Compiled by Lorna Lewis Chair of BCTIWC

**The British Council for Therapeutic Interventions With Children**

Annual PTUK Report 2021

1. **Introduction**

British Council For Therapeutic Interventions With Children (BCTIWC) Board Meetings were held 20.02.20, 12.11.20 and 3.02.21.

This report starts from February 2020, when the last report was submitted to the PSA to February 2021. It is intended that this report will be submitted to the PSA in February 2021 The Executive Board of The United Kingdom Society for Play and Creative Arts Therapies (PTUK) was made up of Monika Jephcott, Chief Executive (MJ) and Jeff Thomas, Registrar (JT). They continued to keep the Chair (of BCTIWC) informed and updated about any complaints and problems that occurred with registrants, their practices, serious issues with training of APAC courses or in the PTUK office. Emails were received on a variety of topics that might be potential areas of interest or difficulties.

**Covid Restrictions**

JT/MJ reacted quickly to the lockdown imposed by the government and by the end of March 2020 JT/MJ informed Chair that they had closed the office and directed office staff to work from home although for emergencies some members of the office staff had keys and could access files and important documents.

Regular communication continued throughout the lockdowns. These discussions enabled Chair to be able to make suggestions at early stages of implementation and to be able to comment on the various initiatives as they were being put into place and trialled.

1. **Registrant matters**
   1. **Registrant registration**

Because of the covid restrictions Chair conducted the annual audit by zoom on

Friday 29 January 2021. As a result of the audit Chair found that everything was in order.

**Interview with the Office Manager**

A new office manager started working in the PTUK office from January 4th 2021. Chair interviewed the new office manager at the end of January 2021, and agreed with her plan to streamline the office and make it paperless. The Office Manager is working towards making sure the office provides a safe and secure environment for the employees

COVID-19 secure arrangements have been put in place for face-to-face courses to be run, whenever it is possible to start them again, with personal protective equipment (PPE) ordered and ready for use for all 15 venues.

* 1. **Registrant revalidation**

The Chief Executive raised a concern at the Council meeting in November 2020 in relation to registrants requesting exemptions across the criteria for registration. The Council agreed that there should be a more stringent policy to minimise exemptions with effect from 2021. It recognised the risk that therapists may be accepted by other organisations with different standards and agreed that the Chief Executive should continue to exercise some discretion.

1. **Complaints**
   1. **Complaints against registrants**

No complaints were made against registrants between February 2020 and February 2021

* 1. **Complaints against PTUK**

No complaints were made against PTUK between February 2020 and February 2021

* 1. **Complaints against training providers**

No complaints were made against training providers between February 2020 and February 2021

**3 Information Technology Update**

After consultation BCTIWC members agreed at the meeting in November 2020 that registrants would be required to use Caerus or Fortuna for revalidation and that submissions by Excel and Word would not be accepted. It also noted an easy to use tutorial was available.

4 **Security and Confidentiality**

**4.1 Security of systems**

The Chair was notified of difficulties with the website which was speedily resolved and no data breach had happened and this was checked with the ICO.

This provided an opportunity to update the websites and database to ensure that they are compatible with each other.

**5 Human Relations**

Chair has been kept informed about office operations, was notified about staff working from home during lockdown and returning to work in the office and the restructuring with a change of Office Manager.

**6 Communications**

**6.1 Communications – registrants**

Chair is on the mailing list to receive information that is sent to PTUK registrants. Chair receives communications that are sent to all registrants, “The Good to Know” newsletters on line, the Journal of the International and UK Societies of Play and Creative Arts Therapy entitled “Play for Life,” and PTUK’s “International Journal of Play and Creative Arts Therapies Research”. Chair sees the posts on the open Facebook page of PTUK.

Chair noted that throughout the lockdown that there were good communications between PTUK and the registrants. The clinical team provided them with clear information about their practice including templates for risk assessments to help registrant decide whether they could practice or not. The use of social media enhanced this process.

In May 2020 in the Good To Know newsletter MJ/JT let registrants know that they had managed to reschedule the 2020 PTUK Conference to 24th October 2020.

6**.2 Communications – professional organisations**

MJ has been having regular meetings with the British Association of Play Therapists (BAPT)

6**.3 Public Consultations**

PTUK Executive Board continued their work with their political advisor to advocate the Child Mental Health Charter. The aim of this work is to influence the government to put children first when they reform the Mental Health Act of 1983 which was planned by the government for 2021

1. **Staff Succession Plan**

It was with sadness that Chair learned of the death of JT in July 2020, and would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all his work for PTUK. Chair was kept up to date with all of the restructuring that was necessary.

Chair attended Zoom meetings with registrants, the Clinical Team and the office staff and therefore could sustain her vigilant oversight.

1. **Miscellaneous activities undertaken by BCTIWC**
   1. **PSA Re-accreditation Process**

Chair was informed of the PTUKs reaccreditation with the PSA, the outcomes and how PTUK will address the recommendations.

* 1. **On-line Conference 24 October 2020 held by Zoom**

Chair attended the full day conference titled, Children’s Trauma – Building Resilience Through Creative Approaches, which started with the keynote speaker Joy Hasler giving her presentation about, “supporting children and families to survive trauma and discussing how to build resilience in our clients after trauma.” This was followed by a variety of workshops led by Course Directors. Afterwards Chair congratulated the Clinical Team and MJ for putting together and managing the excellent conference which was attended by over 900 registrants from all over the world.

All registrants were awarded 8 CPD hours for full attendance and registrants were informed that the number of CPD hours needed for this current year was reduced to 15 from 30. In 2020 online courses carried half CPD points per hour, but in January 2021 this was changed to one CPD point per hour to reflect the current circumstances and Chair believed this was an excellent idea, particularly during such a difficult year for the therapists when most would not have been able to work to their usual capacity and would have had a very much reduced or no income. Chair thought that each presentation was first rate and interesting and that the technical side was very well run. Chair considered it was an exceptional offer of goodwill to have made access free to the conference for all registrants, also to have given the CPD hours and reduced the number of CPD hours needed this year. It was noted that other counselling and Play Therapy organisations did not make their conference free for all their members.

MJ reported that she and the Clinical Team are working on plans for the next Conference which is being held on May 27 2021 and it was hoped to hold it in Crewe where it had been planned to hold the conference in 2020. As this date approaches there is concern that there is uncertainty about using hotels for conferences and it is being considered that perhaps the conference will need to be on-line again due to the pandemic. The Title is “Celebrating Uniqueness” which will encompass diversity, inclusion, disability, cultural differences, gender and gender awareness, and adopted children.

**10.02.21 Meeting with PSA Accreditation Team**

A meeting was held with the PSA Accreditation Team  which was attended by a representative of the Clinical team, 2 members of the BCTIWC, the PTUK Chief Executive and the PTUK Research  Manager, to have clarification on possible future formats of the BCTIWC Annual Report.

1. **Thanks**

The BCTIWC would like to thank their own members as well as everyone involved with the organisation for their support and for bringing forward the legacy that Jeff started and opening opportunities for bringing the profession forward.