

BAAT Chair's Update – March to May 2021

Since our last meeting in March, our work to develop a strategy for BAAT has continued and some priorities and areas of focus are starting to emerge. This is an important area of work for Council, as it will enable BAAT to plan ahead, to build relevant strategic links, to raise awareness of our work, and to be more responsive to our members. I have now set up a working group to develop our EDI policy, which I know is a priority for art therapists. This will include members from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. The group has now reviewed several EDI policies and used these to develop a first draft of a policy for BAAT. This draft will be reviewed by our HR advisors and after this, go out to consultation so that BAAT members can share their views and ideas.

I also reviewed our BAAT Council nomination form and made some adjustments to this. These changes aim to provide more of the information that a prospective nominee may need about the role and work that is done by council members. Also, to engage wider and more diverse representation, so that Council truly reflects our membership and their priorities. I have held two monthly drop-in meetings for BAAT members, which led to some rich discussions about practice and about the guidance and resources that BAAT provides for members.

I have attended meetings of the AHPF on workforce planning, of the HCPC Education Forum and the HCPC Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum. In addition, I have taken part in an HEE project, which enabled BAAT to work in collaboration with a group of primary schools in Birmingham. This project aimed to raise awareness of art therapy and the work that art therapists do amongst school children, by deepening their understanding of the potential of metaphor, imagination and art-making for communication and wellbeing and linking this to teaching about literacy.

AGM Planning

Our AGM will be taking place on Saturday, 17th July 2021 Planning continues, as there are many variables that are unfortunately still changing day-by-day There will be on-line proxy voting, so all members can vote Afternoon Session (on Zoom):

Doing the Work: Understanding Trauma and the Impact of Racism and Disadvantage

Speakers: Judy Ryde, Corrina Eastwood & Mary Anne Ibe Followed by small groups, with art-making and discussion