

Notes of Practitioners' Forum Meeting

Notes of meeting of NRCPD Practitioners' Forum 27 November 2013

Members present:

Natasha Charles (Association of Notetaking Professionals)

Gail Dixon (Association of Sign Language Interpreters)

Jean Gough (Association of Verbatim Speech to Text Reporters)

Dilys Palin/Tracey Pycroft (Association of Lipspeakers)

In attendance: Jim Edwards, representing NRCPD Board

Secretariat: Janice Spalding and Angela Nunn

1. Introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from VLP and Jayne Oakes (representing the deafblind area). As new members were present everyone introduced themselves. Dilys Palin attended the meeting to hand over to the new ALS representative, Tracey Pycroft.

The Terms of Reference for Practitioners' Forum members were handed out to all members as a reminder of the purpose and role of the group. All members to sign and return to Angela. Angela to send copies of the document to anyone unable to attend.

2. Notes of February 2013 Meeting

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

Matters Arising:

NRCPD is drafting the practice breaks policy. It will take into account some of the comments received from members over the last few months in particular about the development work required of those taking breaks. NRCPD agreed to send the draft policy to all members for comment before it is finalised, during the week ending 17 January 2014.

The review of the code of conduct and complaints procedure is ongoing. Both draft documents will be circulated to members for comment by the second week of February 2014, subject to finalisation of this work by the external advisor.

Agency endorsement: other priorities at the moment. This will be revisited before the end of 2014.

3. Update on options appraisal

The workshop planned for 27 November 2013 had been rearranged for 27 January 2014 due to the lack of clarity of the executive summary and the fact that NRCPD realised it needed to consult with more stakeholders before the event.

A revised executive summary and a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) were circulated to members. These documents are now available on a dedicated webpage on the NRCPD website called "Strengthening Registration." They will be translated into BSL in the near future. The FAQs are a working document to which further questions and responses will be added over time as more issues and queries arise. In the New Year NRCPD hope to develop an online forum for registrants to post comments etc. Members felt that some would find this a useful method of communication, but it should not be the sole means of communication with or between registrants. A policy for the use of this type of media would also need to be drafted, in consultation with the web page developer.

4. Update on Disclosure and Barring Scheme checks

NRCPD is no longer eligible legally to view enhanced disclosure certificates. It is holding discussions with the DBS to confirm if registrants are eligible to have enhanced checks. It has presented a detailed case to the DBS policy team. NRCPD has also requested a meeting between representatives of NRCPD, the National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI), and the chief executive of the DBS to discuss:

1. the eligibility of interpreters and other communication professionals for enhanced DBS declarations (both those working in spoken languages and those working with deaf people, whether through sign language, deaf blind communication, lipspeaking, speech to text); and

2. the eligibility of both NRCPD and NRPSI as organisations working as voluntary regulators.

Our role as voluntary regulator is to provide assurance to the users that they are fit and proper persons suitable to work in a broad range of situations.

The winter update will be published on the NRCPD website in the next few days including this information about DBS checks. NRCPD is encouraging registrants to subscribe to the DBS update service at the same time as they renew their enhanced disclosure certificate, if this is possible.

NRCPD agreed to take further legal advice around this issue to see if it would be beneficial to ask professional associations to also write to DBS with examples of how they feel they are working with vulnerable adults. NRCPD will report back to members this month.

NRCPD suggested that communication professionals seek the views of deaf people on whether they think professionals should have enhanced checks. Members to email feedback on this to Angela as soon as possible.

5. NRCPD Register

NRCPD has received a number of requests for changes/additions to the entries on the online register e.g. add photographs (voluntarily), qualifications and date achieved, year of first registration. NRCPD agreed to check the logistics and costs of any changes with their IT consultants for update before the next meeting in June.

6. NRCPD Communication

NRCPD acknowledged that it's communication over the last few months has not been as clear and helpful as it should have been. FAQs have been developed to try and address some of the issues raised. If members have other queries not addressed in the FAQs they should send these to Angela in the first instance. Members were asked how they feedback to their colleagues after Practitioners' Forum meetings.

AVSTTR: verbal report to next AVSTTR committee meeting after Christmas

ALS: verbal report then published notes and report to committee members

ASLI: report to ASLI board, notes published

7. Any Other Business

AVSTTR mentioned that 30 hours revalidation is too much for STTRs due to the lack of CPD opportunities available to them. NRCPD board is aware of this and will look into the concerns raised.

A CPD audit policy will be finalised by end of January 2014. NRCPD will look at a random sample of CPD files by the end of March 2014. ALS asked whether ALS as a professional association can check if someone has completed the CPD they record. NRCPD to look into this and see what other regulators do.

ANP asked why there is no route to registration for notetakers. Concern as notetakers who achieve OCN qualifications or CACDP level 2 qualifications cannot register. NRCPD has already discussed this with another ANP member explaining the difficulty in developing a qualification as those involved in the notetaking field cannot agree on roles etc and therefore cannot develop National Occupational Standards. NRCPD suggested that ANP draft the role and set of standards, using the NOS for STTRs as a guideline. If an agreed role and set of standards were created they could be used to develop training which NRCPD may consider recognising. NRCPD agreed to review the situation for notetakers and feedback ideas/suggestions of way forward by the end of January 2014.

8. Dates of 2014 meetings

These meetings should take place before NRCPD board meetings to allow reports of the meetings to be given at the next available board meeting. It was agreed that the meetings in 2014 should take place in May/June in York and in October in London. Angela agreed to circulate possible dates to all members to allow the meetings to be confirmed as soon as possible. .

The numbers of registered communication professionals at 30/11/2013 are as follows:

	30/11/2013
Registered Sign Language Interpreters	868
Trainee Sign Language Interpreters	237
Registered Sign Language Translators	10
Registered Lipspeakers	37
Registered Speech to Text Reporters	24
Registered Interpreters for Deafblind People	16
Registered Electronic Notetakers	11
Registered Manual Notetakers	12
Total	1215