Venue: Zoom 18th January 2021

(Meeting commenced at 9.30 am)

Opening Time with KS shared an opening refelction Welcome & Apologies Welcomed KS in her new capacity as CEO and congratulated her on her appointment. In attendance: Sue Monckton-Rickett Chair (SMR); Chris Williams Deputy Chair (CW); Tony Ruddle (TR); Peter Roberts (PR); Phil Martin (PM); Marlene Forsythe Gidharry (MFG); Fiona Sherburn (FS); Kathy Spooner (KS); Peter Barraclough (PB). **Apologies**: Helen Vipan (HV) Board approved HV request to step down until June due to personal circumstances. Minutes of the 20th November were approved... 1. The minutes were approved without amendment. Matters Arising: SMR confirmed that Monday meetings will be regular business and the Friday Board meetings will be more special items and policy updates. Notification of AOB: PB drew our attention to his published article agreed that it be placed on ACC website. 2. **Standing items** a) Conflict of Interest: KS notified she is no longer a tutor at Waverley on the spiritual direction module. **b) RAP / PSA** – included in the counselling report. c) Risk Register (included in 09) -PM/KS/SMR working on the new format and reviewing all of the risks. It should be ready for the March Board meeting for Board review & approval. d) Diversity & Inclusion – two other members of the ACCEnT Forum are joining the meeting. Forum will meet his Friday. The group is preparing a report. CW felt we have to make clear how the relationship works with the Board. e) SMR brought forward from her report that Gathoni Hamilton-Foster will be co-opted onto the Board, having followed the usual recruitment process. Gathoni has made it quite clear that she wishes to join the d "in her own right" and not as a representative of the ACCEnT Forum, although she is a member. There was discussion about how representation of the various protected characteristics was made on the Board. It was agreed that we need to analyse our overall membership for each of the protected characteristics. The Board that we conduct a survey when resources permit. It was also agreed that representation of the ACCEnT Forum continues by invitation as present with CW attending the meetings. f) It is likely that legislation will be introduced in the middle part of the year regarding 'conversion therapy'. Our role will be to support our members in counselling and Pastoral Care in ensuring that they understand the implications of any legislation e). Sponsorships & Partnerships – in counselling report f). Policy Review – for later meeting. 3. **Chair report Corona Virus Response –** written report submitted and accepted. Some bodies had issued messages that those working in Mental Health can be classed as

key workers for the purpose of the vaccine for Covid-19. KS will consider this and how we inform our members to access this.

CEO & HMS recruitment – SMR presented her report but informed us the Head of Membership Services candidate we were pursuing has withdrawn. KS & SMR will consider next steps.

Membership Statistics – SMR noted that PCUK membership had not grown but fallen and does mean a further slight loss in income. The situation will need reviewing and addressing.

Complaints – report presented – 3 outstanding and – one was received just before Christmas – an investigation report is due on another.

Office Closure – in report and final date in 30th June 2021 but could be earlier if the landlords find a new tenant.

Memorandum & Articles of Association – continuing in process.

New Board Member - The board agreed to co-opt Gathoni to the board and will require election at the next AGM.

CCSS – Limited funding will provided by NHS to enable the scheme to go forward for NHS staff only. They have also asked us to help set up a scheme that would be Muslim related.

KS mentioned that other funding sources are being considered.

Fellows – all proposed responded with thanks at receiving this accolade.

Board Dates agreed

4. Finance Director

Management Accounts & Cashflow for December 2021

This shows increase in membership fees apart from PCUK and affiliates.

Overall Income above budget and expenditure less than budget mainly due to reduced staff levels, which has been at the personal costs and commitment of staff and board members.

The Cashflow is still good.

SMR asked for an analysis of the training events we provided to ensure they are appropriately profitable and to improve our working model.

PR stated that staff salary letters had been sent to each individual.

Fundraising group - three expressions of interest were received and then interviewed. PM, SMR and KS plus the potential volunteers will meet.

KS brought to PR's attention the All Churches Trust who may provide some funding.

5. **Counselling**

Written report submitted.

Suggestion of an online conference to be held in Autumn 2021.

Concern about holding the annual national one in February 2022 if lockdown could be re-imposed over the winter months. Investigate moving the national conference into summer 2022.

The Board agreed with both of the above.

PSA Strategic Review of the Accredited Registers Framework. KS asked board members for responses to the consultation being conducted so that we can reply by the mid-February deadline of PSA. She commented on the models being considered – the positives and the risks they pose. She will send the article to the Board before submission.

Website – FAC & Failed Payments on events – the first is progressing but there have been delays. Image+ has found a solution to the problem failed payments and will implement this soon.

Recruitment – with the failure to appoint HMS it is becoming more critical for temporary support to take on some of the workload in specific areas.

OCN Demands – on-going discussions and considerations with training agencies and OCN

6. ACCENT Forum – represented today by Sharon Hastings (SH) and Bridgette Brookes (BB).

Ethnic Tapestry in the title aims to reflect that everyone comes into the colourful diversity.

BB spoke about **Outreach** considering who might not present for counselling and perhaps ACC could promote counselling, its safety, and benefits of therapy/spiritual care. The need for a diverse representation of counsellors. One suggestion to go into Colleges and 6th Forms to get people enthused early about the profession. KS commented that the Diversity and Inclusion group managed by Place to Be had identified the same issues.

BB talked about **Training & Development** for private practice and other settings on diversity, which needs to be meaningful not just mandatory. Everyone has a stake in these issues and their expression, which will improve society. Narratives and stories are valuable in this regard, in breaking down stigma and promote holistic views when understanding grows.

SMR asked for the Forum to consider two key things that would be essential ideas for ACC to work on and put in our programme. BB agreed that this is exactly what they had been thinking.

SH commented on the website and suggested that such things as the photos and descriptions of counsellors would begin to make a significant difference. KS responded that these will be in the new FAC.

PB asked what they think needs to be transformed. BB suggested more diversity upfront in conferences or advertising. Consider is the language being used understood by everyone and addressed to everyone. Why people join or leave – exit poll.

SH commented that happened with George Floyd last year raised a lot of experience of trauma, bereavement. As part of a mental health organisation language is important e.g. the Black Dog video sent out the wrong message while the underlying one on depression was essential. The video makers have changed this as a result of this being pointed out. Having a Christian voice is important whatever church group we belong to so to stress unity.

SMR responded positively and ACC is committed to learn and we can then work together in practically bringing these forward. KS mentioned that SH is part of the conference planning group.

CW asked for confirmation that the Forum is being invited to Monday meetings only.

7. Pastoral Care

MFG commented on the idea of offering the DQR online with the whole course and the booklet being used as a promotion taster. SMR supported this and providing the course for free but paying our trainers. We need some people resource to grow PCUK to raise the profile and to bring in membership. The reach needs to much wider that what we are doing at present.

SMR commented that the third string of PCUK courses the EPC may need to be moved to being available as an online resource in a different way.

8. **AOB**

PM offered to look at record keeping policy instead of Gwyn.

Date of next meeting: Friday 26th February 1.30 – 17.00 / Prayers – Chris Meeting closed 13.10.