, to discuss current professional issues affecting the arts therapies.

3.1.1. HCPC registration of the arts therapies. Marc Seale gave some advice on how BAAT might prepare to counter a possible proposal by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) to de-regulate the arts therapies, once the current consultation with the Health Select Committee in parliament is completed.

3.1.2. MA / MSc course curriculum. Marc Seale emphasised how much the HCPC relies on the work professional organisations like BAAT do with educators to develop and enhance HCPC standards of training.

3.2. BAAT remuneration policy. To be discussed in the Elected Council Members section (see point 17.2).

3.3. Supervision Guidelines review. Tim had circulated the current supervision guidelines to Council members by e-mail (see point 2.3). A discussion document on how to consult with stakeholders on the review was circulated with the Council meeting pack. Val Huet reported a rise in BAAT members calling for advice on a number of supervision-related issues; even qualified members are not always sure about the practicalities and legal requirements of practice issues like confidentiality and safeguarding. Mary Rose Brady cited some frequently asked questions, particularly by those working with children and adolescents. Jayne McConkey suggested, alongside the review, that a supervision 'refresher' short course could be added to BAAT's training programme.

3.4. Meeting with Educators. Tim, Tobias Arnup and Mary Rose Brady met with educators from seven of the nine training courses on 8 December. Issues discussed included the HCPC meeting with Marc Seale (see point 3.1 above), the new Diploma in Working with Children in Art Therapy course, and how to strengthen communication between the educators group and BAAT. To this end, the dates of upcoming Council meetings were given so an educators representative can attend; Tim or Tobias will attend the next educator's group meeting in 2017; and BAAT will consult with educators / course leaders prior to its annual meeting with the HCPC.

3.5. Research strategy. Val Huet and Tim will convene a conference-call meeting of key art therapy researchers at doctorate and post-doctorate level in 2017. This will initially include Lizzie Taylor Buck, Simon Hackett, Patricia Watts, Chris Wood, and Neil Springham.

3.6. Private Practice SIG. Three issues had arisen at the last Private Practice (PP) SIG meeting that had been referred back to BAAT Council for advice.

3.6.1. Clarification of the difference between independent practice and private practice. The difference is in the contractual or working arrangements: independent practice means still being an employee of the individual(s) or organisation(s) you work with; private practice involves working on a self-employed basis. Much of the advice available to private practitioners on the BAAT website applies equally to independent practitioners. A Venn diagram will be uploaded to the site to show the areas of overlap.

3.6.2. Online searchable list of BAAT members in independent practice. A request had been made for an online list that could be accessed by employers looking for art therapists in independent practice. Val Huet said there had been problems in the past with therapists being tracked by their clients and with job agencies collecting information and then cold-calling people. Emer Douglas suggested a solution might be SIG-based websites on which individuals or organisations could put information about independent or private work and SIG members could then respond.

3.6.3. Updating the PP application form. The PP SIG has been consulting with its members and working with BAAT Council and the process is close to completion.

4. Vice Chair's report - Nicki Power

4.1. Research funding bids. Nicki (with Val Huet and Sue Holttum, BAAT Research Officer) developed a research bid for a 12-month project offering art-based reflective practice groups to staff in the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust. Unfortunately, both the bid to the Maudsley Charity and to Health Education England were unsuccessful.

4.2. Creative Discoveries conference. Organised by the Art Therapy and Learning Disability SIG and held on 23 November, all the arts therapies were represented. Over 90 people attended and the keynote speakers were Baroness Sheila Hollins and Dr Dominic Slowie.

4.3. BAAT Newsbriefing. The Winter 2016 issue is close to completion and is set to be sent out in early January 2017. Alex McDonald (Social Media and Advertising Officer) will be promoting selected articles from the magazine on social media platforms.

5. Chief Executive Officer's report - Val Huet

5.1. Attachment and the Arts conference. Held on 2 December with a keynote address from Donna Betts of the American Art Therapy Association (AATA), the feedback from attendees had been positive. There was plenty of social media activity, with people at the conference tweeting and others following it on Twitter feeds in the UK and abroad.

5.2. Developing links with art therapists in the USA. After the Attachment and the Arts conference, Donna Betts invited Val Huet to attend AATA's AGM in Albuquerque in November 2017. Val will also explore the potential for UK trials of the Bird's Nest Drawing and Story, developed in the USA, to further the process of establishing it as a standardised assessment model and outcome measure.

