

# Minutes of the Public Protection Committee

Held on Thursday 14 November 2019 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, New Bridge Street, London

Present: Moira Sibbald (MS) - Lay Chair  
Tamara Abood (TA), BACP Committee Member  
Jo Burns (JB), BACP Committee Member  
Ewan Malcolm (EM), Lay Committee Member  
Philip Matthews (PM), Lay Committee Member  
Velia Soames (VS), Lay Committee Member  
Vanessa Stirum (VS), Lay Committee Member  
Mervyn Wynne-Jones (MYJ), BACP Committee Member

In attendance: Fiona Ballantine Dykes (FBD), Chief Professional Standards Officer  
Christina Docchar (CD), Registrar  
Rebecca Grace (RG), Assistant Registrar - Entry & Maintenance  
Ian Ascroft (IA), Temporary Governance Manager, Clerk

## 30/19 Welcome, Apologies and Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. There were no apologies or new declarations of conflicts of interest.

## 31/19 Minutes of the last meeting 14 August 2019

- **Accuracy** - The Minutes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record subject to one typographical amendment on page 7.
- **Matters Arising** - All actions are now closed or deferred until 2020 with a full Matters Arising paper to be produced for 12 February 2020 meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

## 32/19 Statutory Regulation

Paper B was noted. The paper set out the current landscape of health and social care regulation and BACP's position within it, and potential discussion points to engage BACP membership on the future landscape of regulation for counselling and psychotherapy.

## 33/19 Publication of Committee Reports

Paper C was considered, which presented options for resolving the Committee's commitment to making a record of meetings publicly available. The following additional comments were raised:

- The Committee wished copies of all minutes starting with the November 2019 minutes to be available on the website. Whilst a possible technical issue was identified the Committee asked that a resolution be found to the problem.  
**Action: IA**
- The Governance and Committee pages on the website should be reviewed with the view to increasing the information they contain.  
**Action: IA**
- Consideration should be given to the production of an annual report, possibly as an addition to redacted minutes.  
**Action: CD**

The Committee considered there were issues for consideration beyond its remit and asked that Paper C be revamped and presented to the Board at the December 2019 meeting for comment and decision.

**Action: IA**

### 34/19 BACP Strategy and Register Work Plan

Paper D providing an overview of BACP's six new strategic goals and how the work of the Register department supports these, was noted. The following additional comments were raised:

- It was felt that public protection was implied in the strategy opposed to being explicit. The Registrar was encouraged to make the public protection benefits more overt within the work plan.  
**Action: CD**
- Supporting members and the development of resources was also felt to not be explicit enough, but as this also fell within the remit of the Professional Standards department, this should be reviewed by the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MaPS). The Committee agreed that a better understanding of the work of the MaPS Committee would be beneficial, and that the Chair of MaPS should be invited to a future meeting.  
**Action: Chair**
- Net Promoter Score (NPS) was not thought to be the correct score indicator for the work of the department, with internal, departmental KPIs being more appropriate.
- It was felt that a glossary of terms of may be helpful to committee members.  
**Action: Clerk**

### 35/19 Letters of Advice

Paper E was noted. The Committee supported the paper and proposal to extend the letters of advice process to include follow up within three years as well as ongoing work.

**Action: RG**

### 36/19 Registrar's Update

Paper F providing an update on any external regulatory developments and the Register department was noted. The following additional comments were raised:

- A focus group took place in October with panel members regarding new processes and the number of complaints coming in to BACP against members. A full update on professional conduct activities to be provided at the February 2020 meeting.  
**Action: CD**
- PSA reaccreditation forms have now been received. A copy of the reaccreditation form should be circulated to Committee members at the same time as submission to the PSA.  
**Action: CD**

**37/19 Assistant Registrar's Update**

Paper G providing an overview of the work of the entry and maintenance functions of the Register and to give information about future work and areas for further consideration was noted. The Committee welcomed the process of 'upstreaming' and the outcome of conduct procedures feeding into the Ethical Framework review.

**38/19 Social Media**

Paper H was noted. The paper set out an early draft of potential guidance to members in response to growing concern regarding member behaviour on social media. The following additional comments were raised:

- Guidance had already been out for wider consultation with the membership and changes had been made as a result.
- Consideration could be given to what professional misconduct might look like in relation to social media. Should how to hold members accountable be explored?
- Guidance on risks of being on social media for members is available but may need better signposting to increase awareness.
- Focus of guidance should be on protecting rather than punishing the membership.
- An update would be provided to the committee in 2020.

**Action: CD**

**39/19 AOB**

MS would contact committee members individually to gather feedback on how the committee has been working and to set the ways of working for 2020.

**Action: Chair**

Consideration should be given to alternative meeting venues, for example Birmingham.

**40/19 Date of Next Meeting**

**12 February 2020 - Microsoft Teams meeting: 10.00am to 1.00pm.**

SIGNED: ..... DATED: .....

**Circulation List:**  
PPC Committee  
Board of Governors  
SMT

