The British Council for
Therapeutic Interventions With
Children Limited

5 Brayford Square,
London, England,
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www.bctiwc.org

Minutes of the Meeting held

Wednesday February 3rd 2021 at 2pm by Zoom

Present:
Lorna Lewis (LL) – Chair
Lynne Souter Anderson (LSA) – professional member
Christine Truelove (CT) – lay member
Anna Doherty (AD) – lay member
Keith Lampard (KL) - lay member
In attendance:
Monika Jephcott (MJ) PTUK
Eileen Braham - (EB) Representing the Clinical Team
Sophia O'Neill – (SO) Support for the Master's Programme

1. **Chair's opening remarks**
   Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including EB and SO who introduced themselves.

2. **Apologies for absence**
   Apologies were received from Mandy Posnett a professional member who needed to work with the children she is supporting.

3. **Conflict of Interest Declaration**
   LL reminded members of the requirement to declare any specific conflict of interest for agenda items. LSA declared membership of the BACP and National Counselling Society.

4. **Minutes of meeting held on 12.11.20**
   These were agreed as a correct record.

5. **Matters arising**
   None

6. **PTUK Directors Report (MJ)**
   MJ explained the restructuring of the office and recruiting of new staff including a new Operational Manager. MJ thanked the Clinical Team for their huge contribution to continue the legacy of the former registrar Jeff Thomas.

The office staff and MJ have been working with their IT providers rebuilding the websites and data-base, ensuring that they are all compatible with each other.
MJ reported that during her meetings with the Leeds Beckett University team, it was agreed that the current power point presentations can be converted to on line modules keeping in mind the importance of the practical components of the courses to ensure the competence of professional play therapists. BCTIWC endorsed MJ's decision.
MJ expressed her concern that during the second and third lockdowns a few therapists from PTUK had asked about offering therapy to children on line rather than face to face. Some were prompted by seeing this possibility being offered by therapists from other organisations. MJ and the Clinical Team believe that therapists working to the Holistic Integrative Model that PTUK accredits, cannot do therapy online. APAC do not train play therapists using talking therapy, they work through the Creative Arts with the child's unconscious. A child going into deep process cannot be held safely in a session on line and confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. The team also suggested that therapists should keep in regular contact with the children on line or any other acceptable communication means, on a weekly basis but using play, being playful but not using play therapy.

7. **Reaccreditation of PTUK, the link was sent to Council members to the Accreditation Decision of the PSA in June 2020**

1. PTUK should review its safeguarding process to ensure that it is integrated effectively…….

   MJ reported that the review has been undertaken and that the revised policy is now in place. MJ added that Safeguarding is a part of the certificate training and that emphasis is given to all registrants that Safeguarding is important and that it is their responsibility. To help with this, links were sent to registrants with templates for writing their own Safeguarding Policies, when needed.

2. PTUK should review and clearly separate the role of APAC and PTUK within certificates issued….

   PTUK is in the process of strengthening the separation of the role of APAC and PTUK.

3. PTUK should consider reviewing its complaint processes…

   PTUK has had an independent review of its complaints procedure which Chair of BCTIWC has seen. As a result some revision was undertaken.

8. **Unreasonably Persistent Contact and Unacceptable Behaviour Policy**
   This document had been circulated to members and the policy was thought to be useful and was approved.

9. **BCTIWC Annual Report of PTUK for PSA 2021**
   This document had been circulated to members and was approved.

10. **A Registrants was concerned about PTUKs response to the Black Lives Matter campaign**
    MJ explained the circumstances surrounding this complaint and the many and various ways in which this registrants has been offered opportunities to engage with PTUK to enhance PTUK's understanding and to develop empathy as a wider response to the Black Lives Matter campaign. Chair of BCTIWC has been kept informed and updated of all developments. It is

hoped the registrant will positively engage with the organisation and join a new group for diversity matters opened by the Clinical Team.

11. **Financial Report**
    LL reported that the annual accounts for BCTIWC 2019/20 had been prepared by Martin Thomas and were posted on the Companies House website.

12. **Any other business**
    Discussion about Leeds Beckett University suggesting that PTUK reduce the hours of practice needed during the Pandemic
    In spite of Leeds Becket proposal to lower the standards for qualification from 100 clinical hours to 75 this was rejected by the Clinical Director and the Clinical Team together with the suggestion of lowering the clinical case study work. BCTIWC discussed these suggestions and agreed that the standards, as they are accredited, should not be changed. It had already been agreed between the University and APAC that for 2020, 6 months of interruption of studies, would be implemented for all when appropriate.

    Discussion about an APAC student's criticisms about courses and support offered to students during the pandemic
    A student complained about the lack of support given to her by her Course Director which when investigated was shown not to be the case. The student's criticisms were discussed and after discussion it was agreed that BCTIWC supports MJ, the University and the Clinical team in contacting the student once more explaining again the offers made, and including the Unreasonably Persistent Contact and Unacceptable Behaviour Policy.

    Discussion about on-line modules for learning
    Some students are very happy about the introduction of changes to the learning styles initiated by the pandemic but others are questioning the way it is being implemented. After an explanation by EB The Council agreed that the implementation of the on-line modules was a good way of progressing the students training.

    Student extensions in 2021
    MJ explained that the interruption of study had been increased by 3 months so far in 2021 and that she is monitoring the situation and may increase this extension as needed this year.

    Registration 2021
    MJ informed BCTIWC that the renewal of membership with PTUK is about to begin. Chair will be updated with the renewal numbers in a couple of months time when the overall picture of income and expenditure for 2021 is clearer.

    Conference 2021
    This years conference is due to be held on May 27 2021 in Crewe but most likely will have to be on-line. The Title is "Celebrating Uniqueness." A discussion was held about how much registrants should be charged for an on-line conference. It was suggested that the cost to registrants may be between £80-£90.

    Thanks
    MJ recorded her thanks to EB and the rest of her team for all their hard work since the Clinical Team was set up. Also thanks were given to the new Office Manager, and to the office staff for the way they have worked to support her during this difficult and unprecedented time.

BCTIWC members wish to record their thanks to MJ, the office staff, and the Clinical Team for their extremely hard work during this unprecedented time.

13. **Date of next meeting**
    4th November 2021 at 10.30am

N.B. This meeting was quorate as a majority of lay members were present.