

**Minutes of Societies Council Meeting  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2016  
At the Societies' Offices, Worthing via Skype**

**In Attendance**

Vicky Parkinson (CEO Societies)  
Freya Bottomley (Deputy CE Societies)  
Megan Nunn (Societies Administration Manager)  
Gerry Willmore (Societies Head of Professional Standards)  
Rob Kidd (Lay Council Member)  
Ros Wright (Lay Council Member)  
Steve Roche (Lay Council Member)

**Apologies**

Dr Chris Forester (Chair of Societies)  
Liz Orton (Public Protection Officer)  
Wayne Bateman (Lay Council Member)

The meeting was opened, and all were welcomed to the meeting.

It was confirmed by all that there were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of the last Council Meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2016 were agreed by the Council.

**Report to Council from Administration Manager**

[REDACTED]

We have 44 events scheduled to run during 2017, with the potential to add a small number more once we have received details from the relevant tutors. We are planning events in more areas next year, giving more focus to the Midlands and the North East, as these were regularly requested locations by members. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Since the last Council meeting, one administrator has gone on Maternity Leave, and her role is being covered by a new administrator who has taken to the role extremely well. There was ample time for training and handover of any work prior to maternity leave beginning, which meant that there has been no impact on the service provided to members. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Whosoff, the new time-off management system that has been implemented this year, has been working very well; it has reduced time spent on organising holiday and lieu time, as well as cut down on paper used to book

annual leave. It automatically feeds into a holiday calendar in Outlook, affording the team more confidence when booking meetings with other Society officers. We will continue to use it going forwards.

[Redacted]

The Council were asked their opinion on the survey as it was introduced following their recommendation at the last Council Meeting, and they advised that they are happy with the questions.

[Redacted]

**Report to Council from Deputy CE**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]. The Professional Standards Authority have created two new Accredited Register leaflets aimed specifically at Commissioners and Education sector. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

We have had many new training providers on board since August meeting and more are currently part way through the process. Over 20 new training providers have joined us this year, and our current training providers have also sought recognition for more of their courses. We will continue to work on encouraging students to join us next year.

[Redacted]

The Council had no questions for the Deputy CEO.

**Report to Council from Public Protection Officer (PPO)**

The PPO was not in attendance, so the CEO gave the report covering the key cases since the last council meeting. There are a number of cases in progress at the moment, including three that have been or will be considered by the Assessment Panel. One case is ongoing pending the outcome of a court case [REDACTED]

The Council had no questions for the PPO, however they notified the Society that the term ‘suicide’ is currently subject to a campaign wherein campaigners are requesting that the term ‘took their own life’ is used instead.

**Report to Council from Head of Professional Standards**

The Head of Professional Standards also attended the latest meeting of the Accredited Registers Collaborative in London on 4th October. This forum serves to keep the 23 current register holders in touch with developments and enables the sharing of good practice. Two of the most important projects discussed were how registers might best share information about complaints handling in the interests of public protection, and how employers can be made more aware of the benefits of engaging practitioners who are on an accredited register. Additionally, the Head of Professional Standards attended the latest meeting of the We Need To Talk Coalition (England) in London on 7th October. Twenty organisations that are involved in supporting or providing mental health services continue their campaign for the NHS in England to offer a full range of evidence-based psychological therapies to all who need them within 28 days of requesting a referral. A sub-group of the coalition is currently working on how the data being generated by the IAPT programme might more effectively be used. The announcement earlier this year that NHS England will fully fund 3,000 more mental health therapists to work in general practice by 2021 was also discussed and progress is being monitored. We continue to advocate that such posts must be available to counsellors on accredited registers.

The next meeting of the Societies’ Professional Standards Committee is being held the day following the Council Meeting, on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December.

The Council asked if we noticed an increase in membership applications after events. The CEO advised that events don't necessarily deal with individual members directly so we wouldn't expect to see a significant increase, but the Deputy CEO does monitor the marketing information provided by new members on their application forms.

**Report to Council from CEO**

[Redacted]

The Society's annual site visit from the Independent Assessor has been completed. This is part of our annual PSA accreditation. The outcome was positive, and the report will be shared on the website for all to see.

[Redacted]

The Council had no other questions for the CEO.

A.O.B.

Nothing was raised as A.O.B.

The next meeting will be arranged for March 2017. Proposed dates will be sent to the Council as soon as possible.