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

**Thursday 4th November 2021 1pm**

**Suzie Cooper & Jill Yates**

**INTRODUCTION**

The past year has seen NOPT continue to function with a committee of 11. The continuation of the Covid pandemic has meant that since the last AGM we have continued to meet virtually. The NOPT committee and members have continued to support students, practice educators and social workers through testing times. We are amazed at the creativity of our members who have adapted practice situations to ensure that students have been offered opportunities and appropriately supported during the pandemic. The development of good quality placements produces capable and knowledgeable social workers which in turn improves the outcomes for people receiving social work services.

**LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

**BASW England**

NOPT has continued to work with BASW England on the project Look after Your Practice Educator which is a joint initiative encouraging employers to consider what they can do to support their practice educators. The guidance for employed practice educators is in a draft form going through individual NOPT and BASW England committees. Guidance for commissioning the services of Independent Practice Educators is currently being developed. The idea was to have a launch in Spring 2021 but this has been delayed due to the pandemic and it is hoped that this will launch in Spring 2022.

NOPT committee members have been part of BASW England working group to develop Quality Assurance in Practice Learning (QAPL) Framework which is now on the BASW England website.

Two committee members facilitated a discussion at a BASW England Regional Branch Meeting.

**NICE**

NOPT is represented on the NICE social work engagement advisory group which develops guidance for social workers of all levels, practice educators and students in all areas of social work. Guidance is readily available on the NICE website with a relevant selection on NOPT’s own site. NICE have recently created some student videos and NOPT will be supporting the organisation in its endeavours to distribute these to students and practice educators.

**The Journal of Practice Teaching & Learning**

A NOPT committee member sits on the editorial board of the Journal of Practice Teaching, they assisted in the organising and running of the journal’s excellent conference last month. Another committee member is currently reviewing a text for the journal.

**Social Work England**

NOPT committee members took part in a Social Work England Professional Experts Group to review its statutory placement guidance.

**DECOLONISING THE CURRICULUM**

**WEBINARS**

As the NOPT Conference 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic the committee agreed to collaborate with Siobhan Maclean to host three webinars for practice educators. These were held in the first three months of 2021 and included: New ways of working in practice education values and ethics as a practice educator delivered by Siobhan Maclean, Anti-oppressive practice education: contemporary barriers and enablers by Dr Prospera Tedam and Having Courageous Conversations in Placements-Feelings, Failings and Frustrations by Dr Jo Finch. These presentations can be found on NOPT website. The webinars were well attended and received by practice educators and led to an increase in membership.

**GENERAL LINKS- PROMOTING NOPT**

Committee members are often involved in representing NOPT at a variety of events including conferences, Practice Educator Forums, and PEPS courses. These events provides the committee members with opportunity to promote the organisation, its purpose and vision.

**WEBSITE**

Work has started on our new website which we are hoping will make it easier for members to access our resources. In addition, we are hoping that there will be increased opportunities to engage with our membership. We are aiming to launch our new website in the new year

**EMAIL**

Our email account has become a bit “clunky” and this has hindered our mailouts. As our new website is developed, we hope to also move to a new email account.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

NOPT still continues to be active on social media with a Facebook account and a Twitter account. The twitter account @NOPTtw now has 946 followers.

**CONFERENCE**

Unfortunately, as mentioned above the annual conference again had to be cancelled in 2021 due to the pandemic. We are hoping that the 2022 conference will go ahead at the provisional venue of Sheffield University.

**THANK YOU**

The NOPT committee give their time for free and we are so lucky to have such knowledgeable, dedicated and kind committee members. Although we have not seen each other in person it is has been good to keep in touch remotely and know that there are little satellites across the country promoting good quality practice learning. Whilst as co-chairs we are figureheads for the organisation a huge amount of the work of NOPT is carried out by other committee members and the organisation would not exist without the time they give to NOPT. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our fellow committee members who care so much about the calibre of social work practice education.

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