

Notes of meeting of NRCPD Practitioners' Forum 15 May 2012

Members present:

Eileen Bainbridge (Association of Notetaking Professionals)

Alan Haythornthwaite (Visual Language Professionals)

Dilys Palin (Association of Lipspeakers)

Secretariat: Paul Parsons, Angela Nunn

1. Apologies

Georgina Ford (Association of Verbatim Speech to Text Reporters), Jayne Oakes (representative for deafblind area). The question was raised whether any other organisations should be invited to attend the forum eg a group to represent translators. Their needs are currently met under ASLI's Deaf Interpreter's Network. Alan reported that VLP is having discussions with a number of deaf translators who want to set up their own organisation.

No declarations of interest were noted.

2. Notes of October 2011 Meeting

The notes were accepted as a correct record. Eileen requested that the notes are circulated as soon as possible after each meeting. This was agreed. Once the notes are agreed by all members present they will be published. It was also agreed that the up to date numbers of registered communication professionals should be included in the notes of each meeting. It was noted that around 200 people are qualified as interpreters who are not NRCPD-Registered. Some of these may not work as interpreters and some may have chosen to be academics. Seven Level 3 Lipspeakers are not registered but it is difficult to quantify the number of unregistered notetakers.

It was noted that we will consider under the publication scheme Alan's request to make available a three-year fee projection and financial forecast for NRCPD.

NRCPD's agreed objectives and a 1 year budget will be published after July's Board meeting. The aim is for registration to be financially viable independent of Signature in three years time. NRCPD intends that in three years' time fees will be the same for all Registered and all Trainee communication professionals.

3. National Occupational Standards for Speech to Text Reporters and Lipspeakers

National Occupational Standards have been approved for speech to text reporters and lipspeakers. NRCPD funded the development of the NOS for STTRs, UKCES funded the lipspeaking standards. The way forward will be agreed at the ACE partnership meeting. If training providers develop qualifications in these areas they can apply to NRCPD for approval of their courses which will be accepted if they meet the requirements of the NOS.

Notetakers: No further progress has been made in this area. The decision made by NRCPD that the registers should remain open for those who are already registered still applies. The support of service users and employers is vital to make a case to develop NOS. As only 18 responses were received from service users and employers to the notetaking survey there was no case to put forward to develop NOS for this area. Funding had been set aside to do this but as the research undertaken in this area was inconclusive, the funding has been used for other projects. The development of NOS has four stages:

- Provide evidence they are required
- Define the role
- Develop the standards
- Seek approval and adoption of the standards

When the four steps above are completed, NRCPD would be able to consider whether a qualification would be approved for registration purposes.

4. Update from Board meetings

The operational matters section of NRCPD Board minutes is not published as this includes confidential information eg about complaints. AH requested that the number of complaints being received be reported. NRCPD agreed to consider that request.

The following summary of NRCPD Board discussions and decisions from the March 2012 meeting was given to members.

Proposal from ACSW/NATED

A 70 page document was received outlining a proposal to set up a register for CSWs. The board agreed to discuss this as substantive item at its July 2012 meeting.

Review of Code of Conduct

The board has appointed one of its members to chair a review of the Code of Conduct with the aim of a new code coming into effect from 1 January 2013. The working group will include board members and standards advisors. Views will be sought from all registered communication professionals and others. A draft is to be discussed at the November meeting.

Professional Standards Advisors

NRCPD is identifying gaps in skills of professional standards advisors. Details of how to apply to become an advisor can be found in the professional standards page of the NRCPD website.

Criminal Record Check Procedure

The board agreed to make available a budget to engage experts in this field to create a policy and process for criminal record checks of communication professionals. There are imminent changes to the law in this area which must be taken into account.

NRCPD Website launch

The new website was launched on 2 March 2012. Mainly positive comments have been received on this. The mention of 1,000 hits per day on the website may be a slight over exaggeration.

Promotion

NRCPD is planning a targeted promotional campaign to use the profile of Sign Language Interpreters to improve awareness of all communication professionals. Though focusing on sign language interpreters the campaign is designed to have a beneficial effect on all the professions NRCPD regulates. The outcome learned in this campaign will be used to develop useable vehicles specifically to promote communication professionals who are not sign language interpreters.

Update on Revalidation

The user interface for recording development activity is now available and is very simple to use. In response to an approach from VLP the Board agreed to reduce the total number of development hours that will be required for revalidation per year from 35 to 30. This meets the board's stated aim of having five full days training (at 6 hours per day). Revalidation in year one and two will remain as published at 12 hours and 24 hours respectively.

Registration in Scotland

NRCPD received a letter from Heriot Watt University asking for special consideration to be given to registering previous graduates who are operating outside the regulated environment. The board agreed to discuss with Heriot Watt setting up a 'grandparenting' scheme for interpreters in Scotland who have undertaken training at Heriot Watt leading to JTI or TI status.

Fees Submission

The fees effective from 1 September 2012 have been agreed and will be published in the NRCPD Update to be sent out next week and on the NRCPD website.

The numbers of registered communication professionals at 30/04/2012 are as follows:

	30/04/2012
Registered Sign Language Interpreters (RSLI)	734
Trainee Sign Language Interpreters (TSLI)	79
Trainee Interpreters (TI)	59
Junior Trainee Interpreters (JTI)	104
Registered Sign Language Translators	1
Registered Lipspeakers	37
Registered Speech to Text Reporters	27
Registered Level 3 Notetakers (Electronic)	7
Registered Interpreters for Deafblind People	19
Level 2 Electronic Notetakers	5
Level 2 Manual Notetakers	10
Total	1082

5. Any Other Business

Eileen requested that security clearance other than CRB enhanced disclosure is noted on the register. It was suggested that this is revisited once the review of the CRB policy has been undertaken.

Eileen asked if City Lit had approached NRCPD to have its notetaking course mapped. It has not.

Dilys asked whether someone who is registered in more than one category would be required to do more than 30 hours of CPD. The Board requires one person to complete one set of CPD. Dilys felt this could be problematic if only one discipline was covered in CPD activities. As the CPD system progresses this, along with any other issues that arise, will be addressed. It was agreed that NRCPD would seek views from standards advisors on this issue.