

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PLAY THERAPISTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 18th May 2024

Minutes

Present

Board of Directors (11)

Donna Benson (DB)	Chair
Sarah Hickson (SH)	Vice Chair
Andrew O'Mahony (AOM)	Lay Director
Sandra Boyle (SB)	Board Member
Maggie Fearn (MF)	Board Member
Jo Hill (JH)	Board Member
Tracy Lanigan (TL)	Board Member
Audrey Lee (AL)	Board Member
Alex Machon (AM)	Board Member
Jeanne McLaughlin	Co-opted onto the Board (Full member voting rights)
Esther Schencks (ES)	Board Member

In Attendance (1)

Linda St Louis (LSL)	Professional Conduct/Complaints Chair
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Full Members attending (23)

Louise Akerman	Harriet Armstrong	Gillian Catling
Fiona Chunnnett	Elaine Corrigan	Rachel Cronin
Kate Currie	Hilary Dumbrell	Shirley Fenwick
Liz Hill	Jackie Horne	Michaela Kearsley
Judit Kecskemeti	Leoni Lombaard	Sharon Mederos
Anna Neal	Vicotria Niles	Stephanie Ollis
Katie Routledge	Nina Rye	Liana Sterio
Jo Thomas	Sarah Zehetmayr-McCall	

Students and Associates (2)

Katie Purnell	Luciana Teuma
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Postal Proxy Form (1)

Helen Forrester

1. Welcome and Apologies

DB welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that it was a month earlier than last year due to getting the accounts filed with Companies House and Charities Commission in a timely manner. Having reviewed the minutes from last year, it is challenging to do a face to face meeting which is why it is online again.

DB confirmed that she has been BAPT's Chair since 2022, so nearly 2 years.

DB confirmed that some apologies had been received from Board members but that there are 11 in attendance and she will ask each of them to introduce themselves personally.

The Board members attending then introduced themselves:

Linda St Louis – not a Board member but integral to the Board in her role as Professional Conduct/Complaints lead. Linda was leaving last December but extended it to July of this year and will support whoever steps into the role.

Jeanne McLaughlin – Chair of the newly formed Supervisors subcommittee which consists of a small team. The supervisors policy, guide and application form have recently been reviewed and approved by the Board.

Alex Mahon – Part of the small Membership Team and recognise many names but not faces. Committee comprises of myself, Audrey Lee and Tracey Trevorrow – although Audrey is stepping down from the Board.

Audrey Lee – has overseen memberships for quite a few years and is now passing it over to Alex. It would be good if others joined the team – if you don't know faces, you will get to know members names.

Sandra Boyle – has been a Board Member for a couple of years and is the Board representative for the Training & Education Committee.

Jo Hill – has been a Board member for many years and is a General Board member helping whenever she is needed.

Sarah Hickson – Vice Chair and a member of BAPT for many years within different roles.

Andrew O'Mahoney – has been a Lay Director of the Board for 10 years and a member of the Finance Committee. DB said that Andrew's role as a Lay Director is integral to the Board.

Maggie Fearn – International representative role for BAPT for a year. Main role is on the ICPTA Board representing BAPT.

Esther Schencks – Chair for Communications & PR. Overall promoting BAPT via Social Media Team and the website. Have been on the Board for a few years.

Tracy Lanigan – Scottish BAPT representative, took over the role a couple of years ago from Jeanne McLaughlin. Organise forums in Glasgow and anything to do with Scotland.

DB thanked all the Board members for their introductions and confirmed that apologies had been received from Anne Greenwood and Sonia Murray, who we send our thoughts and best wishes to.

2. Approval of Minutes of AGM – June 2023

DB advised that the Minutes were posted on the website and no queries have been raised so the minutes were accepted without amendment.

3. **Matters Arising**

Whilst no matters were brought forward for your attention, DB gave an update from the minute of last year's AGM.

EGM, November 2023, the Articles and Rules were updated for Governance reasons.

A new look website was launched with special thanks to ES. In the background our new website is being developed to include online membership and CPD logs. Whilst this has a cost implication it will help with the smooth running of both.

DB, SM and TT are interviewing for a Business Manager in a couple of weeks' time.

In the Membership Report from AM you will see that we have 9 International Professional members which is a really good start for the new offering.

We are doing really well with the Business Plan. I was struggling with highlights from this previous year but the Board meetings are more regular, governance has been updated, PSA accreditation has been approved – so a lot has been going on.

