

BAAT Council meeting
12-4 pm, 13 December 2014
24 – 27 White Lion Street, London N1 9PD
Draft minutes

Present

Council members. Tobias Arnup, Mary Rose Brady, Tony Chenery, Rachael King (Ex-officio Chair), Nicki Power, Simon Richardson (Hon. Secretary), Richard Whitaker (Vice-Chair), Tim Wright (Chair).

In attendance: Val Huet (Chief Executive Officer), Joan Woddis (BAAT Vice-President).

1. Apologies for absence and approval of minutes

1.1. Apologies. Elizabeth Aylett, Emer Douglas, Nigel Durkan, Jayne McConkey, Ami Woods.

1.2. Corrections to the Minutes for the Council meeting on 27 September 2014.

1.2.1. Point 12.2.3. in the minutes of 27 September: Mike Hennessy. Rachael King requested that this point be reworded.

1.2.2. Point 16.2. in the minutes of 27 September: BAAT Policy Officer (Scotland). This post will be for one day a week initially, not two.

2. Matters arising

Minutes for the Council meeting on 27 September 2014.

2.1. Special Interest Groups terms of reference. The generic letter that was intended to be sent out to the SIGs is being redrafted and will be circulated in the new year.

2.2. Complaints to BAAT. A standard letter for BAAT to send to members who have been abusive either verbally or in writing towards BAAT staff has now been drafted and agreed.

2.3. IJAT Inscape. Whittaker Scott has been appointed as the new editor. See also points 8.1 and 9.1 below.

2.4. Dual Experience research group. Work on this group has lapsed because of the time Val Huet has had to spend on IT and staffing issues. The aim is to restart the group in the new year.

2.5. AGM 2015 planning. The AGM will be held in Edinburgh and work has begun on finding a suitable venue.

3. Chair's report - Tim Wright

3.1. Psychosis SIG Task and Finish guideline group. Tim attended the first meeting of the group which was held on 7 November. A basic work plan was agreed for developing NICE accredited practice guidelines, with the aim of them being ready by summer 2016. See also point 7.1 below.

3.2. Curriculum review. The curriculum review group is currently redrafting the document it will send out to various stakeholders, beginning with the art therapy educators. The aim is for this consultation process to run over the next twelve months, with the revised curriculum ready for publication in March 2016. The review group are looking at how the BAAT website can be used to record feedback from members.

4. Vice Chair's report - Richard Whitaker

4.1. National AHP Informatics Task Force Group. Richard is working with David Pratt, a dramatherapist, to produce a policy document that will bring together all the work done so far by the arts therapies professions on information management.

4.2. National Audit of Psychological Therapies. BAAT now endorses the accreditation programme for the psychological therapies.

4.3. SIG Google groups. The settings for the SIG Google groups need to be reset as they appear to have been hacked. Spam e-mails are being sent out from some accounts.

5. Chief Executive Officer's report - Val Huet

5.1. BAAT office. Yoko Chester has returned for two days a week to cover the membership work as Farhad Afghani is signed off on long term sick leave until at least 11 January 2015. Simi Valecha is helping to cover some of Samantha Vassell's work while she is on maternity leave. Elaine Elliott's post is currently under review as part of the reorganisation of staff roles and responsibilities being undertaken.

5.2. HCPC campaign to highlight arts therapists' state registered status. Val met with the HCPC communications team on 4 December. HCPC has set aside £10,000 to spend on the campaign by the end of the financial year. Val will be contacting BAAT members for case vignettes to be used as part of this promotion.

5.3. Public Health England (PHE). Val met with PHE, along with representatives from the other arts therapies, on 12 November to discuss how to develop a set of outcome measures that can demonstrate art therapy effectiveness. PHE are aware that art therapy services are not being commissioned because of a lack of such information. Val is to attend a follow-up meeting on 19 December with London School of Economics health researchers who are interested in helping arts therapists develop suitable outcomes measures.

5.4. Budget report. Recruitment and income from BAAT's short courses is up and there is still strong demand for places. BAAT may end up with a small deficit over this financial year because of the expenses incurred in setting up the new IT database and the website update.

However, its overall economic situation is strong enough to cope with this. Val added that there has been a very positive response to the CPD update facility on the website.

5.5. BAAT research. Sue Holttum will be working for BAAT two days a week from January 2015. She will be using some of this extra time to bid for more research funding for BAAT. Sue has also been working on podcasts that can be uploaded to the BAAT research library.

6. Art Therapy and Digital Media: guideline working group

Emer Douglas had sent her apologies prior to the meeting.

