

**ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH PRINCIPAL  
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS**  
[www.aspep.org.uk](http://www.aspep.org.uk)

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Carmichael Place  
Glasgow, G42 9SY

**9<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
Raploch Community Centre, Stirling  
Minutes of ASPEP Main Meeting**

**Action**

**1. Present and Apologies**

**Present:**

Carolyn Brown (Fife), Barry Syme (Glasgow), Shona Crawford (West Dunbartonshire), Roslyn Redpath (Argyll & Bute), Michael Harker (Renfrewshire), Louise McClatchey (Highland), Peta Barber (Highland), Shonagh Anderson (Dundee), Anne Wilson (Aberdeenshire North), Sarah Philp (Midlothian), Fiona Yarrow (Aberdeenshire), Bill O'Hara (Aberdeen City), Gillian Dury (East Dunbartonshire), Mark Wilson (South Lanarkshire), Alison Crawford (Glasgow), Nick Balchin (Falkirk), Roger Barrow (Scottish Borders), Lynne Binnie (West Lothian), Maura Kearney (Glasgow), Fergal Doherty (Glasgow), Jennyfer McNiven (West Lothian), David Patrick (Glasgow), Shona Munro (Fife), Kate Watson (Inverclyde), Paula Dudgeon (Inverclyde), Vivienne Sutherland (Fife), Diane Ferguson (North Ayrshire), Tracy Colville (City of Edinburgh), Nicola Stewart (East Ayrshire), Matthew Musset (Aberdeen City), Melanie Rice (Angus), Nick Smiley (East Renfrewshire), Sharron Harper (Dumfries & Galloway), Shannon Findlayson (Western Isles), Suzie Turner (Perth), Shirley Paterson (South Lanarkshire)

**Apologies:**

Anne Littlefair (Edinburgh), Frank Coletta (North Lanarkshire), Elizabeth King (South Lanarkshire), Morven Graham (Stirling and Clacks), Jacqui Ward (South Ayrshire), J Martin (Perth), Joyce Fullarton (East Renfrewshire), Julie McPherson (North Ayrshire), Lesley Arthur (North Ayrshire), Nancy Ferguson (North Lanarkshire), A Osborne (Angus), Peter Moore (North Ayrshire), Sarah Jamieson (Shetland), Stewart Biggar (Dumfries and Galloway), Susan Dean (Moray)

**2. Minutes of previous meeting of 8.11.13**

Under Present : M Musset (Aberdeen City)

Minutes accepted as accurate.

**3. Matters arising**

Item 11; Paper to be kept for future reference.

**4. Office Bearer's Report**

**4.1 The Chair's Report**

Carolyn Brown spoke to the summary paper that had been circulated ahead of the meeting. See attached.

Fergal Doherty raised the possibility of the EIS being involved in gathering data for the profession. Bill O'Hara commented that he felt that the Scottish Government was remiss in not gathering data on the Educational Psychology workforce.

#### 4.2 **Treasurer's Report**

In Frank Coletta's absence Barry Syme provided the report and circulated a copy of the accounts for 2013/14.

- 55 members paid subscriptions this year, an increase from the previous year.
- Membership list reflects paid up members.
- Statement of Financial Activities will be available on website.
- A proposal for an increase in the subscriptions will be voted on at the next meeting in November 2014.
- Accounts were agreed by the membership

FC/BS

#### 4.3 **Executive Membership –**

- 4.3.1 • There were 2 vacancies on the Executive. Following a call for nominations Fergal Doherty was proposed by Alison Crawford and seconded by Maura Kearney. Sharron Harper was proposed by Paula Dudgeon and seconded by Louise McClatchey. Both nominations were agreed by the meeting.
- The position of Chair Elect was vacant and the Executive proposed Barry Syme. This was agreed by the meeting.

#### 4.3.2 **Confirmation of Executive Members**

- The current Executive membership is
- Carolyn Brown- Chair
- Barry Syme- Secretary and Chair Elect
- Frank Coletta- Treasurer
- Rodger Barrow
- Shona Crawford
- Fergal Doherty
- Sharron Harper
- Roslyn Redpath
- Kate Watson
- Jacqui Ward

### 5. **General Business**

#### 5.1 **Correspondence**

- Carolyn has written on behalf of ASPEP to Professor Jim Boyle at University of Strathclyde regarding a proposed change to ICT Rights for Practice Tutors. This has led to a positive outcome with Practice Tutors not having to pay £55.

#### 5.2 **Assessment Position Paper**

- This has now been finalised and circulated, thanks to Liz Locke, Sharon Brown, Sarah Philp and Carolyn Brown for their work in this paper.

