

Chair: role description

Working in partnership with the Chief Executive, the Chair provides strategic leadership for the organisation, ensuring that Council (the Board) is effective in its task of setting and implementing the organisation's strategy and ensuring good governance.

The Chair plays a crucial role:

- as a key spokesperson for the organisation and the profession;
- overseeing the strategic direction of the organisation;
- ensuring that it is well governed and managed;
- and that we meet all our statutory obligations.

Like other Council members, the Chair is required to be a full member of the British Association of Art Therapists and is elected by full members at an Annual General Meeting to serve as the Chair and a Director of our professional membership body - a limited company.

The Chair needs to be able to commit to attending scheduled Council meetings and the AGM and work closely with the Chief Executive between meetings. The role requires a commitment of around one day-a-week and to recognise this, a Honoraria is payable.

Duties of the Chair

- Lead the organisation in partnership with the Chief Executive, ensuring that Council is effective in setting and implementing the organisation's strategy.
- Ensure the Board is well run and advances the purpose and values of the organisation as set out in our strategic plan.
- Alongside the Chief Executive, represent the organisation externally at a high level and to our members.
- Lead and steer the Board to ensure the organisation is well governed.
- Manage any potential conflicts of interest on the Board to ensure probity is maintained and there is appropriate transparency.
- Ensure a productive relationship between Council members and between Council and the Chief Executive and create an environment to help develop an high performing Board team
- Develop and maintain a creative and productive relationship with the Chief Executive, ensuring the Chief Executive is well supported to deliver the strategic plan and appropriately hold the Chief Executive to account for its delivery.

Like all other Council members, the Chair is also responsible for:

- Ensuring that the organisation acts within its powers.
- Promoting the success of the organisation for the benefit of members, by exercising their responsibility for the management of the organisation.
- Ensuring that the organisation pursues its objects, as defined in its governing documents, by developing and agreeing a long-term strategy.
- Ensuring that the organisation complies with its articles of association, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Ensuring that the organisation applies its resources in pursuance of its objects.
- Ensuring that the organisation defines its goals and evaluates performance against agreed targets.
- Ensuring operational, financial, and reputational risk is understood and managed.
- Safeguarding the good name and values of the organisation.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient management and administration of the organisation, including having appropriate policies and procedures in place.
- Exercising independent judgement and reasonable care, skill, and diligence.
- Ensuring conflicts of interest are avoided, by not accepting benefits from third parties and by declaring any interests in existing or proposed transactions or arrangements.

Person specification

The Chair should have:

- Experience of leading an organisation or senior management experience to ensure they understand and can effectively undertake this pivotal role.
- Previous experience as a BAAT Council member to ensure they understand the complexities and issues facing the organisation.
- Ability to command professional respect and lead the Board.
- Experience of being (or ability to be) an effective and respected spokesperson for the organisation and profession to policy makers, media, opinion formers and commissioners.
- A commitment to work closely in partnership with the Chief Executive with an understanding of the importance of this crucial relationship to ensure the organisation is well led and ensure strategic thinking and vision.
- A commitment to the organisation, its aims, and objectives
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of

being a director.

- An understanding of the confidential nature of some of the reports that will be shared with Council and a commitment to always maintain confidentiality appropriately.
- Good, independent judgement and an ability to think creatively.
- An open and resilient approach that demonstrates an interest in engaging with on-going dialogue, holding in mind that differences of opinion can have the potential for innovation and support the future growth of our profession.
- A willingness to offer constructive challenge in a collegiate way.
- An understanding of, and commitment to, the collective nature of the Board's decision-making, including those occasions when a 'majority vote' must be taken in circumstances where a consensus view could not be reached.
- A commitment to the organisation's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy and strategy
- A commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.
- Ability to commit one day-a-week to the role plus ability to attend four Council meetings per year and the AGM (all usually held on Saturdays), other ad-hoc meetings, hold monthly on-line member drop-in session for members and contribute to email discussions between meetings.
- Ability to travel around the UK to meet with members and other stakeholders (out of pocket expenses are paid).

Our objects as stated in our Articles of Association are:

1. Within the fields of art therapy and other creative activities as forms of therapy' the advancement of mental and physical health; and the advancement of education, particularly but not exclusively by:
 - being the 'learned society' for UK art therapy In all aspects of knowledge enhancement and advancement
 - maintaining a professional network of therapists operating In these fields
 - supporting training and research In relevant fields
 - supporting best practice and professional conduct
 - raising public and professional awareness and understanding of the relevant fields
2. The promotion and protection of Its members' Interests and the provision of such services for Its members' benefit as the Council may decide from time to time.



Conflict of interest

It is important that the Chair understands any potential conflicts of interest and, if appropriate, declare them accordingly.

British Association of Art Therapists
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