The British Council for
Therapeutic Interventions With
Children Limited
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Minutes of the Meeting held

Monday 30th September 2024 at 12.00pm via Zoom

Present:
Helen Tozer (HT) – Chair-lay member
Lorna Lewis (LL) – Lay member
Ruth Brown (LL) – Lay member
Evelyn Saunders (ES) – Professional member
Tammy Zhelyazkova (TZ) – Professional member

In attendance:
Monika Jephcott (MJ) PTUK CEO
Maria Bayne (MB) PTUK Operations Director
Rochelle Rajan (RR) PTUK Executive Director, Registrar

1. Welcome & Chair's opening remarks
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our two new members; Ruth Brown (RB) and Tammy Zhelyazkova (TZ).

2. Apologies for absence
Anna Doherty (AD) was unable to attend due to work commitments.

3. Conflict of Interest declaration
No conflicts of interest with agenda items were declared.

HT informed members that BCTIWC now holds a register of interests to list any potential conflicts. All BCTIWC members will be contacted to confirm any interests for the register.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 4th March 2024
These were agreed to be a correct record.

5. Matters arising
AD has renewed her DSL Level 3 training and is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for BCTIWC. HT confirmed that the 2023-2024 BCTIWC accounts were submitted in good time.

6. PTUK Registrar Report
RR updated the BCTIWC on the progress of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Committee, which continues to meet monthly. The committee ran a stall at the PTUK Conference in June and, as a result, membership grew from 3 to 12. The committee members are reviewing PTUK's EDI policy and adding appendices, with a focus on redefining and elaborating on the 9 protected characteristics of equality law, so that Play Therapists understand how to approach and encourage equality, diversity and inclusion in their practice with clients and interactions with colleagues and stakeholders. The members of the EDI have a broad and diverse expertise covering each of the 9 characteristics. The EDI committee is also planning training initiatives for PTUK members.

MB confirmed that PTUK membership continues to grow, with a low attrition rate, and that the PSA full 3-year re-accreditation cycle is underway.

PTUK continues to streamline the yearly re-validation process for PTUK members, whilst maintaining stringent clinical governance and quality assurance. PTUK is planning to innovate the membership renewal process, particularly for new members, in order to spread the workload for the membership team across the year.

8. PTUK Directors' Report (MJ)

MJ expressed her gratitude to PTUK staff, in particular the membership team and the new clinical team, for their dedication and attention to detail as they continually improve their systems and practice. MJ praised the creativity of the new clinical team and was excited to see their innovations come to fruition. MJ thanked MB for providing stability and support for all staff during this period of change.

PTUK is improving the declarations and standards that members sign up to for their re-validation, to ensure all members are following policies and best practices to safeguard the public. This will enhance clinical governance since the declaration is much more comprehensive and explicitly sets out PTUK's expectations for Play Therapists.

PTUK audits PTUK Registrants' websites, in order to protect the public's interest, which is a huge task with such a large membership. PTUK members must follow clear guidelines in order to ensure that the public has access to accurate information about their practice.

MJ invited feedback on PTUK's membership communication from the professional members of BCTIWC. TZ commented that she had noticed an increased PTUK social media and email newsletter presence from PTUK, which has helped her to feel more connected to the organisation. TZ has also appreciated the streamlining of the membership re-validation process in the past year.

MJ thanked ES for her commitment to BCTIWC and for all her hard work on the additional marking responsibilities she has taken on this year. ES commented that, despite the additional workload, she appreciates the high level of supervision and managerial standards of PTUK.

RB reiterated the importance of connection and community for PTUK members through PTUK communications, in order to continually foster a sense of belonging and being valued by the wider organisation. All agreed and MJ invited suggestions to further

improve members' connection to PTUK. RB asked whether PTUK organised face-to-face meetings for members and RR responded by describing the online and face-to-face peer meetings advertised in the PTUK periodical, 'Play For Life', which is sent to all members. RR agreed that Play Therapists need to connect with colleagues and testified to how invaluable she found the networking opportunities at the PTUK Annual Conference. RR commended the PTUK social media team for their efforts to keep members informed and connected and suggested that PTUK consider how to further acknowledge member's contributions.

MJ recommended that all lay members of BCTIWC receive the PTUK 'Good to Know' newsletter and 'Play for Life' periodical in order to stay up to date with PTUK membership communications. LL stated how useful this has been in informing good governance for BCTIWC.

Preparations and registrations for the 2025 Annual Conference have begun and details will be announced soon.

MJ and RR will attend the Play Therapy Asia Conference 2024 in Bali in October alongside representatives from 7 countries across Asia. The theme is 'Deeply Connected Through Play' and Dr Lynne Souter-Anderson, founder of the Clay Therapy Community, is the keynote speaker. RR will lead a workshop and a two day training course.

The PTUK Child Mental Health Charter Campaign Committee, led by Sophia O'Neill, continues to campaign for the new government to ensure expert, early and effective therapeutic provision for children's mental health.

9. BCTIWC chair's Report

HT reminded BCTIWC members of our membership to the Cross-Party Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood and invited others to attend their online meeting on 1st October 2024 and the in-person meeting on the 22nd October 2024 at the Houses of Parliament.

MJ described PTUK's connection to the APPG and their support of the Child Mental Health Charter Campaign Committee and encouraged members to continue to contribute to the group by making research proposals to the chair.

HT notified the council that the BCTIWC has submitted the annual report for 2024 to the PSA to support PTUK's re-accreditation. This included a summary of the PTUK Register audit and complaints audit that the Chair undertook with the membership team and PTUK's Professional Conduct Officer ('PCO') respectively.

10. Date of next meeting

The next BCTIWC meeting was scheduled for Thursday 20th March 2025 at 12pm.