



**The Scottish Organisation
for Practice Teaching**

Trustees Annual Report 2017

ScOPT is a membership organisation for social work practice teachers and others involved in social work education in Scotland. Our aim is to promote good practice and represent practice teaching as a professional activity. Our members work for local authorities, in the voluntary sector, higher and further education institutes, and increasingly as independent practice educators.

Our objectives include

- promoting the role of the Practice Educator
- promoting good standards and adequate resources for Practice Educators in Social Work
- promoting a national voice for Practice Teaching in a changing Social Work world
- collecting, collating and disseminating information about Practice Learning
- collaborating with other bodies to promote Practice Learning in Social Work in Scotland

ScOPT was legally constituted as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation in August 2016, and is registered with, and regulated by, OSCR – the Scottish Charity Regulator. Prior to that date, ScOPT was an unincorporated voluntary organisation.

Board of Trustees and Office Bearers

At the last AGM two new members joined our Board: Deirdre Fitzpatrick and Gail Murphy. During this year, two Trustees have stood down: Gerry Marshall and Ros Surtees. The Board would like to extend our thanks to both Gerry and Ros for their contribution to ScOPT. Particular thanks to Ros whom had been a ScOPT member for over 10 years and recently held the position of Chair until stepping down in October 2017.

There have been changes in the office bearer positions over the last year too. Our current Board of Trustees are:

- Fiona Stansfield – Chair
- Jon Bolton – Secretary
- Deirdre Fitzpatrick – Treasurer
- Moira Dunworth
- Moira Harris
- Eddie McAuley
- Gillian Muir
- Gail Murphy

The Board has continued their commitment to the work of ScOPT, and is very active on behalf of the membership. We hold regular meetings and we have specific tasks shared out, such as membership, finance, event planning, the Web Team, and responding to requests to attend events and consultations. We take every opportunity to promote the work of ScOPT and the importance and contribution of Practice Educators to social work education.

We held our second annual development day in Edinburgh in August 2017 – Jane McLenachan from Stirling University expertly and brilliantly facilitated the day. The Board comes from all over Scotland, and this was an opportunity to work together to set our goals, focus on objectives, and plan improvements for ScOPT moving forward.

The Board has also been involved in conversation with the Scottish Social Services Council about the Review of Social Work Education, in particular the revised Standards in Social Work Education.

Membership

Membership of ScOPT is free – and it connects you with a community of like-minded people, access to our website, regular updates about developments in practice education, and enhanced features on ScOPTbox. In addition, we aim to run an annual conference or event, specifically focused on practice education.

Membership continues to grow. We currently have 643 registered members – an increase of 29% since the last AGM.

We encourage feedback from members so we know we are on track – we need to know what we're doing is you want us to do. We're a small Board so we need to concentrate efforts where you need us.

ScOPTbox

ScOPTbox, was launched in 2015 and its' creation was supported by funding from Learning Network West. It is a curated practice learning library. Hundreds of resources have been recommended by practice educators – things that they have authored and are happy to share with others, or things that they have found useful and want to recommend.

In addition to those materials, ScOPTbox also offers hosted spaces for practice educators who wish to engage with students online, or to provide secure access to resources for their students. Hosted spaces for communities of practice are also available. These spaces could be used for online discussion, revision quizzes, assessment, evaluation, interactive case studies, reflective journals, a CPD/PRTL Register, certificates of attendance/ completion, a repository of resources... and much more!

In 2016, we were successful in securing funding from the Social Work Education Trust which has supported us to continue the development of ScOPTbox and roll out training to ScOPT members.

This year we have delivered workshops to Barnardo's staff at their three conferences throughout Scotland, and we have run workshops for staff groups in Perth & Kinross, Dumfries and Galloway, East Lothian, Midlothian, and the Scottish Borders, practice educators at Stirling University, and practice educators in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. Over the next few months we will be running workshops for student groups in Ayrshire, practice educators in Highland, and more.

