

BAAT Chair's Update – December 2020 to March 2021

Since the last meeting, I have been working with our new CEO and council to plan steps needed to develop a wider strategy to guide our work. At a time of change there are any opportunities, but also possible threats that we may need work together to mitigate.

1. Engaging with BAAT Members:

I have held two monthly drop-in meetings for BAAT members. These meetings are different each time, shaped by interests, needs and concerns of the members who attend.

2. Engaging with BAAT Groups

- a) BAAT Scotland: I was pleased to attend the BAAT Scotland's Council meeting in February.
- b) Educators: I took part in two Educator's meetings arranged to consider practice placements and the way different courses continue to adapt teaching and practice to respond to Covid-19.
- c) Special Interest Groups: I arranged and attended the last Joint meeting in January with our new CEO and our Special Interest Group Coordinator. I also collated feedback from coordinators for this meeting.
- d) Regional Groups: I arranged and attended the last Joint meeting in January with our new CEO and collated feedback from coordinators.
- e) IJAT-Inscape: I attended the recent IJAT Editorial Board Meeting and was pleased to meet some of the new associate editors and to hear about the many successes that the team has had over recent months.

3. BAAT Staff

I have been supporting and working with our new CEO as part of a planned induction, since he started in post on 4th January 2021. I continue to have some contact with staff, as needed to support our members.

4. HCPC, Partners and Stakeholders

- a) I have liaised with the HCPC about a variety of issues raised by members. I will be attending the upcoming HCPC Education Forum meeting and the third HCPC Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum meeting.
- b) I have continued to liaise with the Chairs and CEO of our fellow HCPC Arts Therapies professional bodies, HEE and AHPs networks. I attended the fortnightly HEE/ Professional Body Education and Training Network meetings.

5. Ongoing projects

- ***Developing and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Strategy***: As part of this ongoing work, I attended a held workshop on Exploring the barriers to inclusion within Counselling and Psychotherapy Education and Training, organised by the Coalition for Diversity and Inclusion. This will inform some of the work that we will do with members in the Spring, when we run focus groups to discuss next steps with members.
- ***Getting to know BAAT and the wider Landscape***: BAAT President, Di Waller, and I have completed a draft of a presentation that could help members to understand BAAT. This will now be reviewed. After final changes have been made, it could be recorded and distributed to members via SIGs, in the first instance.
- ***Curriculum Review***: We are pleased that the course leaders of all of the trainings seem to have agreed to work together to develop Curriculum Guidelines for art therapy trainings, which can inform practice across the UK. This process will support increasing diversity and inclusivity, enable us to draw upon feedback from BAAT members and other stakeholders, to think critically about the knowledge and skills that are needed to enter the profession, and to make recommendations about the process of training art therapists. This is an important step and will support our profession to be able to develop and to adapt to the changing world in which we find ourselves, so that trainees are ready for the workplace and have the skills that employers need to be able to support our communities at this very challenging time.