7. Art Therapy with Psychosis Task and Finish Group

7.1. Survey of members. A Survey Monkey questionnaire is being prepared by Neil Springham and Sue Holttum, which art therapists working with psychosis will be invited to complete. The results of this survey should be ready for publication by Easter 2016.

8. Newsbriefing - Val Huet

8.1. New issue. The December 2014 issue has recently been sent out to BAAT members. A new co-editor is to be sought to work with Val Huet as the current co-editor, Whittaker Scott, is to take over the role of editor of IJAT Inscape from Tim Wright.

9. IJAT Inscape - Tim Wright

9.1. New editor. Whittaker Scott was appointed the editor of IJAT Inscape on 28 November. Tim Wright will stay on in an ex-officio capacity for a handover period.

9.2. Aims and Scope statement. A statement is being drafted with an emphasis on research.

9.2. Matisse Study. This continues to generate lively debate within the profession. The March 2015 issue of Inscape will include a paper by Sue Patterson and others responding to Chris Wood's critique of the Matisse Study.

10. Service User involvement

Ami Woods had sent her apologies. A written report was circulated with the Council meeting pack.

11. BAAT website and social media

11.1. Website and social media sites. To develop their potential fully BAAT will work towards appointing a Social Media officer. See point 16.1 below.

12. Regional Groups and Countries

12.1. Regional Group Network Co-ordinator. Nigel Durkan had sent his apologies.

12.2. Scotland. Tony Chenery drew Council's attention to the minutes of the BAAT Scotland meeting held on 28 November, which were circulated with the Council meeting pack.

12.3. Wales. Elizabeth Aylett had sent her apologies. A written report was circulated with the Council meeting pack.

12.4. Northern Ireland. Jayne McConkey had sent her apologies. A written report was circulated with the Council meeting pack.

13. Special Interest Groups

Reports and business relating to the SIGs were held over until the next meeting.

14. Dates of the next Council meetings

7 March 2015

16 May 2015 (AGM in Scotland)

15. Any Other Business

15.1. AGM Planning. BAAT Scotland will look for a venue in Edinburgh which can hold around 120 people for the 2015 AGM.

15.2. Art therapy presentations. An organisation in Russia has contacted BAAT to ask if there are art therapists who would be interested in giving introductory presentations on working with children. Expressions of interest will be sought from BAAT members.

15.3. Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) restructure. Rachael King suggested it might be timely to revisit the question of having a psychological therapies section in the HCPC, to raise the profile of mental health services and the people using them. Val Huet suggested a first step might be to approach the British Psychological Society.

15.4. Private Practice and Supervisor register applications. Tobias Arnup reported to Council on the applications that he, Nicki Power and Simon Richardson had looked through earlier before the meeting. There were a larger number of applications than usual, a trend that seemed likely to continue. This had led the three of them to think a more defined review structure might be needed to handle this volume of applications on a regular basis. The question of how decisions should be conveyed to applicants needed to be decided too.

16. Elected Council members

16.1. Update on staffing in BAAT office. Val Huet reported on issues relating to two BAAT office staff whose posts will become redundant as part of the planned reorganisation.

16.2. BAAT office reorganisation proposals. Val presented a discussion document in which the case for setting up and/or restructuring posts was presented.

16.2.1. New posts:

- a Professional officer, to work 2 days a week, to work as a deputy to the CEO

- a Social Media officer, to work a set number of hours per week, to develop and maintain BAAT's social media presence
- a Professional officer (Scotland), to work 1 day a week initially, to represent the profession in the different health, parliamentary, and local authority frameworks in Scotland

16.2.2. Restructured posts:

- Membership officer, to work 2 days a week, to maintain the membership register
- Finance officer (maternity cover), to work 3 days a week while Samantha Vassell is on maternity leave
- Short Courses officer, to work 3 days a week but take on other responsibilities as part of the post including booking venues and tutors

16.2.3. A proposed timescale for implementation in 2015:

- Professional officer: post to be advertised in January, successful applicant to start work in April
- Social Media officer: post to be advertised in May, successful applicant to start work in September
- Professional officer (Scotland): post to be advertised in September, successful applicant to start work in November

16.2.4. Council members discussed the proposals put forward by Val. When put to a vote, Council voted unanimously in favour of their implementation.

16.3. One-off payment to CEO for 5-day a week working. Val Huet left the room prior to this issue being discussed. Council then considered how best to recognise the 5-day a week working (from September to December 2014 inclusive) that had been necessary for Val to deal with the complicated additional IT and staffing issues that had arisen.

Council decided that, as Val works on a 4-day a week contract, to pay her for the additional day over the period for which 5-day a week working was needed. When put to a vote Council voted unanimously to endorse this, with the recognition that it was a one-off payment in exceptional circumstances.