



Election of Chair

Nominee: Claire Louise Vaculik

Proposer Professor Di Waller
Seconded Marianne Behm

Supporting statement of candidate

It has been an honour to serve as Chair of BAAT for the past three years. I stood in May 2020, because I wanted to give back to a profession that had offered me so many opportunities and to make art psychotherapy more accessible to service users across the UK. And I aimed to increase consultation with members and open up our events, so that we could highlight some of the amazing, innovative work that art therapists are doing to meet service users' needs in their area. Our CEO, Gary Fereday, has been pivotal in enabling me to follow through on these plans. After pushing for these, it was really heartening to see the high numbers responding to our consultations on the EDI policy, the strategic plan and on BAAT services. It was also a real pleasure to review proposals for the new members' video presentation section at our Annual Conference. I had hoped to be able to go around the regions to meet more members in person, but soon after nomination papers were submitted in March 2020 we went into lockdown. Thankfully we were able to set up the online Chair's drop-in instead, so I have been able to speak with different members each month for these past three years.

The past few years have been quite hard – trying to manage the impact of the pandemic on BAAT and our members, recruiting a new CEO, and starting to undertake some of the many changes that were needed in the organisation. On Council we have had to work together to build a secure footing for the organisation so that we can be ready to respond to the different challenges that art therapists face across the UK. This has included developing more structured, longer-term planning and systems that allow us to communicate more effectively with you. Both of which enable us to work in a more coordinated way. Innovations like the new website also enable us to communicate more effectively with the public and commissioners, so we can start to raise the profile of our unique profession and share the many benefits of art psychotherapy with others. Members have told me at my monthly Chair's drop-ins of some issues they've found that still need to be addressed, but most have said how pleased they are with the work we have done so far. Our Articles of Association still need to be updated, so that these are fit for purpose and up-to-date with current practice. After working hard with a consultant and arranging workshops so all members can understand what is being proposed and

ask any questions that arise for them, I hope that these changes will be passed at the upcoming AGM.

Looking ahead, there is more to do. If elected as Chair for a final term, I would support Council to work with Gary to develop the structured approach to public affairs and communication that is vital to ensure that as many people as possible across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales understand what art psychotherapy has to offer. I would also reach out to re-establish old relationships and build new relationships that can allow us to influence policy and commissioning, as this is being developed in all four nations. I want us to make sure that all people who want to access art therapy as their preferred form of support will have this option available to them, wherever they live. Members will each have an important role to play in this – as a first step, I have asked our new Senior Communications Officer to invite members to send in details of any interviews, articles and podcasts that they make, so that we can share and celebrate these successes. You will also have seen a call out for examples of innovative practice in work with older people, which BAAT will present at a meeting with Professor Sir Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England. I believe we need to be part of more conversations like this, explaining the benefits of art psychotherapy as policy is being developed – in the many practice areas in which our members work. Alongside this, I would like us to start to develop resources that will support even more of our members to feel confident to speak up publicly about their amazing work and about what art therapy has to offer.

I know that being a more inclusive profession is something that members are passionate about. I would continue to work with partners and stakeholders on shared projects to make resources available for members, which can support us all to work sensitively and effectively with difference. It is so important that all art therapists engage with these issues and update the way we work to take account of this learning. I also want to ensure that art therapists from all different backgrounds and life experiences have a positive experience through training, that they are well-prepared for the workplace, and that they enjoy long and fulfilling careers once on the register. To this end I have arranged for a new resource developed - a SIG specially for art therapy trainees. This will be coordinated by our IJAT Trainee & New Practitioner Advisors - Jess Baum and Sarah Jane Sellors. We hope that this will offer additional support for students on their training journey and a place to share experiences and learning with peers from different trainings.

Thank you for the trust that you placed in me. I must admit that I did not realise the scale of the task or how much the world was about to change, when I accepted the nomination last time. We have had to struggle through many challenging times together, but I think that the foundations we have now built are solid and well-formed enough to support a stage of growth and expansion for our profession.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank Gary, who I have so enjoyed working alongside since he joined us as CEO. We are very lucky to have him. And each of our BAAT staff members, who I have seen first-hand give such care, dedication and commitment to their work. Thanks also to our IJAT Editorial Board, led so capably by Alex Macdonald and Zoe

Moula, and to our amazing Regional and SIG coordinators. And finally, thanks to our members – nearly 3000 of you now – who together make up BAAT. Whatever this next stage in BAATs development holds, I feel so pleased to be part of this rich, creative art therapy community and thankful for the twenty or so years that I have been able to enjoy working in this ever-changing profession.

Election of Council Members (Directors)

Nominee: Simi Warah

Name of proposer Claire Louise Vaculik

Name of seconder Edit Biro-Hannah

Supporting statement of candidate

I am applying for the role of Council Member as I have a keen interest in participating in the growth and development of Art Therapy as a profession. My two special interest areas are Representation and Addiction and I hope to be able to make a difference in both.

I am passionate about ensuring that there is representation from different demographic groups and in 2020 received the UKCP Bursary to support students with diversity needs.

Being a member of the Indian ethnic community and growing up in a low-income family, I am constantly aware of the difference that I may offer. I am from a community where mental health is still very much a stigma and going to therapy is seen as something to be ashamed of, as well as something that is not financially viable.

I feel passionately about making art therapy more available for people like me, and for me this means contributing to serve others and be a role model. I would like to see more therapists being trained that represent people who I grew up with and worked alongside with in the voluntary sector before undertaking my own training later in life.

