British Association of Social Workers

ENGLAND COMMITTEE MINUTES - 3rd April 2014

1. Preliminary Business

1.1 Welcome
- Allan Orrick (meeting Chair) welcomed everyone. Members of the Committee and staff introduced themselves.

Present:
Charlie Alder, Deputy Chair, England Committee
Francis Boylan, Chair, Criminal Justice Reference Group
Bhag Jassal
Allan Orrick, Chair, England Committee
Manisha Mahendra Patel, Student member
Louise Purser, Chair, BASW England Professional Development Reference Group (am only)
Faye Wilson, Chair, Mental Health Reference Group

In attendance:
Sharon Hodgson, Executive Officer, England
Nushra Mansuri, Professional Officer, England
Cat Smith, Parliamentary Officer (Item 14 only)
Maris Stratulis, Manager BASW England

1.2 Apologies:
Iain Brown
Michael Chapman, Chair, Social Work with Adults Reference Group
Joan Franklin
Eddie O’Hara, Chair, Children and Families Reference Group

The Committee had not received communication from James.

1.3 Membership of Committee.
- Bhag will be standing down at the end of the meeting. He is still a member until the AGM but it will be his last meeting. Thanks were given to Bhag for the time he has committed and he was wished well for the future. Manisha’s term of office as student member of the Committee is coming to end but she has submitted an application form to stand again. Iain is due to stand for re-election and has submitted an application. Applications have also been received from two other members.
- The subject of holding teleconferences was raised – the general consensus was that this was supported. Team to look into for future meetings.
- There have been five applications for the student member post. There was a suggestion that maybe candidates could send in a recording if they could not attend in person.

1.4 Appointment of person to take minutes
- Sharon Hodgson.

1.5 Appointment of Equal Opportunities Monitor
• Francis Boylan. No breaches were reported during the meeting.

1.6 Declaration of conflict of interests
• None were raised.

1.7 Media/publicity
• Manisha reported she has talked to a media consultant about a programme on students and how equipped they are which may air in the future.

2. Minutes of last meeting – 03/02/14
• The action points from the previous meeting were read through. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
• Allan had not completed the action to discuss country issues with Council. Maris had discussed with Bridget and reported that council is for U.K wide issues and strategic implementation and action. However, members can raise country specific issues with the Chair or put matters on the agenda.
• Joe Godden had not shared comments about the building as these were in the body of the report. Some building work has been completed in reception. There are outstanding health and safety issues e.g. fire doors. There are many competing priorities at the moment for BASW’s financial resources. BASW are discussing accessing free rooms through partners.
• From previous minutes Faye raised the issue that she had met with Joe Devo about representation of mental health issues in PSW. She has not heard anything back to date. Charlie had raised the issue of Mental health workers who choose not to be an AMHP. Joe was going to email her to put an article together – Maris will follow this up. Maris to action.

3. Matters Arising
• There were no matters arising.
• Allan wrote to the HCPC regarding capture of the missing ethnic data and they wrote back to say it was not their remit. They suggested other orgs. Sharon made contact with the Higher Education Statistics Authority. It was agreed to request what information they keep. Sharon/Maris/Allan to action
• Also raised was who gets access to National Minimum Data Sets info (kept by Skills for Care) – is this accessible? BASW also has data in terms of who we are attracting in terms of diversity, although this data is optional for members to supply. What are the issues around students and how can we support practice educator members with student issues?

• P2 – recruitment and marketing (1.1). The budget is still pretty limited. There is scope for more promotional activity. It was also noted that branch members and other are also attending events and promoting BASW.
• P3 - Student activity (1.2). There is financial commitment in terms of supporting induction and final year activity. We are also looking at an increase in terms of member engagement. There are issues in terms of how we measure the impact of these visits. The effectiveness is sometimes difficult to track but by using promotional codes we can measure student recruitment.
• Manisha reported she has been asked not to mention BASW by two members of staff at her university– Maris to raise with Di Bayliss. Action: Maris.
• P4 - The mentor scheme (1.3) is working is well and we are looking at expanding this. There are currently over 20 waiting for mentoring and looking for more
mentors. Faye reported she is a mentor and her experience is that those being mentored did not always respond. Feedback is required to understand if the scheme has been successful to mentees.

