

ANNUAL PTUK REPORT 2024

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THE BRITISH COUNCIL FOR THERAPEUTIC
INTERVENTIONS WITH CHILDREN



Play Therapy UK/British Council for Therapeutic Interventions with Children

Annual Report for 2024

Period Covered by the Report

This Report covers the period from the last submission to the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) for re-accreditation in September 2023 to the end of August 2024.

1. Summary

The British Council for Therapeutic Interventions with Children (BCTIWC) Board meetings took place on the 11th October 2022 and 4th March 2024. The CEO, Operations Director and Executive Director and Registrar of Play Therapy UK (PTUK) delivered reports to the BCTIWC and answered questions.

The main topics of discussion included: the appointment of the new Registrar, Rochelle Rajan, to the Executive Board of PTUK, PTUK registered membership figures, the ongoing improvements of the revalidation process and new digital membership card, new members of the Clinical team and Course Directors, Global Play therapy week, the PTUK conference, the new EDI Committee, the enhanced PTUK Complaints Policy and Procedures and the PSA re-accreditation and conditions.

BCTIWC is satisfied that all legal requirements are being met by PTUK and that there is no conflict of interest between PTUK and the APAC.

2. BCTIWC membership

Helen Tozer remains the Chair of the BCTIWC. Lay member, Lorna Lewis, has been reappointed as joint Director of the BCTIWC alongside Helen to strengthen the governance of the BCTIWC.

This year, the BCTIWC welcomed new Lay Member Ruth Brown and new Professional Member Temenuga Zhelyazkova. Ruth Brown has a wealth of experience supporting children and families as a Teacher, Deputy Head, Acting Headteacher, Lecturer and Co-ordinator for Homestart charity. Temenuga Zhelyazkova is a PTUK registered Play

Therapist and Counsellor. She provides clinical supervision for Barnet Council and leads community workshops with young people and schools on a variety of mental health difficulties.

Rachel Morse has stepped down as Professional Member and the BCTIWC thanks Rachel Morse for all her hard work and commitment.

The Lay Members of the BCTIWC are Helen Tozer, Lorna Lewis, Anna Doherty and Ruth Brown. The Professional Members are Evelyn Saunders and Temenuga Zhelyazkova.

3. PTUK staffing

Rochelle Rajan has joined the Board of PTUK as Executive Director and she retains her position as Registrar. The Board of Directors now consists of the CEO, Monika Jephcott, Operations Director Maria Bayne and Executive Director, Rochelle Rajan.

BCTIWC is satisfied that the PTUK Board of Directors has developed a governance succession plan to ensure the future uninterrupted functioning of the company for the benefit of all practitioners. The Clinical Team of PTUK continues to advise the Board and considers suggestions and proposals from PTUK's Registrants.

A new clinical team was formed in January 2024 with mandatory CPD training for all Clinical Supervisors.

4. PTUK membership

The number of PTUK registrants continues to grow and the low attrition rate has been maintained. BCTIWC is reassured that the revalidation process prioritises qualitative assurance and clinical governance and continues to be streamlined. The membership section of the PTUK website has been improved and digital membership cards introduced with the intention of streamlining members' access to the site and the revalidation process. PTUK is now included on HMRC's list of approved bodies for members' annual subscriptions to be allowed as a tax deduction, a change welcomed by members.

5. Audit of the PTUK Register

The Chair of the BCTIWC undertook an audit of the Register on 3rd September 2024. She found:

- The system was secure with password protection in place and data stored according to the PTUK Data Protection Policy.
- The register has been managed appropriately. The Chair used random sampling to ascertain that the details on the online Register matched those of the internal CRM database, Apollo.
- The Chair saw how a member's record could be edited or removed from the Register. Edits are copied across to the online, public register every 3 hours and PTUK office staff can also choose to update the register immediately if required.
- No members have had to be stuck-off the Register since the last report. Members who have chosen not to renew their membership have been removed from the Register. The Chair was shown the membership blacklist, which is shared with other accredited registers in order to reduce risk to public safety.
- PTUK have begun the process of auditing PTUK Registrants' websites. In order to protect the public's interest, PTUK will link to Registrants' websites once they have been confirmed to be compliant with PTUK standards.

6. Complaints Audit

The Chair of the BCTIWC met with the PTUK Professional Conduct Officer (PCO) on 9th September 2024 to undertake an audit of the complaints process and PTUK's response to complaints. She found:

- 4 complaints about Registrants had reached Stage 2 of the PTUK Complaints Procedure since the last audit.
- In each case, the BCTIWC found that the PCO responded to the complaint within the correct timescales set by the PTUK Complaints Procedure.
- Each complainant was sent a copy of the PTUK Complaints Procedure to inform their complaint.

- BCTIWC did not have any safeguarding concerns about PTUK Registrants as a result of the complaints.
- Where the complaint was regarding a data protection issue, BCTIWC found that PTUK referred the complaint to the ICO and the PSA as required.
- There were no complaints raised to the BCTIWC regarding the Directors of PTUK.
- A record of each complaint was stored according to the PTUK Data Protection Policy.
- The BCTIWC found that the PCO position had been temporarily vacant due to compassionate leave. Processes have now been put in place to ensure contingency plans are in place for any future periods of leave.
- The Chair of the BCTIWC is satisfied that the PTUK Complaints Procedure has been adhered to.

7. PTUK Conference

The Chair of the BCTIWC attended the Annual PTUK Conference on the 22nd June 2024, 'Helping to Make Meaning out of Loss'. Over 200 members attended the Keynote speech by Rachel Tegg from Child Bereavement UK. Dr Lynn Souter-Anderson was appointed the first Global Ambassador of Play Therapy, with the aim of promoting a positive community spirit across the international play therapy world. The PTUK achievement award for contributions to the membership was awarded to Evelyn Saunders.

PTUK provided a number of workshops to support PTUK therapists' ongoing CPD. The Chair attended the 'Refugee Children and the Impact of Loss' workshop where the trainer supported the therapists to self evaluate and improve their valuable work with children fleeing war.

Board members of the BAPT (British Association of Play Therapists) were invited to the conference and the Vice Chair attended. The BCTIWC are pleased to see this continued collaboration with other Accredited Registers.

8. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee continues to meet monthly and was represented at the PTUK Annual Conference this year. The EDI Committee has been

actively updating the EDI policy, establishing a social media presence, and gathering ideas for training initiatives within PTUK. Their goal is to raise awareness and educate all members about EDI, encouraging members to integrate it into their daily practice.

EDI membership has grown from 3 to 12, and they are looking forward to working towards achieving the committee's 2025 objectives together.

9. Relationship between the PTUK and BCTIWC

In October 2023 the BCTIWC released a statement to clarify the relationship between the PTUK and BCTIWC. The BCTIWC clarified its role of overseeing the activities of PTUK to ensure it is governed in a way that prioritises the safe and effective practice of Play Therapy and that all members abide by the PTUK Code of Conduct. The statement also clarified the role of the BCTIWC in the PTUK Complaints Procedure. The full statement can be found on the BCTIWC website.

10. Relationship between the PTUK and APAC

PTUK's commitment to public safety and therapeutic standards in the use of therapeutic play skills requires that all practitioners are members of the PTUK Registrar, including those in training with the Academy of Play and Child Psychotherapy (APAC). This ensures that all Play Therapists working with members of the public are accountable to the same high standards of professionalism, through the use of quality assurance and clinical supervision, from the very beginning of a Play Therapist's practice. The BCTIWC is satisfied that there is no conflict of interest between the PTUK and APAC and that both organisations are wholly committed to protecting the public interest and supporting children's mental health through Play Therapy.