



**The Scottish Organisation  
for Practice Teaching**

**Trustees Annual Report 2019**

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

**Board of Trustees & Office Bearers**

Our current board of trustees is:

- Fiona Stansfield – Chair
- Jon Bolton – Secretary/Treasurer
- Deirdre Fitzpatrick
- Gillian Muir
- Gail Murphy
- Avril McIvor
- Kirstin Parkes

The Trustees have continued their commitment to the work of ScOPT and are very active on behalf of the membership. We hold regular meetings and we have specific tasks shared out, 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.

## **Membership**

Membership of ScOPT continues to be free. 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 aimed at providing Practice Educators with a CPD opportunity and sharing learning across the practice learning community.

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

## **ScOPTbox**

ScOPTbox 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!

## **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. Thanks to Jon Bolton and Gillian Muir for their hard work and commitment.

## **ThursdayThinking**

We continued to publish *ThursdayThinking* each month. *ThursdayThinking* is 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.

*ThursdayThinking* was also registered as an online journal with the British Library this year. It has an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN): 2516-3078.

Throughout the year there has been great diversity in the topics of our *ThursdayThinking* series including language integrity, empowerment, assessing student skills and supporting students through the sometimes difficult, challenging and rewarding process of social work education and practice placements. Tweeting and retweeting of the *ThursdayThinking* articles means that we are reaching a large audience and feedback from those accessing the articles really shows the positive impact this series is having on those involved in practice learning in social work education.

## **Journal of Practice Teaching and Learning**

Moira Dunworth, as a ScOPT member, is on the editorial board for the Journal of Practice Teaching and Learning. Moira provides a value contribution to the journal through supporting the activity of book reviews relevant to social work, practice learning and inter-professional practice.

Thank you to Moira for her continued work in this.

If any members are interested in supporting the ongoing work activities of ScOPT they can do so as a member and do not need to become a trustee for this purpose. ScOPT is always keen to ensure an inclusive approach for all our members and their participation.

## **Future Plans**

We have a number of plans for the future.

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 in the future could be useful.

We are exploring opportunities to roll out and replicate learning events similar to those we have held for our AGMs.

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, we are considering other training events for members and would love to hear any ideas you might have.

## **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 and we want to continue to promote the voice of practice learning and the valuable contribution that practice teachers and educators make.

**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  
February 2019

The Scottish Organisation for Practice Teaching  
Financial Report - 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019



	INCOME				EXPENDITURE						
	Toolkit Sales	Grant Funding	Conference / Training	Other	Website Hosting	Printing and Stationery	Conference / Training	Board Expenses	ScOPTbox	Bank Charges	
April 2018	15.00				25.16					0.71	
May 2018							80.00	444.70			
June 2018	30.00				25.16					1.42	
July 2018	30.00						143.25			1.42	
August 2018	45.00							63.60	728.74	2.13	
September 2018					25.16			195.99			
October 2018	45.00									2.13	
November 2018											
December 2018					25.16			28.50			
January 2019	15.00									0.71	
February 2019											
March 2019	15.00			98.50	33.60		352.80			0.71	
<b>Total</b>	<b>195.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>98.50</b>	<b>134.24</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>576.05</b>	<b>732.79</b>	<b>728.74</b>	<b>9.23</b>	

<b>Total Brought Forward</b>	<b>2227.89</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>293.50</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2181.05</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(1887.55)</b>
<b>Total Carried Forward</b>	<b>340.34</b>

**Notes:**

£98.50 income in March 2019 was from sale of donated books

**APPENDIX 3**



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

<b>Independent examiner's report on the accounts</b> v2						
Charity name Scottish Organisation for Practice Teaching						
Registered charity number <b>SC 046818</b>						
Period start date				Period end date		
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
01	April	2018	<b>to</b>	31	March	2019
					(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

1. 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

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

23 December 2019

**Name:**

Roderick Howat

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

**Address:**

55 Netherbank  
Edinburgh  
EH16 6YR

\*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.

## APPENDIX 3

### 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**

None