- There is potential to develop networks by going into workplaces
- P5 - social work events (1.5). BASW England currently has a contract with Compass. BASW will not be having a stand at Community Care Live this year as they are over £10k. Stands fees are increasing. England is trying to promote payment for members and staff if they speak at events and is definitely recouping travel costs.
- P6 – Retention and engagement (2.1). The Finance and HR committee have agreed to the appointment of a full-time additional professional officer post for two years to be London specific.
- P6 – targeted local authority work (2.2). England will aim to target two LAs per year with branches. Joe is following up with a member to look into partnership with Dudley through adult services.
- P7 – enquiries (3.1). We are looking at an initial response within 48 hours to signpost members. To be amended to 2 working days. Maris to action
- P8 – consultations (4.1). England will reduce responses to essential ones. From October there will be an important role at lobbying level and working with MPs and chief social workers. Francis is increasingly trying to encourage his group to work alongside other partners and increase reputation and standing. Consultations have taken up a big part of the work of reference groups. The 15 per year was clarified. There is a cost element for members to attend specific events and for affiliation fees.
- P7 – Ambassador/patron role (4.3) – may be in place by October. £2k to support.
- P10 – roundtable events (5.3). A lot depends on being invited to round table events. BASW have attended ten events over the last three years. BASW should be looking to secure free speakers for events. We are also trying to look at income generation in terms of members and staff speaking. A proposal has come in from the Social Perspectives Network for joint working on a conference.
- P10 - international element (5.4). As part of the World Social Work Day event BASW worked with Lumos to explore partnership. They look at the de-institutionalisation of children in care homes particularly in Baltic States.
- P11 - Social Work Awards (5.4.d). Maris has had an exploratory meeting and they wanted a commitment of £10K. We have said we can provide £7.5k. They are also exploring funding from TCSW. They have also sought funding for a parliamentary event for the awards (BASW are not supporting).
- P11 England conference (1.1) The budget needs increasing as it has gone over at present by about £1000. Currently around 120 members are booked on with some paying non-members.
- P13 – policy statements (3). There is a lot of discussion about what BASW is producing in terms of policy and guidance – we do need to be producing material on thematic areas.
- P14 – BASW led groups (4.1). BASW are continuing to support the Russian group. There is an IFSW event in Edinburgh in September which will be a large commitment for staff and members.
- P14 – knowledge hub (8). TCSW are looking to develop a research e-hub.
- P15/16 – SWU/A&R service (1). England staff are involved in giving some advice but representation issues are dealt with by SWU.
- P21 – Support and Development (6.1.b). The England team will an annual away day for the staff team to review work priorities, the England activity plan and development work.
• Members were advised if they had any comments to send them to Maris ahead of the next meeting.

• The patron role was discussed at the last meeting – no additional feedback has been received. There would be potentially one patron and several ambassadors or a possible student ambassador role. The patron role has more of a political focus. Maris has recently held a discussion with Steve McCabe but he declined to get involved in the role. In Wales they do have some MPs that are patrons for BASW Cymru. The patron role may take more time to scope and recruit to. We may look at contacts in arts and media – Jo Brand, for example, will be appearing in a programme as a social worker. For the present, England will pursue the idea and see what happens. This has been built into the activity plan.
• Ambassador role – they could be placed in universities and regional areas. Benefits include CPD, public speaking etc. There is no financial incentive.
• Skills for care and development have an ambassador scheme representing the profession. We need to be aware of this so duplication, competition and conflicting are avoided.
• The schemes were endorsed in principle by the Committee. Members wished the item to be raised for member endorsement at the England Conference in Bristol.

6. Update Maris

6.1 Partnership Updates
• Maris met with Lyn Romeo and fed back to the Social Work with Adults Reference Group on suggestions for social work e.g. the role of social work with vulnerable adults with dementia.
• Staff have been involved in various activities and are looking to increase member activity in terms of giving presentations etc.

6.2 Meetings with MPs
• England are trying to target MPs. A meeting with Steve McCabe took place recently. The meeting with Emma Lewell-Buck (chair of the social work APPG) needs to be re-scheduled. Chris Williamson (MP for Derby) said if we submit information to him about our manifesto he will try to support development. Feedback from MPs is that realistically there will be some agendas that can’t go forward e.g. cuts as these will continue whoever gets into power next. We are also hearing we may not win the debate about outsourcing but could look at commissioning being transparent and open. The patron role has been discussed with MPs and there may be challenges in securing one.

6.3 Meeting, Justice Munby
• Bridget and Maris recently met with him and he has since agreed to speak at the UK AGM. Key issues discussed included the professional image of social work in the media and case law where there is incorrect reporting. He was interested in membership of BASW and saw us as having standing. He was also keen to find out from social workers how much up to date case law is disseminated to staff. Community Care has a free legal update available. There may be a function for BASW in signposting members to informative web sites. Maris will speak to Tim about the Community Care Inform website. Maris to action.
6.4 Attendance, branch events
- Maris reported that the Black Country event about social work in a time of austerity was well attended. Issues covered included: benefit sanctions, fear about the impact of the bedroom tax, universal credit and anarchy in social work. Students reported that on placements people ate at desks and rarely looked up from computers. There was a suggestion around running a workshop on wellbeing. Increasing information is reaching BASW re: burn-out etc. Maris has asked to meet with Directors. A review of employer standards in terms of health reports is also anticipated. This is about the social workers’ voice regarding their own environment.
- A Derby branch seminar was also recently attended.