#### 5.3 **Website**

- Barry provided an update on its development, please see [www.aspep.org.uk](http://www.aspep.org.uk)

#### 5.4 **Training Course Update**

- Vivienne Sutherland and Bill O'Hara provided feedback on the recent Dundee M.Sc. Course selection. There were 46 applicants and from that number 35 met the criteria for interview. This number is significantly down on previous years. There was a view that there had been a lowering of the quality of applicants. Following the completion of the selection a paper has been submitted to the Executive with several

recommendations and this has been accepted. Thanks to Vivienne and Bill and other ASPEP members for their involvement in this process.

- A group of EPiTs have recently met with Mike Russell.
- It was noted that Services across Scotland are starting to find it difficult to take the current number of trainees due to staffing issues. Louise McClatchey raised the matter of some authorities now having to look at EP Assistants who are employed and are then able to fund themselves through the M.Sc. Course. It was felt that a Position paper on this issue should be looked at.
- Some Services are now starting to have discussions with the Universities prior to agreeing to take on Trainees. It was agreed that this topic should be considered for a themed discussion at the November Meeting, a small group will look at this comprising Bill O'Hara, Vivienne Sutherland, Lynn Binnie and Tracy Colville.

Exec

5.5

#### **National Conference**

- Anne Wilson provided an update on progress. Workshop proposals are being considered the deadline for submissions has been extended until the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The requirement for all who attend to pay was stressed, this includes presenters.

5.6

#### **Qualifications Reference Group**

- Shona Crawford explained where the revision of the candidate handbook currently was with the BPS. The BPS have informed her that they have sent the revision to the Qualification Board for comment. Given the time that this has taken and the lack of communication from the BPS, Shona proposes to circulate the revised guidelines to Authorities. There is no conflict with what the BPS has on their website.
- Shona will write to Helen Clark about this and has the support from ASPEP. Thanks to Shona for all her work in supporting and leading the QRG.

## **6. VSE Update**

Rodger Barrow gave an update on VSE for Psychological Services following the submission from ASPEP /SDEP to Education Scotland. See attached paper.

A letter asking for expressions of interest for Associate Assessors has been circulated to Directors of Education.

There was a helpful discussion around the possible VSE process.

## **7. Themed Discussion: "How do you self evaluate?"**

Following discussion in small groups a number of themes were noted and the Executive will look at these and send out to members.

Some of the points that were raised were

- How we look at the effectiveness of EP practice
- The Chain of Impact where EPs are involved e.g. Literacy, Early Years Collaborative, Health and Wellbeing.
- A shared self evaluation with schools, jointly agreeing outcomes with schools
- Sharing practice but also working along with other services on shared agendas.
- Evaluating activities or a cycle through an academic year, concern that VSE is truncated. Would it be possible for the

external validation to join in the process at key points which would be more effective?

- Lot of commonality across Services, particularly among stakeholder feedback (how we get this).
- How do we know what we are doing has an impact, it cannot be done over a year or two. Non threatening PRD.
- Quality Management in EPS- copy to go onto Website - BS

## **8. National Groups Updates**

### **8.1 SAGRABIS (Standing Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools)**

- Paula Dudgeon provided an update on her involvement with this group. A summary paper was circulated (See attached). Thanks to Paula for her work with this group.

### **8.2 Literacy Update**

- Apologies received from Jennifer King, e-mail read to meeting regards the P1 Literacy Framework going to Education Scotland and will be available online in June 2014. There will most likely be a national launch at some point.

### **8.3 Professional Position on ASD**

- Carolyn Brown spoke about the involvement from 5 ASPEP representatives on the National ASD Seminars. The role of the profession in terms of ASD diagnosis and interventions needs to be looked at. Currently there is significant variation across authorities and services. A professional position should be considered for the future, this could be the outcome from a seminar event involving the profession. It was proposed that a working group from the wider profession be established to try and come to a consensus of the Educational Psychologist's role in ASD diagnosis and intervention. This group should also look at what research is required that would have an impact on educational outcomes. It was agreed by the meeting that we should be asking questions that would lead to effective research. An ASD sub group to follow this up.

### **8.4 Doran Work Stream 3 Group**

- Nick Balchin provided an update on his work on the Doran Work Stream group on the commissioning of specialist services. The time commitment to this group has increased and thanks expressed to Nick for his efforts.

### **8.5 AGASL**

- Shirley Paterson gave an update on the work of this group. A summary paper will be circulated.

## **9. Themed Discussion on GIRFEC Paper**

- This was led by Kate Watson and in small group paper on the Proposal for the development of guidance to support the GIRFEC provisions in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 was discussed.
- Issue arising from these discussions were noted and will be collated by the Executive. These will be circulated to members as well as being given to Lynn Townsend.
- It was noted that all ASPEP members would benefit from the Associate Assessor briefing, even if they had not applied for

**EXEC**

AA training.

10. **AOB**  
The change in format for the main meeting was well received and members reported that the opportunity to have themed discussions was valuable. Themes for the next meeting should be sent to Barry in advance.
  
11. **Date of Next Meeting:**  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 10am – 3.30pm at Raploch Community Centre, Stirling.

CC SDEP Exec