4. **Report from the Finance Team – (See Financial Overview)**

DB advised that the Finance Team is currently made up of herself, SH, AOM, SM and TT.

It has been talked about in the past that BAPT needs a Treasurer. It has been decided that the Business Manager and the Finance Committee have negated this need. We have found new accountants, Cottons Group, and we use them as our registered address as we no longer have an office.

We currently have a lot of funds in the account which puts us in a good position to become an employer, which we've not had before, to upgrade the website and to start developing some training, supervisor training – finance has been put in place to enable us to do this.

We now come to the first proposal of approving the annual accounts and report. Can you please state in the chat if you approve, decline or abstain the proposals put forward today.

Proposal 1:

A vote to approve the annual accounts and report was passed with the following:

There were no objections received so the vote was passed.

Proposal 2:

A vote to reappoint Cottons Group as BAPT's accountants and for the Finance Committee to agree and approve their remuneration for next year.

There were no objections received so the vote was passed.

5. **Report from Chair – Donna Benson**

The Chair's Report was made available online prior to the AGM.

DB advised that the main bulk of work carried out has been looking at BAPT's structure, governance and the full check carried out by the PSA.

The PSA have changed how they carry out their checks as they now carry out an annual check and a full check every 3-4 years. We are waiting for the PSA to publish its results, so a thank you for everyone's support. Nothing has massively changed in how we do things but this year they have added some conditions which is a bit of a pain but they and BAPT will be more stringent as a profession. There was a lot more around complaints and reviewing professional conduct procedures, we were going to do this anyway as it's a good thing to have. BAPT has 6 months to address any conditions that the PSA have included. They want us to publish Board and AGM minutes to be more transparent. We will look at the website and how best to publish them.

Thank you to AL to everything she has done for BAPT. She left the Board and then came back again but is now stepping down again.

Thank you to LSL who is the voice of reason and without professional conduct BAPT would not exist. She will be sorely missed when she steps down at the end of July but wish her the best of luck with her next chapter. LSL advised that she will always be a BAPT member, even if it is a retired one.

DB also stated that SH has stepped in for her recently and passed on her huge thanks as she couldn't have done things without her. SH replied that DB was more than welcome.

We now move onto the subcommittee reports and ask that each Chair gives a short overview of the past year. All the reports were posted onto BAPT's website for all to read prior to the meeting.

6. Report from Subcommittee Chairs

▪ **Communications and Public Relations – Esther Schencks**

Not much more to add to the report. Although we are updating the website it will still look as it does now – it is more user friendly as in the past it was a bit daunting and hard to find information but now it looks better. Excited about the membership and CPD changes as you will be able to do everything online. We get quite a few users looking at the website – Play Therapy qualification in particular has 1,000's of hits. A few committee members have stepped down and I would like to thank them. We also have a bank of Play Therapy quotes to use on social media. The subcommittee is in contact with each other regularly.

DB said that the PR Team is integral to BAPT. I want to particularly thank ES for the website as it is amazing.

▪ **Membership – Alex Machon**

Very excited about using the website for renewals as it is currently a lot of work and hope the new process will help it become more streamlined. AM said that she will miss AL and that it feels nice to be part of BAPT and part of a team. Memberships are going in the right direction, especially with the International Professional members.

DB asked if AL wanted to say anything.

AL said that she probably won't be coming back to the Board again and was really relieved when AM agreed to be part of the team and take over.

▪ **Training and Education – Sandra Boyle**

DB advised that SB is the T&E representative on the Board and asked if SB had anything further to add.

SB advised that there was nothing more to update apart from CPD endorsement logs are currently being done and there are a couple of new Universities looking to run Play Therapy courses.

DB advised that T&E is so big that it can seem overwhelming to lose some T&E members to the new Supervisors subcommittee, but the CPD endorsements should be easier once they are online.

Liz Hill also advise that she had nothing else to add but that she is looking forward to the CPD being online.

▪ **Professional Conduct– Linda St Louis**

Hopefully everyone has been able to read my report which was also online.

We received 27 complaints/enquires in total – 3 of which were complaints and 24 were enquiries which brings up areas of learning. There is 1 complaint still ongoing, but we are waiting on details from the employer.

The process is more streamlined with policies around Code of Conduct. Members are just asking questions due to LSL being more available. Please note that this is not an instance service and put your enquiry in writing. I have looked at the process for when a complaint comes into BAPT, the next stage is to do that for members – what happens, what to do – this will help members with their own companies and circumstances.