5.3. BAAT research. Sue Holttum (BAAT Research Officer) had submitted a report for Council detailing her work since 24 September. The funding bid for a research project on art therapy with people with post-traumatic stress was unsuccessful with the first funder but others are being sought. Contact has been made with the Teapot Trust children's charity to help them with a pilot project for young people with lifelong physical health conditions.

5.4. Foundation, Short courses and e-learning. Recruitment for some courses has been down, which may be due to NHS Trusts cutting training budgets, although other courses have retained strong demand. The IT platform for the e-learning courses is still being tested.

5.5. Art Therapy Practice Research Network (ATPRN) symposium. The focus of the meeting, held on 4 November, was Formulation and had a keynote address from Dr Lucy Johnstone, a clinical psychologist and longstanding critic of biomedical model psychiatry.

5.6. Financial report. Val apologised to Council for an error in the report: the amount given for BAAT conference earnings was incorrect. Because of this, it was not possible to present the report at the meeting.

Action: Val will circulate a corrected financial report to Council members by e-mail this coming week.

6. Director of Operations report - Mary Rose Brady

6.1. Diploma in Working with Children in Art Therapy. The course launches on 14 January and there has been plenty of interest and lots of applications for it. People have provided useful feedback on how the course might be developed and made more accessible. BAAT is now working on a part-time version that could be done over two years.

6.2. ARTiculate. There has been considerable interest in the Diploma course from other professionals working with children who are not art therapists. In response BAAT has designed the ARTiculate course aimed at non-art therapy staff working in educational settings. It can be delivered at introductory, intermediate or advanced levels depending on the needs and experience of the staff and setting.

6.3. Social media. Information about the Diploma and ARTiculate course is available in the Courses and Conferences section on BAAT website. Alex McDonald is promoting both courses across all BAAT's social media platforms.

7. AGM 2017 planning

Council discussed the current proposal for the theme and title of the AGM. Val Huet said she had spoken with Blanka Hubbena and the event will probably be held in one of the University of Wales sites in Cardiff. Speakers from each of the different countries in the UK will talk about the current changes in the working environment and how this is affecting practice. The sources of work in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland could be identified, with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis being done for each country. Val will follow this with a presentation on the research being undertaken to provide outcome evidence and the areas where further evidence is needed. Tim Wright suggested also doing an infographic mapping exercise to show where art therapists are working and which client groups they are working with. Council agreed on the new title of 'Innovating practice: meeting the needs of a changing landscape'.

8. Update of Supervision Guidelines

The review of supervision guidelines was discussed under the Chair's report (see point 3.4).

9. Newsbriefing report - Nicki Power

Nicki updated Council on Newsbriefing under the Vice-Chair's report (see point 4.3)

10. IJAT Inscape - Whittaker Scott.

10.1. New format. The first copy of IJAT Inscape in the new format (see point 9.4, minutes of 24 September 2016 Council meeting) was published in November.

10.2. Copy flow. A queue of articles accepted for publication is building up, with a full quota already for the first issue of 2017. The editorial board has informed authors of accepted papers that there may be a wait for publication.

10.3. Art therapy and learning disabilities special issue. Simon Hackett, special issue editor, and Whittaker are working on this to be the second IJAT Inscape of 2017.

10.4. Expert reviewers. Sue Holttum has agreed to be an expert reviewer for IJAT Inscape. She will provide expert review on issues relating to research methods in art therapy.

10.5. Editorial board. The meeting set for 25 November had to be postponed and will now be held in January 2017. Work is continuing on the person specification for the Associate editor post.

11. Service user involvement - Ami Woods

11.1. Evidence Based Co-Design (EBCD) in a mental health setting. Interviews, using patient experience questionnaires, will start in December with patients on mental health acute wards. This has been requested by the NHS Trust following several serious incidents.

11.2. St George's Researchnet. The Learning Disabilities/Autistic Spectrum Disorder/Mental Health group is continuing work on writing up a co-produced article, funded by an award from St George's Innovative Research Projects. This will be the group's focus over the next twelve months.

12. BAAT Website and Social Media - Alex McDonald

12.1. Social Media Platforms (SMPs). Alex reported on the traffic on BAAT's SMPs which all have a marked rise in followers. BAAT's Facebook account now has 6,824 followers, its Twitter account has 2,181 followers, and the LinkedIn account has 1,669. The most popular posts now are about aspects of BAAT's work whereas previously it was humorous ones.

