

At Queens Road Baptist Church, Coventry. February 19th 2015

Present: Tony Ruddle, Peter Barraclough, David Depledge, Sue Monckton Rickett, Chris Williams, Dave Thomson.

In Attendance: Ruth Nelson; agreed Amana Georgiou and Teresa Onions would not attend.

Apologies: David Crabb

TR opened meeting in prayer

Minutes of previous meeting:

Amendments: David Depledge was added as an Attendee. A slight amendment was made to the last paragraph regarding timescales. Subject to these two alterations, the minutes were approved.

Conflicts of Interest

The following items were reported to be added to the Conflicts of Interest Log

1. Chris Williams is appointed to the London Christian Police Family Support – acting as Christian Counsellor.
2. Chris Williams is contracted as a Supervisor for the London School of Theology.
3. Dave Thomson is a lecturer at Destiny College Glasgow, which is applying to be an affiliate of ACC. The items will be added to the Conflicts of Interest Log and the Log will be circulated to all members for review.

Risk Register

A proposal from the Register Advisory Panel (RAP) that the Risk Register be considered at every board meeting as a standing item was agreed unanimously and will become effective from the next board meeting. A discussion was had regarding consistency of rating risk and assigning responsibility, especially for those risks that are more generic to counselling practice and environment. It was agreed that TR contact PSA for clarity.

Executive Chair Report

Same Sex Attraction & MoU

A number of issues on these topics was discussed and concluded with a reply to a member's letter to include the agreement that it form part of the Ethics and Practice review, which will take place this year and will include member consultation. Invite that member to be part of the Ethics and Practice Review.

Following discussion it was agreed that TACT is not a suitable name for the Training and Education Group of the MOU. It conveyed a negative message against a particular form of therapy rather than the positive message of training and educating counsellors to be better equipped to support people with sexuality issues. Agreed CW feedback to Tim Swain.

It was agreed that in future if ACC is invited to be part of similar groups it would be good practice to inform members of this and the role that we are playing so that we can ask for their support.

Complaints Process

The proposal to appoint John Nightingale as Head of the Pre-Hearing Assessment Panel and Rev Mike Jobling as a member of the panel was agreed unanimously.

Following recent on-going contact from a member of the public, advice was sought from RAP for an appropriate response. The board agreed with RAP's proposal but felt it appropriate to have a policy for managing with persistent and repeated complaints. It was agreed that RAP be consulted on this. TR confirmed that on the new ACC website details of complaint outcomes would be published

Evangelical Alliance

It was agreed ACC would not renew its membership of the EA.

Accreditation Committee

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Helen Avery for her service on this committee.

Director of Pastoral Care Report

Statement of Faith

The proposal to amend the Statement of Faith for PCUK Members as detailed in Section 3 of the report was accepted unanimously

PCUK Ambassadors

The board accepted the recommendation to support the development of PCUK International Ambassadors. However, it was stressed that the amount of time and resource given to this needed monitoring where the work is being carried out in countries that will not provide any significant income from using PCUK training materials etc.

DoH MoU

It was agreed that the approach that TO has been taking with regard to Pastoral Care be continued. The MoU was written to apply to the counselling practice and is not applicable in the same way to the provision of pastoral care. PCUK guidelines of Good Practice are sufficient to point members that PCUK is not a professional body but a resource to equip members and others.

Director of Counselling

Role of Registrar

A proposal was discussed to increase hours but the board could not at this time approve it. An ongoing assessment would take place.

Technology in Counselling

The Board noted the request for the need to continue to monitor the potential risks of using technology in counselling and supervision. It recommends that if any specific risks are identified by ACC members / committees (especially the Accreditation committee) they should be reported to the Board and would then be considered for adding to the Risk Matrix.

Any members using technology should be reminded of the current ACC policy that is published on the website.

The board agreed unanimously that it would abide by the recommendations made by RAP concerning the use of technology.

Accreditation Essay

The Board agreed unanimously to accept the change from "2000 word Essay" to "2000 word Reflection".

Equivalence

It was agreed that: CW would perform a comparative review for equivalence of BABCP accreditation
DT would perform the same review for equivalence of NSC accreditation

Policy Review

Following the recommendation concerning a review of the Technology and Counselling Policy, a wider discussion was held concerning policy review. It was agreed that a list of all policies would be brought to the next meeting and review dates and process would be considered for them all.

Director of Finance

The board reviewed the Draft Accounts for 2014 and the Proposed Budget for 2015.

Following the Business Plan meeting that took place yesterday (18th February) it was agreed that a revised 2015 Budget reflecting the decisions taken and planned actions would be produced and circulated to the Board for approval

It was agreed that ACC must tightly control costs whilst additional income streams are being worked on.

From the Business Plan meeting Sue Monckton-Rickett will draw up a detailed plan of actions which will be monitored closely and progress reported on regularly. Board Agreed.

Director of Operations

The Board wished to minute and pass onto all staff their gratitude for the way in which they have managed additional pressures and workload and significant change over the past year. Thanks was given to Ruth Nelson especially for doing this whilst coping with her own health issues.

2017 Conference

Following discussions about effectiveness of the National Conference, it was agreed that:

1. ACC would hold a National Conference and Training Event in January 2017 and 175 places would be booked at the Hayes Centre
2. TR to discuss with the Hayes their pricing policy.

3. A working group would be established to develop the programme, which would meet in June / July 2015. TR would ask members to be part of that group.
4. The programme needed to be finalised by Jan 2016 so that it can be published and bookings opened in April 2016.
5. SMR to provide a budget for Training etc. for Conference.

Summer School 2016

It was agreed not to stage a Summer School for 2016, but to consider more widely the training that is delivered by ACC both Nationally and by Networks to get a more co-ordinated and consistent approach.

DBS

It was agreed a review be carried out to look at the cost effectiveness of the DBS service that ACC provides.

Staffing

The Board would continue to monitor staffing issues and future needs.

AOB

MoU Update

Chris Williams confirmed the establishment of TACT as a working group, which ACC would be involved with looking at Education and Training for counsellors on sexuality issues.

A shared resource has been made available by Nancy Rowland to measure the awareness of the MoU statement. CW to circulate.

Training discussions have included production of some training DVDs and Dominic Davis (Pink Therapy) has been asked to write an article for BACP in relation to ethical dilemmas, which we could inform members about. ACC had been asked to work with Relate in discussions with Catholic Marriage Care. CW to advise on how this happens or contacts.

It was agreed that ACC would continue to be involved in this working group, principally being represented by Chris Williams.

Ethics and Church Culture

The paper produced by Peter Barraclough was discussed widely and it was agreed that ACC would look at these issues within the Ethics and Practice review.

AGM

SMR reported that there were no Network Training Events that were on appropriate dates for the AGM to be held. It was agreed that we would try to plan an AGM to be held in the South East, preferably in central London on a Saturday, which would be organised by ACC Board. In addition to the AGM the day would include updates for members and affiliates concerning the Register, an Open Forum for questions and potentially some Training Workshops.

Venues will be investigate CW – Police venue, SMR Methodist Central Hall Westminster.

Date of next meeting 22 April 2015.