

Notes of Practitioners' Forum Meeting

Notes of meeting of NRCPD Practitioners' Forum 28 February 2013

Members present:

Natasha Charles (Association of Notetaking Professionals)

Gill Croft (Association of Verbatim Speech to Text Reporters)

Alan Haythornthwaite (Visual Language Professionals)

Jayne Oakes (Representative for deafblind area)

Dilys Palin (Association of Lipspeakers)

Maureen Saville (Association of Sign Language Interpreters)

Sandra Verkuyten (Representing NRCPD Board)

Secretariat: Paul Parsons

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Notes of May 2012 Meeting

The notes had been accepted as a correct record of the meeting by all members via email shortly after the meeting.

Matters Arising:

The fee forecast is included as a paper to be discussed under item 3.

Request that number of complaints received is reported: The Board is still considering this request. Any complaint which reaches the committee stage will be published on the website.

Promotion: NRCPD is working with agencies to address use of poor communication professionals on an issue specific basis, we want to extend that work.

3. 2013-14 Fees

The projected fees for four years were circulated to members prior to the meeting. This will be discussed at the March NRCPD Board meeting. Members raised a number of issues at the meeting and in a recent letter from AVSTTR to NRCPD Board. These included why fees are rising, whether the increase will continue in subsequent years, the impact on part-time workers, and the possibility of paying in

instalments. Forum members asked NRCPD to consider the potential adverse impacts of a fee increase at this time.

Paul and Sandra assured forum members that their points would be raised at the NRCPB Board meeting on 14 March 2013. They informed members that the fee projection was set by the Board with the aim of achieving financial independence for NRCPD within three years. Sandra suggested that the Board and NRCPD should help to improve transparency to allow registrants to see how their registration fee is used. NRCPD's aim is to achieve statutory protection of the professional titles. Members were asked to send any further comments to be considered at the March Board meeting to Paul by 7 March. Paul and Sandra informed members that they would welcome invitations to attend forum members' AGMs.

Work in the notetaking field is ongoing. NRCPD is experiencing difficulties in getting other organisations to apply for course approval eg City Lit. Paul recommended that individuals should encourage City Lit to apply for approved course status. Relevant groups still need to look at the definition of the role of notetakers and NRCPD is hopeful that a set of national standards could be developed.

4. Revalidation Issues

Members raised a number of issues which will be recorded for the Board, including:

- Views that the required hours are too high.
- Some regulated professionals are finding it difficult to meet the requirement.
- Lack of relevant courses and activities.
- Access to courses is difficult for some groups/individuals. Travel time can be an issue.
- At present time someone's experience is not taken into account.
- English based professions felt the requirement is based on sign language interpreters.
- They would like a response from the board as to why it has to be the same for all professions.

5. Consulting on Strategy

The four elements of the future strategy were published in the NRCPD update. A lot of comments have been received and some further clarification on terminology may

be required. The Board has set aside time to discuss these further at the March meeting. It was noted that NRCPD is considering agency endorsement and Paul agreed to give members an update on this after that meeting.

Members agreed to send any further comments as an organisation or from individuals to enquiries@nrcpd.org.uk by 7 March 2013.

6. Draft Practice breaks policy

The draft policy was circulated to members before the meeting. The aim is to allow those who are taking a break from practising to continue their association with the register. It would also allow people retrospectively to change their renewal due to unforeseen illness/personal reasons during the year.

The majority felt that anything between 1 – 3 years should be classed as a break. If the break is over 5 years detailed consultation/retraining would be required before an individual was allowed to practise again. The group felt that during the break period the registration fee should be reduced to an amount that covers the administration costs of processing the application. Forum members felt the term 'inactive' would be best for those taking a break. These points will be fed into the March Board meeting.

7. CRB Policy

The law in Scotland has recently changed meaning NRCPD is not allowed to request sight of CRB disclosures from applicants based in Scotland. Recent court decisions in England are likely to have a similar effect in England and Wales. As a result our lawyers propose registrants complete a declaration (draft circulated prior to the meeting) as part of the registration process, rather than provide to NRCPD a criminal record disclosure certificate. It will be an individual's responsibility to provide CRB certificates to employers if requested to do so. This strengthens NRCPD's position as it is currently not able to act on any information disclosed on a CRB check.

Part of the draft declaration is a competence standard. Forum members cited issues with this section, so NRCPD will review its inclusion.

8. CSW Update

NRCPD has considered the proposal from ACSW/NATED. Standards advisors have made recommendations to the proposers for strengthening their document.

9. Code of Conduct

A working group was set up to review the code of conduct. The first draft is now available for Board approval at the March meeting. A consultation on the draft will

then take place with other members before it is shared with the public. The aim is to make it more accessible to the general public and to help everyone to be able to make complaints. It was noted that there will be a consultation on the draft.

10. Adding photos/town on advertising entries/global email addresses

Several service users have asked that photos are added to the online register as they do not always have a record of the person's full name and would like to request a particular person. If this is approved the photo on the register would be the same as the one on their ID card. Forum members agreed to take soundings from the professionals they represent.

Points raised:

- It would be useful to amend the search function on the online register to include the town where the person is based, not just show how far they are in miles.
- Suggestion that NRCPD add the function for emails to be sent to all professionals within a certain range of an assignment rather than send one to each person.

Paul to look into the possibility of actioning both of these requests.

11. Any Other Business

Dilys asked if the equivalent to SignSafe cards could be introduced for the English language professions.

All members asked to send expense claim forms to Angela (using the form provided in advance of the meeting).

12. Date of next meeting

Everyone agreed the next meeting should take place in September 2013 in York. NRCPD to confirm the date and location as soon as known.

The numbers of registered communication professionals at 28/02/2013 are as follows:

	28/02/2013
Registered Sign Language Interpreters	807
Trainee Sign Language Interpreters	256
Registered Sign Language Translators	8
Registered Lipspeakers	43
Registered Speech to Text Reporters	27
Registered Interpreters for Deafblind People	16
Registered Electronic Notetakers	11
Registered Manual Notetakers	12
Total	1180