Further funding from Learning Network West has resulted in a collaboration between Scot, the Tayforth Partnership and Learning Network West to develop an e-portfolio for learners undertaking the Professional Development Award in Practice Learning (PDAPL). This collaboration has started and we are excited to see how it develops over the coming months.

ScOPTbox also took on an international audience in Prato, Italy, in September 2017 when one of our Trustees successfully secured funding from the Social Work Education Trust to deliver the ScOPTbox workshop at the *Changing Places* conference. The session was well received and has led to further resources being included in the ScOPTbox library.

Thanks to Jon Bolton for all his continued work on ScOPTbox.

Please contact us if you are interested in a training day for your area or organisation.

See **www.practicelearning.info**

Learning at Work Week 2017

Learning at Work Week is an annual festival of workplace learning. It takes place in May and is co-ordinated by the Campaign for Learning and led by employers. The Week aims to promote a culture of learning at work and put a spotlight on the importance and benefits of learning and development at work.

ScOPT ran a series of articles on the website to tie in with the 2017 Learning at Work week, as well as highlighting appropriate resources each day.

The feedback was very positive and led to the development of *ThursdayThinking*. We're planning to do more articles for the next Learning at Work Week, 14th - 20th May 2018.

See www.scopt.co.uk/laww

ThursdayThinking

2017 also saw the launch of "*ThursdayThinking*" – a series of thought-provoking articles that offer information, insight and ideas... and maybe cause you to rethink the way you view things. Our goal is to stimulate thinking, improve practice and provide a critical backdrop for ongoing debate. We have had some excellent contributions and again this has added to the resources we have available within ScOPTbox to support our members in the valuable work they undertake with social work students and learners.

Topics so far have included

- 'Courageous conversations'
- The A to Z of Good Supervision
- Harmful supervision
- Twisting and turning between social work practice and theory
- Relationship Based Practice: reinforcing, reigniting and reaffirming motivation]
- Pain and pleasure: ideas for managing the ongoing challenge of supporting social work students with critical reflection

And we're looking forward to articles on

- Strategies for providing anti-racist practice learning opportunities
- Good practice model of 'live' observation
- Researching practice educators and academic staff grading practice skills of students in live practice situations.
- Social justice understanding in practice learning
- 10 reasons to be a PE

See www.scopt.co.uk/thinking

The Web Team

The Web Team is a sub group of the main Board. They really are a fantastic resource for ScOPT. They run the website and initially respond to all queries and ideas that come in, consulting with the Board as needed. There is always someone on duty so the website is always active and responsive. ScOPT is also very active on Twitter @Sc_OPT.

Thanks to Jon Bolton, Moira Dunworth and Gillian Muir for their hard work and commitment.

Future Plans

We have a number of plans for 2018 and beyond.

Based on your feedback, we are planning to continue the *ThursdayThinking* articles every month.

We are continuing our conversation with the National Organisation for Practice Teaching (NOPT) in England: obviously there are differences in social work education, regulation, policy and legislation between England and Scotland – but there are a number of areas where we feel collaboration could be useful.

We have also recently started a conversation with CAIPE – the Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education – and will be interested to see what future collaborations may be possible.

We are working with Kirwin Maclean Associates to develop a discounted price on all their books and resources for ScOPT members.

We are developing our roles as Trustees of ScOPT and focusing on our skill development and supporting new Trustees onto the Board.

As well as the ScOPTbox training mentioned above, we are considering other training events for members and would love to hear any ideas you might have.

We will be supporting Learning at Work Week in May 2018 with a series of specially commissioned articles aimed at supporting practice educators.

We are planning to contribute to the Learning Network West Practice Assessors Development Day in 2018 and of course, the development of the e-portfolio for PDAPL learners.

We have submitted abstracts for conference presentations about ScOPTbox for two events: the international Social Work, Education and Social Development conference in Dublin in July 2018, and the International Practice Teaching and Field Education Conference in Oxford in December 2018. Both events have a presentation stream about using technology to support practice learning.

