

BAAT Chair's Update – October to Decemeber 2021

Since Council took the decision in October to proceed with the website and re-branding project, much of my focus has been on supporting the team with this new workstream. I have taken part in a 1:1 interview with the brand consultant and written a “persona” for the user experience workshop. I set up a telephone survey to ensure that we collected members’ view from across the UK and together with a team of other Council members, we made calls to over 50 BAAT members.

The conversations with members led to some particularly fruitful discussions about our work in Scotland. As a result, we have now re-established a direct connection with the NHS Scotland Arts Therapies Strategy Group. I have also liaised with other NHS colleagues, who wanted to share good practice examples about how they had developed posts in their Trust.

After being introduced by Pamela Whitaker (who leads the training in Ulster), I met Aisling Brennan from the Irish Association of Creative Arts Therapists (IACAT). This was very helpful and we will continue to explore possible shared interests/partnerships as these opportunities arise.

I was pleased to attend the “Attachment and the Arts” conference and it was lovely to see so many council members there too. There were some very interesting presentations and it was a very successful event. It will be lovely to see the event shaped a little differently in the coming year, as we have asked for staff to explore ways in which members might be able to put forward ideas for presentations, so that we can encounter some of the innovative practice that is being developed across the UK.

Ongoing regular meetings and tasks:

- Held monthly Chair drop-in meetings for members
- Monthly “From the Chair” update for the newsletter
- Attended Coalition for Diversity and Inclusion meetings – the Toolkit tender deadline had to be extended, as there had not been sufficient expressions of interest.
- Attended HEE Education and Training network meetings.

While I had been responding to clinical membership enquiries, these have now been passed back will be undertaken by a BAAT staff member. I was pleased to be able to support the staff team with this operational task, over a time of change for the organisation.