I have over 20 years of experience of working in Addiction in various health & social care settings, including at a management level for over 15 years. I am currently employed as an Integrative Arts Psychotherapist / Therapy Team Lead for the Priory, as well as maintaining a small private practise caseload. I currently teach the Addiction module on the MA IAP course at IATE.

In addition, I am an experienced manager, used to developing policies and protocols, conducting internal and external quality audits, and consulting / liaising with stakeholders of all different types. I have experience of ensuring that services meet the requirements of external registering bodies. I led my Drug & Alcohol service and team through a successful "Good" CQC inspection in 2020 with special consideration given to the "Well Led" aspects of the service.

I have a good understanding of current mental health and social policy and am a designated Safeguarding Lead in my current role. I understand and have experience of risk

management, clinical governance, and the legal framework of mental health services and professional accountability.

I maintain a keen desire to learn and continue with my own development. I have kept up with my CPD requirements try to ensure I am up to date with developments in the field. I recognise the need to work safely according to HCPC guidelines.

I am confident in my abilities and have a positive attitude and awareness of my limitations such as areas I am not as experienced in. I am aware this role will come with new challenges which I look forward to adding to my experiences and skill set.

Nominee: Dr Jessica Collier

Name of proposer: Claire Louise Vaculik

Name of seconder: Mandy Leonard

Supporting statement of candidate

Having worked throughout my career with women in prison, and women caught up in the criminal justice system as victim/perpetrators, I have seen how art therapy can support some of the most oppressed and marginalised people in society. I have disseminated this essential work through many publications and presentations, nationally and internationally, and would value the opportunity to bring my complex clinical experience and academic enquiry to the Council.

My particular interest is in advocating for a pluralistic, intersectional feminist position both in practice and policy. I hope this would further integrate reflexivity and professional humility into the BAAT leadership and decision-making processes and ensure a true diversity of voices are heard throughout the BAAT membership and those represented by BAAT members. This might include more interdisciplinary collaborations which honour the visual creativity and accessibility of art therapy whilst widening the possibilities for practice areas and research themes to inform change.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community I am passionate about the importance of clear and visible inclusion of divergent and different opinions and experience. I am excited that election to the BAAT Council would offer me the opportunity and challenge of developing governance and leadership skills, possibilities for discussion and collaboration in shaping progressive transformation, as well as highlighting the importance of using this privileged position to increase the focus on structural injustices which result in increasing inequality of opportunity, poor mental health and serious social deprivation.

Member proposal

Proposer: Professor Diane Waller

Seconder: Dr Susan Carr

That the British Association of Art Therapists develop ways to recognise and celebrate art therapists who have made outstanding contributions to our profession: whether through a long and significant career; through developing innovative and ground-breaking clinical practice or research; through leadership of the profession or a major contribution to our professional body.

Supporting statement

Art therapy as a profession has matured and flourished since the early pioneering days. Yet we can be shy of celebrating our successes compared to other similar professions. We would like to ask that Council to explore ways of recognising outstanding contributions to the profession through a range of ways including honorary membership, developing our own awards, or through supporting and encouraging members to be nominated for external awards. We believe that it is important to celebrate individual's work, but equally important to celebrate outstanding contributions to help increase the wider public awareness of the extraordinary work that art therapists do.

Council's response

Council recognises that art therapists have often not put themselves or colleagues forward for recognition for awards. Whilst we have recently developed awards for people submitting articles to the International Journal of Art Therapy, we have not developed a wider process of recognising significant achievements by art therapists. BAAT has over the years occasionally awarded honorary membership, but the criteria for this category of membership are unclear and need rethinking.

Council agrees that more can be done and will look at developing recognition through such concepts as fellowships and developing awards that could be presented at the AGM. Alongside this we wish to support ways of better identifying and encouraging art therapists to put themselves or colleagues forward for recognition in external awards, such as the Chief Allied Health Professions Officer (CAHPO) Awards (and four nation equivalents) that are given annually.

Special Resolution

That the document attached hereto be adopted as the Articles of Association of the company in replacement and to the exclusion of the existing articles

Statement from Council

Council is proposing changes to our Articles of Association. We hope you will support our proposal to create a better set of Articles which protect members, make it easier to understand how we work, and allow the Board and staff to deliver more for you.

We are a company limited by guarantee, which is a legal structure registered with Companies House: the regulator of all registered companies in England and Wales. Every registered company must have Articles of Association which define how the organisation is structured, who owns it, how it can deliver its core objectives, etc. Having an up-to-date and easily understood set of Articles of Association is considered good governance.

While the proposed changes are not significant, the way the Articles look and read would be. The new proposed format will follow the recommended template provided by Companies House. It suggests we have a simpler set of Articles and a comprehensive set of Bylaws and provide all the detail in a set of Bylaws.

The Bylaws will be the 'Rules' by which we will run the organisation and largely mirror exactly what is in the current document. They make it easier for members, Directors and staff to understand and follow them.

Specific changes also include:

- Explicitly allowing for 'virtual' AGMs in the future.
- Providing the Directors with the power to remove another Director in certain circumstances.
- Defining the profession as both art therapy and art psychotherapy
- Removing the power of a non-member to vote at a General Meeting. This is something that only another member should be allowed to do.
- Change the Bylaws to comply with current Data Protection Rules and protect member data from being obtained by other members – something which would be a serious data breach.

You can see all the proposed changes (including a short video presentation), and the proposed new Bylaws on our website [here](#)