

NRCPD Board Meeting 2 March 2015

Present

Huw Vaughan Thomas (Chair), David Wolfenden, Heather Fiskin, Jenny White, Michael Guthrie, Sandra Verkuyten, Sarah Haynes

In attendance

Jim Edwards, Lindsay Foster, Dan Sumners, Kate Price

Communications support

Norma MacHaye (STTR)

Welcome and apologies

1. The Chair welcomed attendees and apologies were received from Gill Croft, Craig Crowley, Stuart Anderson and Frank Harrington.

Declaration of Interest

2. No declarations of interest were made.

Chair's and Chief Executive's Remarks

3. The Chair welcomed the new Registrant Board members and the Registration Service Manager. The Chair advised there is still one Board member position vacant. It is the intention to fill this position with a Registrant from a Register other than sign language interpreter. He also indicated that he would be standing down as Chair in November and a formal recruitment process would shortly commence to identify his successor.
4. The Chair thanked the Co-optees for their contributions as this would be their last meeting.
5. The subject of fees was raised and it was agreed registration fees would be held at 2012/13 levels.

Minutes of last meeting and action

6. The minutes of the meeting on 3 November 2014 were approved.

7. Following an initial meeting to discuss a statement of regulatory intent, DS and SV would prepare a structured and focused paper, with financial and resource implications for the July meeting. **Action: SV/DS**
8. The final documents for the revised Code of Conduct and complaints procedure would be brought to the July meeting. **Action: DS**
9. The CPD handbook was complete and would be published on the website.
10. The issue of STTR registration was raised and a new route to registration based on the NOS would be considered. **Action LF**

Governance

11. The Signature Board away day in March would offer the opportunity to review the relationship between NRCPD and Signature in the light of comments from the recent Governance Review. The Chair would be at that meeting.

SASLI Equivalence Process

12. KP had continued discussions with SASLI about establishing an equivalence process based on the past reciprocal agreement.
13. The Board agreed there were risks associated with an equivalence process that it would be difficult to mitigate. In particular, the conflict of interest due to SASLI being both a regulator and a membership organisation.
14. It was agreed KP would continue the dialogue with SASLI to develop understanding and a better relationship. It was not clear what type of agreement or understanding would be reached.
15. It was agreed KP would meet with SASLI. The Board would suggest some options or solutions regarding the risks for KP to take to the meeting.

Trainee Sign Language Interpreters

KP had recommended some immediate changes to the process of admitting trainees to regulation. The Board agreed the process would be changed so

- only an Assessor or equivalent would be able to endorse a trainee as meeting the National Occupational Standards for Trainees; and
- supervisors must have relevant qualifications or experience and may be asked to prove this;
- the endorser would sign a declaration confirming the trainee had the appropriate qualification; and
- Service users would be able to give feedback to supervisors about trainees.

16. The associated guidance on the website and the TSLI endorsement form would be changed.

17. The issue of the quality of trainees needed to be investigated further. An improvement plan with long term aims would be developed. **Action: KP**

Communications

18. The Board considered and accepted the communications plan.

Operations

19. The Registrant Portal had been made more user friendly and the TSLI application process had been streamlined and automated. They would be implemented on 1 April 2015.

20. It was agreed there needed to be sufficient resource in next years budget for improving engagement with stakeholders, including the process of drafting a statement of regulatory intent.

21. Signature's level 3 lipspeaking qualification and notetaking endorsement were being mapped against the national occupational standards.

Correspondence

22. Following correspondence we offered to meet with NUBSLI representatives to answer their questions. On 20 December NUBSLI declined the offer of a meeting, stating their members had voted for a written response. On 4 February we sent a response to NUBLSI members which was published on the website and distributed via social media.

Any other business

None.

Date of next meetings

The next NRCPD Board meetings would take place on 20 July 2015 and 2 November 2015.

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Huw Vaughan Thomas
Chair, NRCPD