



British Association of Art Therapists

Specialist Interest Group and Regional Group Bylaws

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INTRODUCTION

1. Nothing in these Bylaws shall contradict the Memorandum and Articles of Association. If there is any conflict the Articles of Association shall take precedence.
2. The use of the terms Board of Directors and Council, may be used interchangeably but shall have the same meaning.
3. For the sake of clarity, any reference to Member in these Bylaws shall mean a Full Member, as determined by the Membership Bylaws (i.e. not an Associate or Trainee unless specified).

POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

4. In accordance with Articles 7(1)(a) and 8 of the Articles of Association the Council may delegate parts of its business to committees, which shall abide by any rules established by the Council.
5. The Council may establish and approve a Special Interest Group if it:
 - a. would be in the interest of the profession and BAAT to do so,
 - b. is supported by sufficient members, and
 - c. abides by any rules or procedures established by the Council.
6. The Council may establish and approve a Regional Group if it:
 - a. would be in the interest of the profession and BAAT to do so,
 - b. is supported by sufficient members, and
 - c. abides by any rules or procedures established by the Council.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

7. The purpose of a Special Interest Groups (SIG) is to allow members to come together to develop their interest in a specific clinical area or a client group. Although SIGs do not have any formal powers or decision-making responsibilities for the professional body, they provide an important channel for two-way communication and can enable members to advise and support BAAT's work. The SIGs aim to:
 - a. Provide networking opportunities for Full (and where appropriate Trainee and Associate Members) with an interest in a particular clinical speciality or client group.
 - b. Raise the profile of art therapy/ art psychotherapy within that area of practice.
 - c. Advise BAAT on developments, or areas of concern, within the SIG's area of expertise.
 - d. Help members to share information, examples of best practice and to develop expertise about that clinical speciality or client group through their shared endeavours.
 - e. Facilitate the sharing of information between the group's members and BAAT, to:
 - f. ensure that members receive updates about any changes to this area of work that are shared with BAAT by partners, stakeholders or government bodies,
 - g. help BAAT to share the benefits of art therapy/ art psychotherapy in that clinical speciality or client group, as part of a wider communication and advocacy strategy for the profession.
 - h. Use the budget provided by BAAT to offer opportunities for CPD, in line with BAAT and HCPC guidelines.

8. Special Interest Groups are required to:

- a. come to an agreement each July about who their coordinator/s will be for the coming year and then inform the BAAT office.
- b. hold at least three regular meetings a year, either in-person or online, keeping a record of attendees and recording minutes of their discussions.
- c. arrange at least one CPD event each year.
- d. effectively manage their budget.
- e. elect their coordinator and any other relevant committee or representative roles, in accordance with any election procedures set out by the Council.
- f. ensure that at least 10% of the recorded membership of the SIG attend at least one meeting in any 12 month period.
- g. ensure that any decisions at SIG meetings are approved by the majority of members present.
- h. submit a short annual summary to the Council of their activity at the end of May each year.

9. A new Special Interest Group can be set up if the following criteria are met:

A proposal is developed by members and submitted to BAAT which sets out clearly:

- a. what the focus of the new SIG would be and why this could not be explored as part of the work carried out by the existing special interest groups, and
- b. a rationale for why this area of practice would benefit from attention and support, and
- c. the names and contact details of 20 Full Members who support the creation of the group and want to be involved in its work, and
- d. Council has considered the proposal at a Council meeting, agreed that the proposed focus of the group is sufficiently different from other groups and is considered appropriate for BAAT to be involved in, and confirmed that a new Special Interest Group can be established.

10. Inactive Special Interest Groups:

- a. BAAT reserves the right to close a special interest group that is unable to demonstrate that:
 - i. there is a group coordinator.
 - ii. there are a minimum of 20 members involved in the group.
 - iii. the group has held three meetings in the past 12 months.
 - iv. an annual report of their activity has been submitted to BAAT.

REGIONAL GROUPS

11. The purpose of Regional Groups is to support members in specific geographical areas and to enable us to work together as a community, to develop the profession and to advocate for service users to be able to access art psychotherapy. Although the groups don't have any formal role or decision-making responsibilities for the professional body, they provide an important channel for two-way communication and can enable members to advise and support BAAT's work. Regional Groups allow members in specific geographical areas to build a network, which can offer resources and support to members in that area. These groups aim to:

- a. Provide networking opportunities for Full (and where appropriate Trainee and Associate Members) in a particular geographical locality.
- b. Raise the profile of art therapy/ art psychotherapy within the region.
- c. Advise BAAT on developments, or areas of concern, within the region.

- d. Provide a communication route between members and BAAT, so that:
- e. information and resources that come to BAAT about that region can be shared with members.
- f. opportunities and challenges arising in the region can be shared with BAAT.
- g. Use the budget provided by BAAT to offer opportunities for CPD, in line with BAAT and HCPC guidelines.

12. Regional Groups are required to:

- a. come to an agreement each July about who their coordinator(s) will be for the coming year and then inform the BAAT office.
- b. aim to hold at least three meetings a year, either in-person or on-line, keeping a record of attendees and, if appropriate, recording minutes of their discussions;
- c. arrange at least one CPD event each year.
- d. elect their coordinator and any other relevant committee or representative roles, in accordance with any election procedures set out by the Council.
- e. ensure that at least 10% of the recorded membership of the SIG attend at least one meeting in any 12 month period.
- f. ensure that any decisions at SIG meetings are approved by the majority of members present.
- g. submit a short annual summary of their activity at the end of May each year

13. A new or amended Regional Group can be set up if the following criteria are met:

A proposal is developed by members and submitted to BAAT which sets out clearly:

- a. what the need for the new Regional Group would be and why this could not be explored as part of the work carried out by the existing Regional Group, and
- b. a rationale for why an existing Regional Group does not meet the requirements of the members in that region (i.e. the region has changed or the nature of the profession in that region requires the boundaries that define the region to be revised)

Or.

- c. Council has considered that a new Regional Group is required or that Regional Group boundaries should be amended to meet the needs of the profession and/or its members.

14. Inactive Regional Groups:

- a. BAAT reserves the right to close a Regional Group that is unable to demonstrate that:
 - i. there is a group coordinator.
 - ii. there are a minimum of members involved in the group to make it effective.
 - iii. the group has held three meetings in the past 12 months.
 - iv. an annual report of their activity has been submitted to BAAT.

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