6.5 Report - Compass Birmingham/WSWD event, 19th March
- The BASW England World Social Work Day was combined with the Compass event. Nushra delivered a presentation on the education review reports. Joe did a presentation on the Care Bill. Lumos did a presentation from the international context. The stand received a lot of visitors. Social Care workers that are not qualified social workers were visiting. Bridget is looking into membership of such workers for BASW. Thirty membership forms were received back on the day.

6.6 Feedback – Launch event, Skills for Care and Development (animation)
- Sue Kent attended and the resulting video is available on the BASW website.

7. Feedback from Council (ASK ALLAN FOR THIS)
- The BASW Chief Executive post has been advertised in March PSW and the Guardian. It is hoped they will be in place before the honorary officers leave their post on June 10th.
- The date for the Assistant General Secretary interviews for SWU has been organised.
- The Chief Executive reported a list of activities including meeting with the IFSW executive in Edinburgh to plan 2015 event, meetings about BASW Council nominations committee, SWU exec mtg. She also attended a four country regulator meeting in Belfast.
- BASW and SWU have formalised an advisory group made up of chief officers of each.
- It was decided at Council that a member can’t be a BASW national committee chair or Deputy chair and an honorary officer. (Currently the Vice Chair is also chair of Northern Ireland). Allan was nominated for vice chair of BASW by the Northumbria branch at the end of January. However, Allan has decided to withdraw his application as Vice Chair so will remain as England Chair.
- The application time to apply for some key posts has been extended.
- There have been partisan responses to Martin Narey’s report.
- Next meeting of Council is this month.

8. Update – Social Workers Union
- Allan fed back Council are trying to separate SWU from BASW. The potential new structure has been detailed in PSW. There are the BASW/SWU/Charity arms under an umbrella BASW group.
9. **Update on Social Work Reform**
   - The Social Work Reform Board has been disbanded. BASW are still involved with the Employer Standards Group (chaired by LGA), which Maris is meeting with in April. There are some challenges over the revised guidance. Maris will feed back BASW’s perspective. They are at the final stages in their revision. Our campaign areas can be welfare of staff, supervision etc.

10. **Update on HCPC**
    - Maris has a future meeting with the HCPC rep for Stakeholder Partnership person so will provide an update.

11. **Reference/Other Group Updates/Update from Finance and HR and Policy, Ethics and Human Rights Committees**

**Criminal Justice – Francis Boylan**
   - There has been a big move by the Howard league to get parliament to look at a proposal to build a 3000 bed centre serving the whole country – this is currently in a Bill before the houses of Parliament. The Howard league raised a petition which has been linked by Francis to the BASW Comms team. Howard league are saying that it will cause geographic isolation and would be better catered for in local authority secure units (these have been reduced). Most are currently being held in Secure Training Centres or Youth Offending institutions. Some of these have long running contracts to fulfil.
   - The Justice department issued about 30 pieces of paper last month.
   - The group tried to have a face to face meeting but only 2 members were able to attend. The group are interested to look into holding part of the meeting as a teleconference.
   - There have been major papers released about the state of prisons reporting overcrowding and lack of control.
   - Francis is keen to pursue increasing the age of criminal responsibility. BASW were invited to give evidence at the House of Lords which a member of the reference group did.

**Mental Health – Faye Wilson**
   - Three priority areas include improving outcomes for people in families and the crisis in care in terms of accessing psychiatric beds
   - The group have responded strongly to CQC on the new inspection regime. Faye has been invited to be on the expert panel and will accompany them on some of their visits
   - The Mental Health code of practice is to be reviewed
   - Teams are putting AMHPs into crisis teams –the group have advised caution.
   - Robert Nisbet has been involved in the Mental health senate and will do a follow-up article in PSW
   - The group are leading on the review of the Mental Capacity Act. Robert and Marie have been influential on the parliamentary select committee and the group is looking at a seminar around the Cheshire case.
   - Faye has worked closely with Andy McNicholl from Community Care on the issue access to beds for dementia patients.

**Children and Families – Nushra Mansuri**
   - Nushra was unable to attend the last meeting. The group have been re-configured the group in that the members of the Child Sexual Exploitation group
have been encouraged to join the main group. A Chair and Deputy Chair have also been elected so the group can now re-focus.