Summary

ScOPT, and the Trustees, have worked tirelessly and voluntarily throughout the year to promote good practice and represent practice teaching as a professional activity.

Social work and social work education continues to experience change. The University of Edinburgh is currently celebrating 100 years of social work education and training and ScOPT is delighted to be involved with this anniversary as we celebrate our own 18th year of supporting practice education in Scotland. We're running an event with the University considering *Practice Learning – Looking Back, Moving Forward*. This is an ideal opportunity to reflect on the past, current and future challenges and achievements in practice learning

Thank you for your support of the organisation. The Board is very much looking forward to the next year as we continue to develop the work of ScOPT and represent you, our members.

Fiona Stansfield
Chair,
November 2017

**The Scottish Organisation for Practice Teaching
Financial Report - 31st August 2016 to 31st March 2017**

Fiona Stansfield, Treasurer (prepared November 2017)



	INCOME				EXPENDITURE					
	Toolkit Sales	Grant Funding	Conference (See note 1)	Other	Website Hosting	Printing and Stationery	Conference (See note 1)	Board Expenses	Development Day	Other
August 2016										
September 2016								99.30	408.00	
October 2016	200.00				17.96					
November 2016			0.00				620.66	37.00		
December 2016						844.60	922.00	19.20		
January 2017					17.96			61.40		
February 2017										
March 2017					17.96					
Total	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.88	844.60	1542.66	216.90	408.00	0.00

Funds Introduced (see note 2)	4798.59
Total Income	200.00
Total Expenditure	3066.04
Surplus / (Deficit)	(2866.04)
Total Carried Forward	1932.55

Notes:

1. The 2016 conference was managed for CELCIS on behalf of ScOPT. All income was managed by them, but was wholly offset by their management fee.
2. ScOPT was formerly an unincorporated organisation. The balance of funds was transferred into the SCIO on its incorporation on 31 August 2016.

APPENDIX 3



Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2

Report to the trustees/members of
Registered charity number
On the accounts of the charity for the period
Set out on pages

Charity name						
SCOTTISH ORGANISATION FOR PRACTICE TEACHING						
Registered charity number						
SC 046818						
Period start date			Period end date			
Day	Month	Year	to	Day	Month	Year
	APR	2016			MARCH	2017
Set out on pages						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [~~other than that disclosed on the attached page*~~]

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
 have not been met, or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:		Date:	25/3/18
Name:	AODHÁN FINLAYSON		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LIQUIDITY GROUP		
Address:	33 OLD KIRK ROAD CORSTORPAIN GOLDENHILL GAI2 6JX		

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

<p>1. Name of the company or individual to whom the report relates</p>	<p>Report relates to</p>
<p>2. Reference to the relevant financial statements</p>	<p>Registered company</p>
<p>3. Reference to the relevant period</p>	<p>On the accounts for the period</p>
<p>4. Reference to the relevant page</p>	<p>of the report</p>
<p>5. Details of the nature of the error or omission</p>	<p>Particulars of error/omission</p>
<p>6. Details of the error or omission</p>	<p>Examiner's statement</p>
<p>7. Details of the error or omission</p>	<p>Examiner's statement</p>
<p>8. Details of the error or omission</p>	<p>Examiner's statement</p>
<p>9. Details of the error or omission</p>	<p>Examiner's statement</p>
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<p>11. Details of the error or omission</p>	<p>Examiner's statement</p>
<p>12. Details of the error or omission</p>	<p>Examiner's statement</p>
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<p>17. Details of the error or omission</p>	<p>Examiner's statement</p>
<p>18. Details of the error or omission</p>	<p>Examiner's statement</p>
<p>19. Details of the error or omission</p>	<p>Examiner's statement</p>
<p>20. Details of the error or omission</p>	<p>Examiner's statement</p>