Moving on we need more panel members to take through the procedure. If there are any willing to join – Shirley Fenwick has already shown an interest – then please let me know but we do need panel members who are committed. Sarah Zehetmayr-McCall (SZ) is happy to step in as Chair but LSL made the recommendation that the role should be shared as it can be lonely. LSL also met with TT with regards to the tracking of complaints. One person wanted a chronology of the complaint, which proved helpful to LSL as well.

It is your organisation and run by volunteers so please step forward to help.

SZ said that it would be amazing to have the Chair role as a shared job and reminded everyone that BAPT cannot function without this role. SZ said that she feels daunted as it is a huge role and big steps to follow in.

DB said that if anyone who is not a Play Therapist can be on our Panel as Lay Members which is also important. Please put forward anyone who would be interested.

- **International Team** – Maggie Fearn

I just want to add a couple of things. Firstly, thank you to SH for her support as Vice Chair and ICPTA. We had our first network event and 65 Play Therapists attending from around the world. We used an AI translator whereby each person could speak in their own language. We had people from Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Canada, Slovakia, Nigeria. There is a lot of excitement around what the Consortium can do in the future and we hope that every child in every country has access to Play Therapy.

BAPT can be an individual member of the Consortium, but it also welcomes anyone from BAPT who is interested in becoming a member as well so please contact MF directly at international@bapt.uk.com. The next meeting is in December, and would like to thank BAPT for its support.

MF also advised that there is only 1 Play Therapist in Nigeria and she is very thankful to the ICPTA as she now doesn't feel so lonely or on her own.

SH advised that MF represents BAPT very well at the ICPTA, so a huge thank you to her and it's a pleasure supporting her.

- **Scotland** – Tracy Lanigan

Nothing more to add to the report. As the demand for Play Therapy grows in Scotland the face to face forums are really important, especially for those not working within an organisation.

DB then asked JMc if she would like to say anything about the newly formed Supervisors subcommittee.

- **Supervisors** – Jeanne McLaughlin

JMc advised that new documents have been uploaded onto the website which included a guidance, application form and policy. There was a supervisee discussion with Simon Kerr-Edwards (SKE) so some changes were made to the original reviewed documents. JMc said she would like to post something on Facebook around what to do to be a supervisor, the first meeting of the committee will be to discuss where we go and what to do.

SKE is no longer offering his course so there may be an opportunity to talk to him. Maybe BAPT will be able to run its own supervision course around the country.

Please contact JMc at supervisors@bapt.uk.com if you have any questions.

JMc said that she spoke to Sue Bratton and Dee Ray at the Conference and they said that in the USA you don't need supervision once you have qualified – this is what sets BAPT aside.

DB thanked the Board Members for their updates.

DB advised that BAPT used to elect subcommittees as members but this has not happened since COVID. Subcommittee members can be elected at Board level in the future but we want to do it at the AGM this year.

7. Directors Retirement – Election of Officers (Re-election and Election of Co-opted Directors)

Re-Election of Board Members

The following Board members are required to be re-elected.

For 1 year

Sarah Hickson (Vice Chair)

Proposed: Donna Benson

Seconded: Sonia Murray

For: 35

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Jo Hill

Proposed: Esther Schencks

Seconded: Alex Machon

For: 30

Against: 0

Abstain: 5

Andrew O'Mahony

Proposed: Sarah Hickson

Seconded: Donna Benson

For: 32

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

For 3 Years

Esther Schencks

Proposed: Sonia Murray

Seconded: Maggie Fearn

For: 35

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

The following Board members are required to be elected to the Board.

For 3 Years

Jeanne McLaughlin was co-opted to the Board in 2024 but need ratifying at the AGM.

Jeanne McLaughlin

Proposed: Donna Benson

Seconded: Sonia Murray

For: 30

Against: 0

Abstain: 5

This concludes the BAPT Board.

Onto the subcommittees who are voted on for 3 years. BAPT is a member's led organisation so I want to thank you for your time.

The following subcommittee Members are required to be elected to the subcommittees.

