

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PLAY THERAPISTS

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Via Zoom

Saturday 5th July 2025, 10.00 am.

Minutes

Present

Member	Role
Sarah Hickson	Chair (SH)
Jeanne McLaughlin	Vice Chair/ Supervisors Committee (JMc)
Esther Schencks	Communications and PR Committee (ES)
Tracy Lanigan	Scottish Representative (TL)
Alex Machon	Membership Committee (AM)
Jo Hill	Board Member (JH)
Maggie Fearn	International Ambassador (MF)

In Attendance

Sarah Zehetmayr-McCall	PCP Chair (SZM)
Sonia Murray	PCP Vice Chair Member (SM)
Jacqui Clarke	Business Manager (JC)

Apologies

Andrew O'Mahony Lay Member (AOM)

Structure

Meeting Chair: SH

Minute Taker: JC until break. TL following.

The meeting opened at 10am and was quorate at all times.

Documents Circulated Prior to meeting:

Minutes of meeting held 26th April, Board Action Matrix, Draft minutes of May 2025 AGM, Professional Conduct Update, Board Membership CV's, First Year Student Membership Proposal, Training Proposal, International ambassador update & Statement of Expectations, Scottish Representative Report, Regional representative roles and responsibilities, Communications & PR Report, Training & Education Report.

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was agreed that the agenda would be slightly revised, and Item 12 (First Year Students Membership) would be the first item for discussion.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April – Accuracy

These were approved as an accurate record.

4. Board Action Matrix

JC ran through the updated matrix noting the following:

5-Legal advice on Adoption Services – Following a meeting with Ofsted by SZM and SM this item is on hold and is fully explained in SZM report attached.

7-BAPT statement on action taken in response to ASGSF cuts – JC developed open letter for members use & BAPT position statement on attendance at ASGSF protest. These were issued to members via email and on website. SH attended protest march on behalf of BAPT on May 3rd.

8-SH & MF to meet with USW – SH confirmed this would now be taking place on the 19th of September to coincide with meeting the new 25/26 student cohort.

9- AGM reports to be provided and JC to coordinate AGM – Complete. AGM update on agenda.

9-Options for Board vacancies to be considered – On agenda. CVs circulated for consideration for 3 Board posts.

12- Awayday – Poll circulated and item on agenda.

5. Item 12 First Year Student Membership Proposals

SM briefed the Board on the proposal herself, and Liz Hill had drafted to the Membership team following their visit to University of Roehampton. The Board agreed that there were changes to student enrolment that they were not aware of and there is a desire to adapt BAPT processes to support speedier student membership. It was noted and agreed that this may require some small technical adjustments to the website.

It was agreed that provisional student membership is granted for students at the start of a course subject to the below being provided:

Evidence of enrolment in a BAPT validated training course.

DBS/PVG confirmation

Agreement that outstanding information is provided by a set date (confirmed by BAPT).

Action: Membership team to set deadline date for remainder of information, arrange any technical requirements and advise university link officers/course directors.

6. Professional Conduct

SZM referred the Board to her paper and gave an update on the current position. It was noted that it had been a busy period of concerns and complaints in recent months. The following areas were discussed and agreed:

Regarding a historical complaint the Board agree that legal advice would be sought from the original legal firm. No further action would be taken at this point.

Action: PCP team to arrange legal advice regarding this case.

It was discussed that it is always important to show learning and improve practice, but to remain clear that BAPT are not a clinical organisation, but a membership body.

The PCP team had a very constructive meeting with Ofsted and the Ofsted representative has agreed to take concerns forward to the Department for Education. Ofsted confirmed that contracting of PT's needs to come through ASAs in order to provide adoption support and they have confirmed they will be writing to practitioners who provide adoption support outside of this legislation. As such the PCP team will not progress seeking legal advice (as previously agreed) on this matter for now.

Action: Update on new position to be given to members on the members update area of the website.

The Board discussed the distinction required between Professional Practice and Professional Conduct. It was agreed that a large number of the activities that the PCP team have been working and advising on (e.g. consent, divorce) are actually matters of professional practice and that it is important to distinguish and carefully consider this to ensure separation of duties.

Action: Further Board discussion to be had on the distinction required and how work in Professional Practice would be resourced.

In relation to PSA Working Group SH explained that she would be meeting with the BAPT Lead Member for PSA in September.

Action: SH to meet with Lead Member for PSA.

In addition, SZM advised that the Adoption Support Legislation Information Sheet had been updated, recruitment for Lay & BAPT members to the PCP is ongoing and the PCP team are considering areas that need to be better reflected in the PCP policy.

7. AGM Feedback

JC gave feedback on a successful AGM in May with a very high turnout from members.

The Board noted that the training provided beforehand by SM was well attended and incredibly positive feedback was given. Feedback to all the Subcommittee Leads, PCP Team and the PSA presentation was also encouraging.

The Board agreed the minutes of the AGM that were circulated and noted that these would be placed on the website in draft form before being approved at the AGM next year.

Action:

To put two AGM actions on the Board Action Matrix so that they can be progressed.

To put draft minutes onto website and advertise next year's date.