- The Children & Families Bill has received royal assent and is now the Children and Families Act.
- Nushra and the group have been working on consultations including those around family justice/care proceedings and adoption

**SWARG- Bhag Jassal**
- A new chair, Michael Chapman and Deputy Chair, Mary O’Reardon have been elected
- The main discussion was around the care Bill and the implications for social work practice.
- Other issues arising were: autism, wellbeing, discharge of people with mental health problems, social workers operating in relation to the Mental Capacity Act. A joint teleconference has been arranged for the adults and mental health group and look at implications of care bill.

**BASW Professional Development Reference Group**
- The group have a draft business plan focussing on thematic areas which may be useful to send out to other groups.

**Finance report – Allan Orrick**
- Ruth stark retired in December on completion of her sabbatical
- No appointment has been made to the Assistant General Secretary role of SWU. Lien Watts has been appointed as senior practitioner in SWU and has agreed to act up as Assistant General secretary until the post has been filled
- There have been two part-time temporary posts in the Policy team - Tracy Chopping (Policy Officer) and Helen Darville (Administrator)
- An ICT Apprentice to deal with low level IT queries on a day to day basis was approved, allowing our IT Consultant to concentrate on the high level IT issues

### 13. Events

#### 13.1 Kent Street Seminars
- Sharon read these out. These include:
  - Public Law Outline - 21st May
  - Mental Capacity Act (re-scheduled from February) – 16th June
  - Member Engagement Forum, Birmingham City Council – 17th June
  - Adult Community Care Assessment and Paperwork – 23rd June
  - Critical Analysis in Social Work – 15th July
  - Mindfulness – to be re-scheduled from March
  - CPD for HCPC Profiles – 3rd September

#### 13.2 Planning for England Conference 2014
- This has now reached the final stages with about 120 registered. It is likely we may go over budget. In terms of the AGM the report is being compiled and nominations for England member posts are in place.
- Sarah Richards is currently off sick so England has some support from other staff on this event.
- It was clarified that committee members are not funded to attend the conference.
13.3 – UK AGM, 10th June
- To be held at the London Symphony Orchestra HQ. Speakers include: Judge Munby, Edward Timpson, and Chief SW from Scotland. Allan is one of the members looking after proxy votes.

14. Update summary University visits
- List noted.

15. Parliamentary Update – Cat Smith (Francis chaired the meeting from this point)
- 34 English MPs have signed up to an early day motion asking MPs to support social work – this came about from the World Social Work Day meeting held in Westminster in March
- BASW is hoping to have a social work manifesto for the 2015 general election. This should be a short engaging document for candidates with some key pledges to sign up to
- In the autumn are the party conferences and it is hoped that BASW can engage with politicians at these events
- Members were to put forward issues and the following items were recorded: –
  - data relating to violence and aggression towards social workers
  - zero tolerance about those being places into B&Bs and ages at which this happens
  - issues in new acts that we would want MPs to support e.g. Care Bill and Children & Families Act. Putting safeguarding boards on a statutory footing for adults.
- Members asked if any West Midlands MPs were involved. Maris and Cat met with Steve McCabe as he is now the labour party children’s shadow minister brief. A good working relationship is being established
- Workshops or seminars could be done and champions from different regions found
- April’s edition of PSW asked for members to share their views to date on the social work manifesto. Cat will look at this in more detail with Joe Devo.
- Cat reported MPs are interested in low cost do-able issues and cautioned we need to be selective in our requests
- Cat reported BASW has nothing planned for the European elections or local Government elections, but this is something we could get into the May edition of PSW.
  Action: Cat Smith to speak to JD.
- Only two west midlands MPs have signed the early day motion.
- Francis fed back he is attending an All Party group on the subject of police and juveniles on Monday as an observer.

16. Any Other Business (Notified to Chair at least 24 hours in advance)
- None raised.

17. England Calendar and further meetings
- The next meeting was confirmed as:

  Wednesday June 4th @ 11am
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<td>Item 2 – Minutes of last meeting</td>
<td>Maris to talk to Joe Devo re: Mental Health article</td>
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<td>Item 3 – Matters Arising</td>
<td>Sharon/Allan/Maris to write to the Higher Education Statistics Agency to seek info they have</td>
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<td>Item 4 – Activity Plan 2014-2017</td>
<td>Maris to raise issues Manisha raised re: her Uni with Di Bailey&lt;br&gt;Maris to amend the activity plan to reflect that enquiries should be responded to within 2 working days</td>
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<td>Item 6 – Update Maris</td>
<td>Maris to speak to Tim about Community Care Inform</td>
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<td>Item 15 – Parliamentary Update</td>
<td>Cat Smith to speak to Joe Devo about article in PSW re: local elections/European elections</td>
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