ACC Board Meeting Friday 19th July 2021

Venue: Zoom

(Meeting commenced 1.30pm)

Title

Welcome & Apologies

In attendance: Sue Monckton-Rickett Chair (SMR); Chris Williams Deputy Chair (CW); Tony Ruddle (TR); Phil Martin (PM); Marlene Forsythe Gidharry (MFG); Peter Barraclough (PB); Fiona Sherburn (FS); Wien Fung (WF); Kathy Spooner (KS).

Apologies: Gathoni Hamilton-Foster (GHF); Peter Roberts (PB).

Opening – led by Marlene Forsythe Gidharry in which she shared that she is standing down from the Board of ACC for personal reasons, but will continue to support PCUK.

Board members prayed for Marlene and expressed their thanks to her. She then left the meeting. FS had to leave the meeting at 10.35. She re-joined at 12.04 along with the members of ACCeNT Forum.

1. Minutes of the 25th June 2021

No Corrections and minutes approved.

Matters Arising: None

2. Standing items

a) Conflict of Interest: None

b) RAP/PSA – covered in CEO reportc) Risk Register : later in meeting

d) Diversity & Inclusion / MoU:

A MoU meeting is being held next Wednesday to respond to a Government consultation. There is a new group- the Coalition to Ban Conversion Therapy, which is separate to the MoU.

3. Chair Report

Membership review shows our membership is increasing by 5% in the last year. Also our PCUK membership is rising. This is good news as it supports the impact of what has been done during lockdown – including advice, training that have supported this trajectory. KS commented that this was achieved without any direct promotional activity she felt that some of this growth was due to increased social media and the profile increase coming from the NHS work.

WF asked if we have any data demographic breakdown. Not currently, but we are considering including aspects in future membership statistics. We do capture why people join. TR suggested that we survey our current membership and also make it part of the renewal and joining process. FS supported that we need to make this demographic date as a priority as it is a strategic gap.

Complaints SMR submitted the report

Board membership has been reduced by Helen Vipan and Marlene leaving. We need to consider Board recruitment and the skills needed. KS believed we need to recruit someone with coaching and mentoring knowledge and skills. Also PCUK member is needed to support its current growth. The Board audit shows gaps in fundraising and marketing. KS suggested a networker or someone who has good connections into many Christian organisations and denominations. CW suggested we might need someone with a legal background. PM highlighted the pastoral care element and as a key

function it is essential. PB mentioned the need for someone with expertise in IT.

FS – proposed that we review our recruitment processes for Board members - aprocess for interview and appointment already exists but we need to improve the process of advertising including the skills set we are looking for.

4. CEO Report

KS presented her report and noted she will only provide a Board report every other meeting to the standard business meeting .

The Board endorsed the on-going actions with regard to pursuing the Application to Kick Start, the employment of the Training and Communications Manager and the appointment of a contractor for editing Accord.

The Board agreed with the proposal to promote membership by reducing fees for students and newly graduated counsellors, who are / have trained with ACC Affiliates. SMR and KS will meet with PR when he returns to discuss the financial implications. Affiliates will then be informed before the new term in September.

We have been advertising CPD events for free since lockdown. This has created a sense of community and it is proposed to continue this as a benefit. A meeting with our Training Affiliates will take place to discuss the student scheme and the benefits and conditions of membership.

ACCENT Group Logo – this was proposed and is being looked at further how it can be used alongside the ACC logo.

Pilot Project of PCUK the first stage of training has been completed with attendees being assigned to Support Groups to start in September and a second pilot of training will also start in September. Feedback is being followed up.

Ethics & Advisory Group have put forward a simpler open statement to replace the current statement of faith. A discussion followed over a number of aspects and it was recognised that there are various risks associated with any change. This will need to be a Board discussion decision and further thought and prayer will be needed before any decision is taken. KS will create a Board folder so that papers so far can be reviewed.

The PSA are planning a review of standards and next year will have to demonstrate that ACC continues to fulfil 1B (Public Benefit). KS will plan to carry out an impact assessment.

News of NHS contact and future opportunities were shared by KS after meetings with NHS personnel.

Further report on **ScopEd** was updated.

5. Finance Report

In PR'S absence SMR brought the Finance report.

Current income is above budget mainly due to the training events that have been held. A small deficit in the first 6 months but forecast a larger deficit for the whole year of approx. £30k. Some of this is due to having to pay for costs of closing the office and an extra payment to PSA. However, there may be additional income from the on-line conference and training events and also income retained to meet overhead costs for the NHS scheme. SMR anticipates that the PSA fees next year maybe in the region of £15,000.

Cashflow – it is forecast that the surplus above contingency at the end of the year would be approx. £79,000.

KS, SMR & PR will work on a budget for next year

6. **ACCENT Forum** Bridgette Brooks and Charlotte Johnson

After introductions SMR invited BB and CJ to bring an update on the work of the Forum. They invited comment on the AGM presentation. Those who heard and saw it felt it was well presented and showed their passion. It was noted that it would have been better if it had been earlier in the agenda, as a significant number had left the meeting by this time. A recording will be placed on the ACC website for members. The Forum thanked ACC for the opportunity especially as it resulted in interest from some who were present join the Forum and offer help.

BB shared the Ethnic Tapestry Logo. This was designed by some Young People at her church. The hands represent togetherness (all nations), unity and supporting. Blue – intelligence and calmness – the yellow is complimentary. She invited the Board to recognise how these young people may be rewarded. SMR & KS to review this and what is appropriate.

It was agreed that great progress had been made within the first year of the Forum's existence. BB asked if when ACC draws up policies it would be good to involve the group in this. The group would like to be used as much as ACC wish and in any areas where they can make a valuable contribution they will be happy to share.

KS and SMR said Terms and Conditions of membership and the advertising for Board members will be shared.

7. **AOB** s

There was a discussion about potential areas of growth for ACC including;

- streams such as mentors, coaches etc.
- offering life-skills
- Help for those in ministry.
- Mediators
- spiritual directors
- International counsellors.

It was agreed that whilst we do not wish to loose our focus, we need to look at opportunities that we might be missing. It was considered whether it would be valuable to hold a retreat type day with others working In similar fields and having some external input.

KS posed the idea of a Retreat Type Day involving other Christian organisations and partners. The idea was worth processing and TR made the point that the facilitator would be key to its success. Some potential names were suggested.

Date of next meeting: Friday 10th September 13.30

Sue Monckton-Rickett

10 September 2021