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**Co- Chair Report for Annual General Meeting (2022)**

**Tuesday 24th January 2023 11.00am**

**Jill Yates**

**Introduction**

During 2022 the NOPT Committee Members have continued to support practice education in all its forms despite a year that has presented its challenges to the committee. Several committee members have experienced personal issues that have impacted on their time and availability for NOPT which serves as a reminder that the Committee members are all volunteers who give up their spare time to contribute to the functions of NOPT. Like anyone else members have professional and personal commitments that can impact on their lives, and it is important that their role and commitment to NOPT is recognised and supported by its members. I take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and commitment to students, practice educators and those who work in practice education during 2022.

It is important to explain why NOPT 2022 AGM is being held in January 2023.

Unfortunately the transition to a new web site and some miscommunication meant that we could not meet our timescale for advertising the AGM to members. Our 2023 AGM will be held in November of this year.

**NOPT Committee Membership**

Sadly, due to personal circumstances NOPT Co-Chair, Suzie Cooper withdrew from this role and as a member of the Committee. This was quite sudden and although committee members were disappointed that Suzie would no longer be a member of the committee all members understood and supported her in this decision. We are now a committee of nine members and would encourage interested NOPT members to express their interest of becoming committee members. Should too many apply NOPT has a process of selection.

**Links with other organisations**

NOPT continues to work with other organisations with the aim of raising the profile of NOPT and the importance of practice education in the wider context of social work. NOPT has been working in collaboration with BASW on the ‘Look After your Practice Educator’ with the outcome of guidance for both employed and independent practice educators. Members of the committee have been actively involved in this project. It is hoped that this guidance will be followed for the benefit of our hard working community of Practice Educators.

Our link with NICE is currently on hold as a new Director is currently creating a new business plan and the field department are awaiting outcomes regarding their roles.

Social Work England has sought our opinion and views on their ongoing strategy for social work and we welcomed that our views were both sought and heard.

Jenny Peddar continues to represent NOPT on the editorial board of the Journal of Practice Teaching and Learning which presents colleagues with opportunities to review new books.

Committee members continue to represent NOPT through general links such as attending area conferences, providing teaching sessions and participation in national and local requests to provide opinion such as comments for Community Care article.

**Constitutional Business**

**NOPT Code of Practice**

The Committee agreed a minor change to NOPT Code of Practice as we are in the process of developing a new website and members will be able to apply for membership via the website instead of emailing the administrator. Due process for this amendment was followed.

**Conference**

The Committee were extremely sad to have to make the decision to cancel our Conference planned for July 2022. We again apologise to our members for this decision, which was due to a lack of delegates which meant we would not have sufficient funds to support the conference. This was of great disappointment given that we had not held the annual event since 2019 due to Covid. We are going ahead this year which will be held in Sheffield University on Tuesday 11th July 2023. We are determined that this event will take place and hope that members will assist in advertising the conference. Delegates who applied last year will be given priority for attending and the application system will be opened earlier. We all look forward to a live conference where delegates can network and enjoy debate in person.

**Web site**

NOPT is currently without a website. The old website was particularly old fashioned, clunky and difficult to utilise in an efficient way. Suzie Cooper Co-Chair successfully organised a company to create a new site for NOPT and we agreed this was a good use of our funds. However, with Suzie’s departure there was a mis- communication and delay in completing the site. Since then, there has been significant delay but it is hoped that the site will be completed and launched in the next few weeks.

**With Thanks**

I personally offer my thanks to Suzie Cooper Co Chair who was knowledgeable, committed and supportive in her role and for her contributions to NOPT.

My thanks also to my committee colleagues who are committed to practice education and promoting the organisation its purpose and vision.

18.01.23