

## BAAT Chair's Update - September to December 2020

The main focus of my work since the last meeting has been on staff recruitment. I took part in two recruitment processes: for our new BAAT CEO, alongside fellow council members and representatives from two of our partner organisations; and for our new Professional Officer for Scotland, alongside the Chair of BAAT Scotland. I am delighted that we were able to fill both of the roles and look forward to working with the successful candidates.

### 1. Engaging with BAAT Members:

I have held three 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 AGM last week and to welcome their new Professional Officer and new council members into post.
- b) Educators: I took part in an Educator's meeting that was arranged to consider the HCPC consultation on the Standards of Proficiency. This was very helpful and points raised were fed into BAAT's consultation response. The Educators are hoping to meet again before Christmas to look in more detail at the way different courses are adapting teaching and practice to respond to Covid-19.
- c) Special Interest Groups: After reviewing the Minutes of the last meeting it was clear that the format for the Joint SIG Coordinators' meeting needed to be reviewed. We will be arranging a date for a longer meeting in January 2021, so that Gary our new CEO can attend this too. Liz Ashby will chair these meetings going forward, in her role as Special Interest Group Coordinator.
- d) IJAT-Inscape: I attended the recent IJAT Editorial Board Meeting and provided an update about Council's work, highlighting issues that may be relevant for their work.

### 3. BAAT Staff

As we do not have a CEO in post, I have taken on some aspects of the role, for example, representing BAAT at meetings with our partners. I have continued to liaise with members of the staff team.

### 4. HCPC, Partners and Stakeholders

- a) I attended the HCPC Education Quality Assurance Model workshop for professional bodies and gave feedback about the proposed new approach. Next week I will be attending the second 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 a meeting with Beverley Harden and Paul Chapman from HEE and then joined representatives from the other Arts Therapies to meet Dr Navina Evans, the new CEO of HEE. I attended the AHPF Board meeting, a series of AHPF Leadership Group meetings, and the fortnightly HEE/ Professional Body Education and Training Network meetings. The Leadership Group work has led to the development of funded places on a leadership course, which AHPs who are ethnicity and culturally diverse and who may have experienced racism in our society can apply for. This will be advertised to our members this week. Next week I will be attending the AHP and Professional Body Partnership Board meeting with our Chief Allied Health Professions Officer (England) – Suzanne Rastrick.

### 5. Other meetings

- Our CEO and I met David Cutler from the Baring Foundation to discuss their work supporting the use of the arts for wellbeing and to consider areas of shared interest that might lead to future partnership work.

### 6. Ongoing projects

- ***Developing and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Strategy***: As agreed with Council, I arranged a CPD workshop with Dr Dwight Turner to provide an opportunity for members to reflect on intersectionality and to explore their own experiences of discrimination and privilege. This was very well received and the recording will be available for all BAAT members on the website. The next step will be to arrange focus groups for discussion with members in which we can consider what may be needed in our profession, how to bring about these changes, and the steps we can take to address this through an EDI policy and strategy. I would value having council members'

participation with this process. This will help us to gather views to feed into the policy and also give members an opportunity to work with and get to know their representatives on Council better.

- ***Getting to know BAAT and the wider Landscape:*** BAAT President, Di Waller, and I have been working on a presentation to help members to understand BAAT and to become more familiar with the range of organisations and partners we engage with in the wider professional landscape. We hope that this could support members to feel confident about navigating this landscape and it may help them to be more able to find or develop new areas of work in the challenging times ahead.