

BAAT Chair's Update – December 2021 to February 2022

Since the start of the new year, we have been busy with a whole range of tasks related to the BAAT website re-development and re-branding process. This has taken up a lot of staff time too, but the work appears to be unfolding very well. The initial branding proposals will be reviewed by Council on the 25th January 2022, so these can be discussed more fully at the upcoming Council meeting.

Our CEO and I have continued to develop links with NHS Scotland Arts Therapies Strategy Group and liaised with BAAT members who were involved when BAAT Scotland was first set up, to better understand the aims of this area of work. We have been informed that the current BAAT Scotland Chair is stepping down this month and that several other roles will be vacant, so additional support for this important work may be needed. As a first step, we would like to ensure that the regular communications from BAAT Scotland about its work, upcoming issues, opportunities or areas of concern resume. We have been told this month that minutes of their meetings always used to be sent to Council. This appears to have stopped over the past couple of years, which has made it harder for Council to understand what BAAT needs to do to support our members in Scotland.

Since December I have attended a series of meetings convened by HEE to support Arts Therapy Apprenticeships, by setting up a National Engagement and Procurement process. This work is funded by HEE and should make it easier for the apprenticeship route to training as an art therapist to become a reality. This would be so important for widening participation in our field and help to include people who might otherwise have struggled to train as an art therapist.

Ongoing regular meetings and tasks:

- Held monthly Chair drop-in meetings for members
- Bi-monthly "From the Chair" update for the newsletter
- Attended HEE Education and Training network meetings