12.2. Social Media Team. Lex Bagust is now covering the SMPs at weekends and will provide cover in December and January when Alex is on leave. Katerina Panayi joined the team for the Attachment and the Arts conference.

12.3. IJAT Inscape. Taylor and Francis and BAAT are working together to identify articles from the journal to make free access to help promote BAAT conferences and campaigns.

13. Regional Groups and Countries

13.1. Regional Group Network Co-ordinator. Tobias Arnup has taken over this role from Nigel Durkan and attended his first network meeting on 1 October, at which Tim Wright was also present.

13.2. Northern Ireland. Jayne McConkey reported that setting up the Centre for Arts Therapies continues to progress. It is still hoped that the MSc in Art Psychotherapy course at Ulster University can restart in September 2017 but it may have to be put back a year. The regional group is to host a CPD event on working with people who were sexually abused as children.

13.3. Scotland. Patricia Watts gave her first report to Council in her new role as Professional Officer for Scotland. She has been focusing on networking and making contact with relevant organisations and agencies. Patricia has e-mailed BAAT members in Scotland and is working on reconfiguring the BAAT Scotland forum. She will be supporting the Scottish BAAT regional groups and is currently working with Mary Rose Brady to set up a programme of CPD courses in Scotland. In the new year Patricia will be attending meetings and developing links with professional groups in Scotland including the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Allied Health Professions Federation, and British Association of Music Therapists.

13.4. Wales. There is currently no representative (see point 2.4 above).

14. Special Interest Groups

14.1. Art Therapists in Education (ATE). Rodney Dee reported the SIG has been updating its membership list, which has provided a useful mapping exercise. Mary Rose Brady attended the ATE meeting on 19 November to talk about the new BAAT Diploma course. There was also a chance for SIG members to continue the work being done to develop guidelines for art therapists working in education. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2017.

14.2. Art Therapy and Learning Disability. Nicki Power reported on the SIG's Creative Discoveries conference in November. Despite initial concerns about slow bookings all the places were taken with over 90 people attending. Val Huet added a vote of thanks to Nicki for stepping in at the last minute to give a presentation on resilience because the intended presenter was indisposed.

15. Dates of the next Council meetings

25 February 2017
20 May 2017 (AGM)
1 July 2017
23 September 2017
9 December 2017

16. Any Other Business

No further issues were raised for report or discussion.

17. Elected Council members

17.1. Feedback from the Educators meeting and the Northern Ireland course proposal. A number of issues were discussed, in particular BAAT's new Level 5 Diploma in Working with Children in Art Therapy course. Mary Rose Brady explained that the training was set up in

response to the level of requests for advice and support BAAT received around safeguarding issues. It will provide art therapists working with children aged 4 - 18 with the additional skills needed to work confidently in this complex area of practice. There was also a fruitful discussion on ways of enhancing communication between BAAT and the Educators group to facilitate collaboration over a range of issues in future. This will include work on evidence for practice, legal issues, approaches to research, service user involvement, and curriculum review and development.

Action: Agreement in principle that Mary Rose Brady and Val Huet produce an options paper on collaborating with Queen Margaret University in Belfast, with the aim of restarting the MSc in Art Psychotherapy course.

17.2. Update on BAAT remuneration policy. Tim Wright led on this section. All BAAT employed staff present left the room prior to his presentation and the following discussion. Tim then talked through the discussion document he had produced following the last Council meeting. The consensus then had been that a fixed salary system was preferred over performance-related pay. Tim had consulted the ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations) Good Pay Guide and the Charity Commission's report of the enquiry into senior executive pay. These had provided the basis for the suggested appraisal process for the BAAT CEO included in the discussion document. Tim then opened the document to discussion, in particular whether to (i) accept the suggested appraisal process and (ii) the proposed salaries for BAAT staff in the period 2017-18. Following a vote (see Action below) the BAAT employed staff were asked back into the meeting for feedback on the discussion and to hear the Council members decision.

Action: Council voted in favour of implementing the suggested appraisal process and to accept the salary scale proposed for BAAT staff in the period 2017-18.

17.3. A discussion about externally validated courses was held over to the next meeting.