JM asked SM to give a brief update on the Re-accreditation work that had been undertaken recently at Roehampton. SM confirmed it was an enjoyable, inspiring, and productive day and explained new module crediting structure.

Action: JM and SM to discuss further and prepare written report of T&E which is available to the Board.

The Board took a break at 11.20 and reconvened at 11.30.

JC left the meeting.

8. Board Membership

The Board noted the CV's that had previously been circulated and the nominations made by SH and JM for the following to be co-opted onto the Board. Full nominations will be required to be voted on at next year's AGM.

Julie Miller as Welsh Regional Representative

Jane Jephcott as Student/University Liaison Representative

9. Gender and Play Therapy

The Board discussed the Memorandum of Understanding MoU – a joint document signed by over 25 health, counselling and psychotherapy organisations which aims to end the practice of conversion therapy in the UK. Similar to other organisations like the NHS, BACP and the BPS, the Board fully agreed that BAPT should sign up to this.

Action: JM will investigate signing the memorandum on BAPTs behalf.

It was further agreed that a position statement should be used by BAPT and one of BAPT's members who is experienced in this area due to her diverse caseloads may be able to support with drafting this.

Action – A statement should be written by BAPT to be shared on website/social media. JM will work with BAPT member if support in drafting a statement.

10. Collaborations

SH explained the desire to bring professional bodies together to lobby parliament on matters of joint importance. Key parties have been offered a complimentary place for the upcoming conference.

11. Members Website Area Access

The Board held a discussion around International Professional Members having the same access to the members area on the BAPT website. All agreed that they should have access to members area.

Action: Required website changes to allow International members access to be completed.

12. Away Day

The Board held a discussion about the date and who can attend 26/27th September. All present at the Board meeting could attend this date. Oxford appeared to be a good place to have it with good transport links

Action – SH will look at accommodation in Oxford.

13. Supervisors Update including Proposal

The Board considered the proposal and agreed that JM to work with training providers to see a full work up on training and the potential uses of the training were discussed.

It was agreed that a deposit payment could be paid whilst this progresses.

14. International ambassador update.

MF mentioned she had nothing more to add to her report.

All agreed that SH and MF will continue to be representatives on the IC-PTA Board of Directors for 3 years. JM agreed to sign the Statement of Expectations. No changes to the statement are required.

Action – JM will sign the statement and send back to MF ready for MF next IC-PTA board meeting in July.

MF reported to have BAPT members showing interest in joining the international group. Hopefully having more regional live online meetings (European group) will be beneficial.

Action - MF will reach out to the interested members.

15. Scottish Rep Report

TL mentioned she had nothing more to add to her report.

QMU have had 60 Play Therapist's graduate since the start of the course - there are some concerns from graduates about jobs as in other parts of the country.

The Board discussed the feedback included in the report from some of the members of the sub subcommittee regarding conference. The Board felt that this year is a person-centred conference celebrating who we are and what we do. This will give Play Therapist's experience to speak at events and share their first-hand knowledge and expertise with others. The comments were explored and acknowledged.

TL will feedback to subcommittee to explain the reasoning behind the decisions made. SH and JM are happy to attend Scottish Conference meetings if necessary. No further meetings are planned until a date for conference is agreed. SH advised that the date will be discussed and set at the away day in September.

Action - TL feedback to subcommittee

Conference to be put on Awayday agenda.

16. PR and Communications Report

ES referred to her report and explained that there had been lots of great responses from recent social media posts especially around BAPT attending the PTUK conference as it appears that some members are not aware that the two organisations do link up.

ES request for photographer at conference – All agreed that this would be a great way to promote BAPT and short videos could be used and posted for promotion in the future.

Action- Contact PK in the first instance to ask if he would take photographs at the conference if he is available that weekend.

ES advised that a member had contacted her re: the toy cleaning policy on the website as it has not been updated recently. It was felt that there would not be much to update but it would be good to look over it and update it. ES confirmed she is happy to update this and send to JH to look over. JH's new role on the board is Editor.

Action - ES update toy cleaning policy and JH to look over it before being uploaded to website.

17. Training & Education Update

In line with JM's report, the board agreed Helen Forrester as Chair of T and E committee and Louise Akerman as Vice Chair.

In turn the Board agreed the nomination by JM for:

Helen Forrester to be Co-opted onto the Board as the Chair of the T&E Committee.

MF highlighted that the reaccreditation of courses would need to be a supported role for the new Chair and Vice chair of T and E given the expertise required and the demanding level of input. JM will work with the T&E Chair to ensure support from these individuals regarding reaccreditation. MF also confirmed she was happy to support.

Action – JM & SH to support HF & LA on establishing new relationships with the universities.

19. Conference Update

SH confirmed that the delegate workshop helpers have been assigned, and we have Thursday night helpers.

Complimentary tickets have been offered to select BAPT guests.

The Board may wish to invite Members of Parliament for all regions as working with and lobbying should remain on BAPTs long term agenda.

The next Board meeting is the 11th October 2025 with the Board Awayday taking place on the 26th/27th of September.

The meeting ended at 1.30pm