****

**Co- Chairs’ Report for Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 12th November 2020 11.30am**

**Jill Yates & Suzie Cooper**

**Introduction**

Over the past year we have had an increased committee membership of 12 which has enabled NOPT to have broader representation throughout England and therefore a wider national picture of practice education. 2020 brought the arrival of the Covid 19 pandemic and as the country entered lockdown social work adapted to the new working from home. Despite the challenges of working within covid restrictions NOPT committee and members are continuing to support social workers, practice educators and students as they navigate the new norm.

**Links with Other Organisations**

Nopt continues to work with BASW and NICE and aims to have a representative at conferences and events to maintain significant participation in practice education development whilst promoting good practice and standards. NoPT continues to work closely with BASW with Jenny representing NoPT on the BASW PC&D PPEG group, Suzie is also a member and Ros has joined Suzie & Jenny on the working parties to look at Quality issues and a Look After Your Practice Educator. Look After Your Practice Educator is a joint initiative between NoPT & BASW hi-lighting the importance of practice educators and encouraging organisations to value and look after them. Covid19 had affected progress but now the work is back on track with the group looking at ways to promote practice educators and considering whether standards/guidance for employers of practice educators need to be produced.

NoPT is represented on NICE Social Work Engagement Advisory Group by Jill. This group develops guidance for PSW’s, Social Workers and Students and provides quick summary sheets with case scenarios and student slides for use by universities.

Jenny continues to represent NoPT on the editorial board of the Journal of Practice Teaching and Learning

NoPT continues to maintain links with SCOPT and is in negotiations regarding sharing internet space.

**The Constitution**

The NoPT Constitution has been updated by Helen and Ros in line with current practices as it had not been reviewed since 2013. The committee have had sight of the new document and have agreed the contents.

Thanks to Helen and Ros for the amended document.

**The Code of Practice**

The Code of Practice has been updated by Helen and Ros and have been viewed by the Committee members who have agreed the amendments.

Thanks to Helen & Ros for the amended document.

**Complaints Procedure**

A complaints procedure has been created by Alison and Jill and agreed by Committee members.

Thanks to Alison.

All documents can be found on the NoPT Web Site.

**Conference**

Unfortunately, the planned conference for July 2020 had to be cancelled which was a disappointment for the committee and members. The good news is that we have rebooked the conference for Tuesday 13th July 2021 to be held at Sheffield Hallam University, all being well. Should any changes arise NoPT members will be notified via the website. Conference People who organise registration for delegates at our conferences have been moving towards possible virtual conference facilities and we would consider this model next year if we were still unable to hold it in the usual way.

**Covid 19**

The NoPT Committee has been concerned for its members particularly currently active practice educators and students during the pandemic. Whilst our concern is for the entire social work profession, the isolation of working from home has been a significant concern for students, newly qualified social workers and practice educators. Arrangements for the management of placements and assessing students has varied throughout the country and whilst it has been important to ensure the wellbeing of all and adherence to government guidance and instruction, it is essential that there is not a dumbing down of standards or expectations of students’ practice.

We are thankful to and supportive of BASW which has offered weekly guidance to social workers in all roles and have raised concerns that have arisen such as increase in domestic violence, children and adults at risk as well as mental health issues.

NoPT is looking to commission some online sessions for practice educators and Ros has some “irons in the fire” regarding this.

**SW England**

A reminder that all Social Workers are required to re-register by 30th November 2020.

Registration is very geared up to practising social workers and we would welcome some recognition for the practice educator status and independent workers.

The committee are currently exploring the variance in the management of student placements due to covid19 with a view to alerting SW England of our concerns.

**Black Lives Matter**

NoPT supports the Black Lives Matter campaign and was a lone signatory as an organisation in support of BASW’s letter to the Queen asking for the KCMG medal to be changed from its racist imagery and replaced with new icons that better represent the true spirit of equality and justice. We would encourage members to not only support the campaign but to challenge racism in all its forms.

**Independent Practice Educators’ Pay**

At our last AGM a member asked us to do a piece of work looking at the variance of Independent Practice Educators pay. NoPT were looking to survey members at the NoPT conference but as this did not take place, we considered other ways to gather this information. This piece of work is being considered under “Look After Your Practice Educator”however, if it is not felt to be in the remit of that project then NoPT will look to gather data at the next NoPT conference.

The committee continues to work to promote good quality practice education. We are lucky that we have some hard-working, committed individuals all who give their time for free and are an absolute privilege to work alongside. As we continue to work in uncertain times it feels even more important that high standards in practice teaching are maintained and we look forward to another year of driving this forward.