Compiled by Lorna Lewis Chair of BCTIWC and Dr. Keith Lampard member of BCTIWC

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

Annual PTUK Report 2022

**Play Therapy UK/British Council for Therapeutic Interventions With Children**

**Annual Report for 2022**

**Period Covered by the Report**

This Report covers the period from the last submission to the Professional Standards Agency (PSA) for re-accreditation in February 2021 to the date of the next re-accreditation submission in August 2022.

1. **BCTIWC Meetings**

The Council held meetings on 4 November 2021 and 5 May 2022. The Council received updates from the officers of PTUK.

**2. Annual Visit of the Chair of BCTIWC to the PTUK Office**

The last year has been a period of considerable change for the PTUK office. A new team has been successfully established and new IT systems have been introduced.

The Chair was assured that there were appropriate security measures in place including: login with multifactor authentication; automatic logout if a user has not been active; and an effective system of permissions to regulate access to information and the ability to update information. This system ensures that registrants have enhanced DBS checks.

The Chair was assured that PTUK had taken appropriate steps to meet its legal obligations. It has a Data Protection Officer who is assisted by a deputy. Regular training is provided for staff. All are required to complete online courses on data protection; health and safety; risk assessment; and equality diversity and inclusivity. The completion of training is recorded and monitored. Registrants are required to complete safeguarding and prevent training for annual re-validation.

The Chair also discussed the internal procedure used to check the accuracy of information published by registrants on their own websites.

**3. Audit of the Register**

The Chair discussed the procedures for ensuring that any person who is deemed not fit to practice is prevented from being entered on the Register. The names of those no longer fit to practice are shared between the different counselling agencies and would be flagged on the database.

The Chair of the BCTIWC undertook an audit of the Register. She found:

* that improvements in the integration of IT systems had reduced the need to re-key data and improved accuracy;
* that appropriate security arrangements were in place.
* that everything was in order on the Register of Play Therapists, including checking that registrants who had not re-registered for the current session were removed and checking that a registrant who needed to be removed was no longer on the register.

1. **Meetings of Chair of Council and PTUK Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive of PTUK is in regular contact with the Chair of the British Council at least every 2 weeks. The Chair is also in regular contact with the Clinical Director and the Operations Director. Topics covered include: the strategies and initiatives the team are considering or implementing; developments in the administration; and matters relating to human resources. The Chair considers that she has been well briefed about the current and future business of PTUK and that she has ample opportunity to ask questions and provide challenge.

PTUK provides a wealth of information for the profession via its website: topical articles; guidance; updates, including on the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic; and a clinical forum.

1. **The clinical team**

PTUK’s clinical team provides support to members to facilitate and enhance their delivery of therapeutic services:

* + Members are able to raise clinical practice queries with the team.
  + Members are provided with supervisor meetings where they can ask practice questions, receive updating information and reflect on their practice.
  + Clinics are provided to help members with PTUK’s system for maintaining play therapy records.
  + CPD webinars raised funds for PTI therapists supporting children who were fleeing the conflict in Ukraine, and the funds provided children with stress kits when they arrived at the Polish border.
  + An Annual Conference is provided for the membership with a keynote speaker and facilitated workshops.

1. **The Annual Conferences**

Chair attended the Annual Conference in 2021which was held online and focussed on the theme of equality, diversity and inclusivity, to listen to a key note address from Kit Loring, Director of Arts Therapy Services specialising in Dramatherapy in the morning, and attended workshops in the afternoon on equality, diversity and inclusivity.

Chair also attended the Annual Conference in 2022 which was held on June 18th 2022 in Crewe titled Neurodiversity: Brain, Body, Behaviour. The keynote speaker who spoke in the morning was Robin Pauc. The title of his presentation was Neurodiversity - Linking Each and Every Sign and Symptom the Child Presents to Specific Areas of the Brain. In the afternoon there was a choice of 8 workshops for the delegates to choose from. Chair chose to attend Art Therapy, Autism and Research: Communication, Sensory Processing and Emotional Regulation presented by Andrew Wright. As in previous years, Chair was introduced to the delegates as part of the introduction to the conference and delegates have the opportunity to speak with the Chair throughout the day during the refreshment breaks and during the evening receptions on the day of the conference and the evening before. Feedback from members was very positive about the support provided by PTUK and the Annual Conference and they considered that PTUK enhanced their effectiveness as play therapists.

1. **Political Activity**

PTUK has continued to inform and promote play therapy at the political level to ensure that its contribution in addressing mental health in children is recognised. For the UK Government, the impact of the pandemic has led to an increased emphasis of the importance of mental health for children and consequently the role of play therapy. It has worked with MPs with an interest in child mental health; relevant all-party Parliamentary groups, such as the Group on A Fit and Healthy Childhood working on the Children’s Alliance. It has worked to promote the Children’s Charter and has been invited to assist the office of Science and Technology in the collection of information and expert opinion in preparation for the redrafting of the Mental Health Act 1983.

1. **Revalidation**

During the Covid 19 Pandemic 2020 /21 APAC could not run any face to face course hence there were no new registrants to add on the register. Since then the numbers have slowly picked up due to a record attrition rate of only 4% instead of around 10% in previous years. This has been achieved through the new PTUK membership department and the relationship they have fostered with the registrants. The BCTIWC would like to thank them for their hard work.

**7. Awards**

PTUK’s contribution has been recognised in the last year with four awards:

* Best Play Therapy Resource 2021 – Southern Enterprise Awards
* Children’s Therapy Specialists of the Year 2021 – South England Prestige Awards
* Play Therapy Resource of the Year 2022 – Innovation and Excellence Awards
* Best Play Therapy Training Provider 2022 – GHP Mental Health Awards

1. **Resolution of Complaints and Concerns**

Two complaints have reached the Chair during the period of this report. One concerned a concession over deadlines on a training course and was resolved after discussion with PTUK. The second concerned the requirement to undertake CPD provided by PTUK to maintain registration. Taking account of all the circumstances, the requirement for CPD and the cost of the training were considered to be reasonable.

Chair has been assured that all complaints/concerns received by PTUK are logged and discussed by the Clinical Director, Registrar and Chief Executive and minutes are kept. These are discussed by the Executive Board.

1. **Response to the PSA conditions**

Good progress has been made towards fulfilment of the conditions that were set by the PSA at the time of the reaccreditation with PTUK. BCTIWC members have been informed of the changes to the structure and leadership of PTUK and this is on the PTUK website. This means that the Chief Executive of PTUK is overseeing the operating of PTUK rather than undertaking the work. This is detailed on the job description for the Chief Executive and the Chair is satisfied that the conditions have been fulfilled.