The British Council for
Therapeutic Interventions With
Children Limited

Pleasant view
Icklesham
East Sussex
TN36 4BD
www.bctiwc.org/

Minutes of the Meeting held

Thursday 20th March 2025 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

In attendance:
Monika Jephcott (MJ) PTUK CEO
Maria Bayne (MB) PTUK Operations Director

1. Welcome & Chair's opening remarks
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. Apologies for absence
Anna Doherty (AD), Tammy Zhelyazkova (TZ) and Rochelle Rajan (RR) were unable to attend due to work and personal commitments.

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

4. Minutes of meeting held on 30th September 2024
These were agreed to be a correct record.

5. Matters arising
HT notified members that the 2024-2025 BCTIWC accounts were already in process and would be submitted soon.

6. PTUK Registrar Report (MJ)

MJ delivered the Registrar Report and reported that the PTUK membership revalidation process was underway and would close at the end of March. Going forwards, new PTUK members will renew their membership every 12 months from their start date. This will spread the workload for PTUK staff as they validate member's clinical practice and CPD

(Continuing Professional Development) hours.

PTUK now offers new members digital membership cards through an app with a QR code for schools and other clients to confirm up-to-date credentials. Physical membership cards are still available for existing members upon request. MJ thanked MB for embracing digital innovations and reducing PTUK's environmental impact by spearheading this change. PTUK continues to seek membership feedback throughout the revalidation process.

7. PTUK Directors' Report (MJ)

MJ thanked all PTUK staff for their dedication and confirmed that there had been no change to the membership team and that PTUK was pleased to welcome Jessica Van Maanen as Clinical Manager. Jess has been leading regular Clinical Forums to share information, update professional knowledge and keep in touch with other members.

Plans for the 2025 Annual Conference are underway with Lisa Dion confirmed as Keynote Speaker and Workshop Leader, with the theme, 'Working with Aggression and Intensity in Play Therapy'. This year, for the first time, members will have the opportunity to watch the keynote speech virtually. PTUK hopes this will increase access for those unable to travel.

PTUK and PTI (Play Therapy International) have now appointed 6 Ambassadors of Play Therapy from within the membership to spread the word about Play Therapy, celebrate achievements, and make connections. RB asked whether the ambassadors plan to visit colleges to promote Play Therapy as a career. MJ and MB thanked RB for the suggestion and indicated that they were keen to initiate this. ES noted that play therapy is now often listed on EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans), but warned of the risk of school SENCO's (Special educational needs co-ordinator's) and TA's (Teacher's Assistants) identifying themselves as play therapists without qualifications. MJ reiterated that anyone delivering play therapy must be qualified and listed on an accredited register to ensure accountability and safeguarding. MJ was also shocked to hear of play therapy delivered online by non-PTUK therapists, which she strongly disagreed with.

Members discussed the current uncertainty around the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund and the impact of this on play therapy, since many play therapists work solely with post adoption children. The fund was designed to help families access therapeutic support following adoption but the new government had not yet committed to renew the funding.

MJ attended the Play Therapy Asia Conference 2024 in Bali in October alongside representatives from 9 countries across Asia. The theme was 'Deeply Connected Through Play' and Dr Lynne Souter-Anderson, founder of the Clay Therapy Community, was the keynote speaker. MJ was thrilled to witness the founding of Play Therapy Asia, with a quarterly journal scheduled to share information and innovative new practices.

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.

8. BCTIWC chair's Report

HT thanked members for their feedback on the BCTIWC Meeting Attendance policy and informed them that she would soon circulate the final version.

HT praised the recent 'Roles, Routes & Resources' guide to wellbeing support for children & young people, developed by the Children's Alliance alongside partner organisations including the Child Mental Health Charter Campaign Committee. The guide helps differentiate different levels of support and the corresponding credentials and qualifications to enable clients to make informed decisions about therapeutic support. This was shared in the PTUK 'Good to Know' newsletter and HT reminded all members to make sure they received this.

HT was pleased to be joined at the Cross-Party Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood by RB and TZ on the 22nd October 2024 at the Houses of Parliament and was thankful that RB had continued to attend meetings since.

9. The Cross-Party Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood

RB described the meetings, updated members on recent topics and emphasized the importance of discussing children's mental health and wellbeing with policy makers. RB found the networking opportunities beneficial and reported that members were particularly concerned about cuts to public spending, children's mental health and obesity. There was evidence that policy documents do have real impact on children's lives, with the sugar tax and energy drink ban being recent examples.

MJ confirmed that PTUK members have submitted proposals to the APPG and hoped that the Child Mental Health Charter Campaign Committee and PTUK clinical team would attend again soon. Research opportunities were regularly shared with members.

10. Any Other Business

None declared.

11. Date of next meeting

The next BCTIWC meeting will be scheduled over email, with the aim for this to take place in September or October 2025.

12. Close of meeting:

Summary of decisions made and actions to be taken:

HT to circulate finalised BCTIWC Meeting Attendance policy, meeting minutes, next meeting dates and the Roles, Routes & Resources guide. In the summer, HT will share the 2025 PTUK complaints audit and PTUK Annual report for feedback.