For 3 Years

Communication and PR

Hilary Dumbrill Proposed: Esther Schencks Seconded: Sonia Murray

For: 28 Against: 0 Abstain: 7

Sharon Hudson Proposed: Esther Schencks Seconded: Sarah Hickson

For: 28 Against: 0 Abstain: 7

Cathryn Hicks Proposed: Esther Schencks Seconded: Alex Machon

For: 29 Against: 0 Abstain: 6

Tim Woodhouse Proposed: Esther Schencks Seconded: Alex Machon

For: 28 Against: 0 Abstain: 7

Charlotte Cole Proposed: Esther Schencks Seconded: Donna Benson

For: 31 Against: 0 Abstain: 4

Kath Furlong (Heywood) Proposed: Esther Schencks Seconded: Sandra Boyle

For: 31 Against: 0 Abstain: 4

Lisa Gordon Clark is now up for the Journal. If you could not attend the EGM, there was a proposal put forward to include the Journal online – I am pleased to confirm that it is now available on ProQuest to purchase.

Journal

Lisa Gordon Clark Proposed: Alex Machon Seconded: Esther Schencks

For: 30 Against: 0 Abstain: 5

Training & Education

Liz Hill Proposed: Alex Machon Seconded: Sandra Boyle

For: 30 Against: 0 Abstain: 5

Mihaela Novac Proposed: Sandra Boyle Seconded: Donna Benson

For: 29 Against: 0 Abstain: 6

Clare McKenzie	Proposed: Sarah Hickson	Seconded: Sonia Murray
For: 30	Against: 0	Abstain: 5
Alison Chown	Proposed: Tracy Lanigan	Seconded: Sarah Hickson
For: 32	Against: 0	Abstain: 3
Louise Akerman	Proposed: Sonia Murray	Seconded: Sandra Boyle
For: 25	Against: 0	Abstain: 10
Amanda Black	Proposed: Donna Benson	Seconded: Sonia Murray
For: 28	Against: 0	Abstain: 7
Jane Jephcott	Proposed: Sarah Hickson	Seconded: Sandra Boyle
For: 30	Against: 0	Abstain: 5

Supervisors

Patricia Hughes	Proposed: Tracy Lanigan	Seconded: Sandra Boyle
For: 31	Against: 0	Abstain: 4
Amanda Barrass	Proposed: Alex Machon	Seconded: Donna Benson
For: 34	Against: 0	Abstain: 1
Sarah Gawdat	Proposed: Sarah Hickson	Seconded: Sonia Murray
For: 29	Against: 0	Abstain: 6

Nomination by Notification for Election

No vacancies on the Board at the moment and no nominations have been received.

DB confirmed that the following vacancy was available and encouraged all members to consider applying for it:

Professional Conduct/Complaints – Sub-committee Lead

DB said that BAPT always needs subcommittee members to if you don't like how things are being done then please join a committee and help us. Don't forget to join the ICPTA if you want to help promote Play Therapy globally.

We also need to set up a subcommittee for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as they need to produce a policy/documents which is integral part of moving forward. If you are interested please contact us at info@bapt.uk.com – the PSA look at this as part of their accreditation so it is really important and key.

AL then offered to help and stay on to help with the Membership subcommittee.

DB then asked everyone to vote for AL to remain on the Membership subcommittee.

Audrey Lee Proposed: Alex Machon Seconded: Andrew O'Mahoney
For: 27 Against: 0 Abstain: 7
(Note: this vote was out of 34 members as the postal vote did not include this proposal)

8. **Proposals Raised**

There were no Proposals raised.

9. **Date of Next AGM**

A date has not been set but it will be this time in May next year again and members will be advised of the date as soon as possible.

Unless anyone has anything to raise the meeting will close at 11.41. Thank you to everyone.

Jackie Horne (Jho) said she was sorry it is late in the day but wasn't sure when to mention about the change to the supervision requirement for Newly Qualified Play Therapists (NQPTs).

There followed a discussion around the requirements for NQPTs and JMc confirmed that the Guidance was a minimum requirement and NQPTs could receive more supervision than the recommendation. JMc advised that if the Guidance was not working then it can be reviewed again and changed.

JH asked if something can be added to the website stating that this is the minimum requirement and NQPTs to talk to their supervisor to ensure they are receiving enough support. JMc said that there has been an increase in the number of hours an NQPT has to have before becoming a full member – this is also over about 1.5years.

There then followed a discussion around the different types of support and maximum number of clients an NQPT should have and how paying for supervision can end up not being cost effective when leaving one profession to become a Play Therapist.

Please pass on any feedback to JMc around supervision as the Guidance/Policy can be put forward to the Board for further amendments. Please email JMc directly at supervisors@bapt.uk.com

There being no other business the AGM finished at 11.56am