

BAAT Chair's Update – February to May 2022

The Spring period, since our last meeting, has been a busy one with many strands of work within our profession unfolding at pace. Work has continued on the website and re-branding and I have liaised regularly with our CEO about this. I also met our Operations Manager and the Design Consultant for an update, after which I was able to coordinate the development of Council's draft Briefing document for the illustrator.

I spent two days in March reading and listening to presentations from art therapists completing their BAAT Supervision Diploma, serving as the Internal Assessor for these Vivas. It was inspiring to see the candidates' in-depth thinking about the complex work being held by their supervisees. I was also impressed by their ability to look across all of the layers in the system that might impact practice, which showed a real sensitivity to the possible impact of culture and difference and a good awareness of other professionals' roles too.

Due to an unexpected bereavement within the staff team, over the Easter period, I again took on responsibility for answering BAAT members' enquiries. BAAT Vice-Chair and I have since worked with our CEO to develop a job description for a Professional Advisor, who will take on this work after the summer. The post holder will provide expert clinical and professional advice to the Chief Executive and other colleagues to support the organisation to deliver our work programme, provide clinical and professional advice directly to our members, and ensure BAAT's guidance is up to date and reflects current best practice across a range of settings and sectors.

Our CEO and I have continued to develop links with NHS Scotland Arts Therapies Strategy Group. We have also asked for more regular communications from BAAT Scotland, so that we are aware of the valuable work that is being done by this working group. These briefings will be provided by our Scottish Officer, who will now provide the practical support needed to enable more regular feedback from BAAT Scotland.

I attended the book launch for an exciting new publication, "Intersectionality in the Arts Psychotherapies". I also attended an HEE EDI workshop day, which was run for all of the AHP professional bodies so that we could share practice and ideas to ensure that this important work continues to develop across the professions.

There was an HEE Arts Therapies Apprenticeship Webinar, which enabled businesses, colleagues working in HEI, and any other interested parties to learn about arts therapies apprenticeships and the HEE procurement process. This stage of the work is now concluded, as the procurement phase has started - HEIs will submit their bids to take on setting up and running this new type of training pathway. This is excellent news for our profession and it should mean that arts therapy apprenticeships could be up and running as soon as September 2023.

I attended the recent BAAT Educators' meeting and was able to share an update about some of the work that Council has been engaged with. It was helpful to hear some of the challenges being faced by colleagues, but also the many exciting new areas of practice and new approaches being explored by art therapy training organisations.

Over the past month, I have had several conversations with members who were thinking about accepting a nomination for BAAT Council. All noted how much they'd appreciated the video that Sophia Cowx, one of our current Council members, had made to help people to better understand the role and commitment and to encourage people to stand. It is lovely to see the growing interest in this area of our work as a profession and it looks like we will have more nominees than available spaces this year. This will mean that members would have the chance to read what each nominee wishes to achieve in the role and to choose candidates whose aims reflect their own priorities and concerns.

Ongoing regular meetings and tasks:

- Held monthly Chair drop-in meetings for members
- Bi-monthly "From the Chair" update for the newsletter
- Attended some of the fortnightly HEE Education and Training network meetings (as Dominik Havsteen-Franklin has now taken on this liaison role for BAAT).