

MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE – ROLE
DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Professional Development & Education Committee is to identify, prioritise and, where relevant, recommend to Council and BASW Foundation Trustees, the continuing Professional Development opportunities BASW provides to and for social workers.

This Committee is fundamental in providing a strategic direction for BASW's Professional Development, commissioning work as appropriate to support this activity and to ensure Professional Development issues and CPD products across BASW are developed and disseminated with attention to their internal and external audiences needs and expectations.

Further information is available within the Committee's terms of reference which is available on request governance@basw.co.uk

Appointments are made by a panel of existing Committee members including the Chair. The membership will provide for a sufficiently wide range of skills, perspectives, and experience. New members are provided with an induction.

Role of a Professional Development & Education Committee Member

The role of the Committee member is to:

- To provide high-level oversight to identify, prioritise and, where relevant, recommend to Council and BASW Foundation Trustees, the continuing professional development opportunities BASW provides to and for social workers.
- To provide a strategic direction for BASW's professional development, commissioning work as appropriate to support this activity.
- To guide BASW members - and social workers more widely - in their practice through provision of relevant learning and development opportunities.
- To liaise with and support the National Standing Committees to ensure the professional development needs relevant to their countries are supported.
- To advise on the maintenance and consistency of a One BASW approach to professional development throughout the organisation.
- To ensure ProfDE issues and CPD products from across BASW are developed and disseminated with attention to their internal and external audiences.
- To ensure providers of continuing professional development work within the BASW Code of Ethics.
- To ensure BASW is outward facing and externally influential across the UK in its work on ProfDE matters.

Key Skills

- Proven interpersonal, communication and people skills, including critical listening, the ability to question intelligently and debate constructively.
- The ability to demonstrate sound judgement and integrity, and earn the respect and trust of other Committee members.
- The ability to participate effectively in meetings and confidence to challenge and hold to account BASW's executive.

- The ability to work within a framework of collective decision-making in the best interests of BASW and within the delegated responsibilities of the Committee.
- Understanding of the need to balance conflicting factors and make objective decisions;
- Appreciation of the importance of confidentiality.
- An appreciation of the role of social workers to provide economic, social, and cultural value to society.
- An understanding of the external pressures in the social work sector and the challenges facing BASW to overcome them.

Experience

We are looking for Committee members, who may already have experience in professional development, but this is an excellent CPD opportunity for those who do not currently have this knowledge and would like to develop these skills, as support will be provided.

We are looking for Committee members who are effective communicators and who can communicate the work of the Professional Development & Education Committee to Council and to the wider membership.

Accountability

Committee members are required to demonstrate their commitment to high standards of governance and probity and the ability to operate in accordance with the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) UK Corporate Governance Code and the Nolan Principles of Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership).

Committee members are required to routinely disclose any material relationships or circumstances that could affect (or appear to affect) their judgment as a Committee member disclosures should also be made at the application stage.

Members of the Committee are accountable to the Chair of the Committee and Council.

Commitment

The time commitment involves four 2 hour scheduled meetings per year plus time involved in reading papers in preparation for the meetings. Meetings will be held virtually wherever possible.

Term of Office

Appointments are normally made for an initial period of a maximum of 2 years and appointees will be eligible for consideration for reappointment for a further term of 2 years.

Expenses

This is an unremunerated position although reasonable expenses for attendance will be paid in line with BASW's Members Expenses Policy.