

BAAT Chair's Update – October to December 2022

Reflecting back over the past few months since we last met, I am struck by the pace of change that we are all having to manage and the number of challenges that we face – increasing global instability, political uncertainty, rising energy costs and interest rates, and on-going travel disruptions. We know that all of these will add to difficulties that the service users that we support will face and also impact the organisations in which this important work is held. In our own lives we will each probably need to adjust the way that we live and work a little, in order to respond to these new circumstances.

The theme of our Annual Conference this month, *Art Therapy, Trauma in Society and Social Activism*, seemed especially resonant in this context. The day was very well attended, with inspiring contributions from Daniel Regan, Karen Treisman, the Array Collective and two fascinating videos in which art therapists' shared their practice. The creativity, resilience and passion for bringing change to communities that art therapists bring to their work really shone out for me on the day.

I am delighted to report that the Coalition for Inclusion and Anti-Oppressive Practice that BAAT belongs to has now developed its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Toolkit. This was commissioned for psychotherapy and counselling educators and written by Marcelline Menyié and Danielle Osajivbe-Williams. The toolkit will be available from January and launched in February. We are in the process of arranging an event with the authors in January or early February, which will give us the chance to share the toolkit with BAAT members, explain what it offers, and encourage art therapists, supervisors and art therapy educators to use this resource to enhance and develop their practice. This is an important part of our EDI strategy and I was very pleased to be able to review the final draft of the toolkit this week.

The HEE Arts Therapies Apprenticeship procurement process came to an end, with University of Teeside and Gloucester University awarded these contracts. We will be meeting representatives from these trainings next week to explore what needs to be in place - in the curriculum, in practice, and in personal therapy - to support students on this new pathway to succeed and to thrive in our profession.

Regular meetings with CEO, starting to explore the wider professional landscape and the partners and stakeholders that we need to develop or build our relationships with in order to raise awareness of art therapy and to support our members. I have very much valued having our new Professional Officer on board. She is doing an excellent job responding to enquiries and taking the learning from these, so we can develop the right resources for our members. We have met regularly to talk through some of the implications of the sort of issues that have arisen for members.

I also met a researcher about an AHP Curriculum research project and another about an HEE advanced practice project.

Ongoing regular meetings and tasks:

- Held monthly Chair drop-in meetings for members
- HCPC EDI Forum
- Attended some of the fortnightly HEE Education and Training network meetings; Liliana Montoya De La Cruz has now taken on this liaison role for BAAT.