



Trustees Annual Report 2020

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 as independent practice educators.

Board of Trustees & Office Bearers

During this year one trustee stood down – Avril McIvor. The board would like to extend our thanks to Avril for her contribution to ScOPT. We have two new trustees who have joined us this year Cath Shaw and a returning trustee Moira Godfrey and we welcome them and their contributions to ScOPT warmly. Our current board of trustees are:

- Fiona Stansfield – Chair
- Jon Bolton – Treasurer & Secretary
- Moira Godfrey
- Gillian Muir
- Gail Murphy
- Kirstin Parkes
- Cath Shaw

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 - 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 run an annual conference or event, last year co-hosted with Dundee University (<https://www.scopt.co.uk/archives/5202>) specifically aimed at providing Practice Educators with a CPD opportunity and sharing learning across the practice learning community.

Membership continues to grow. We currently have 1035 registered members – an increase of 24% 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! These resources may prove to be of particular use for practice educators during the current Coronavirus pandemic which has seen significant changes to the delivery of practice learning opportunities for social work students.

We have continued the development of ScOPTbox training to ScOPT members, and in addition bringing knowledge of ScOPTbox to a wider audience throughout the UK and internationally. This year we have delivered workshops to Practice Educators in Fife, West Lothian and the Borders, to Practice Educators undertaking their training throughout Scotland, to the National Organisation of Practice Teachers in Portsmouth in June 2019, to a different audience at the Moodle Conference in April 2019, and also to Practice Educators in the Republic of Ireland in collaboration with University College Dublin.

Thanks to all of the trustees for their continued effort and hard work in promoting ScOPTbox to such a variety of people throughout the world who are committed and passionate about social work practice learning.

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

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, Gillian Muir and Kirstin Parkes.

ThursdayThinking continues and 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.

Throughout 2019 & 2020 there has been great diversity in the topics of our *ThursdayThinking* series including student mental health & wellbeing on placement, exploring barriers to service user and carer participation and relationship-based practice.

ScOPT Development Day

ScOPT held our development day in January 2020 facilitated by Perth & Kinross Council Learning and Development section. This was an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and plans for the future. Our priorities and vision for ScOPT remain firm and as we look towards the future we aim to strengthen our work in promoting practice education across all sectors.

Journal of Practice Teaching and Learning

Moira Dunworth, as ScOPT member, is on the editorial board for the Journal of Practice Teaching and Learning. Moira provides a valued 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.

ScOPT involvement in other forums

Over the last year ScOPT has been invited to participate as a member of the newly established Social Work Education Partnership (SWEP). It is exciting to participate in national discussions on the future of practice learning and represent members views on a range of practice learning issues. This work is ongoing and as work develops from this group we will be pleased to publish findings, outcomes and recommendations as they emerge.

Coronavirus and impact on practice learning

On 20th March 2020, SSSC alongside HEI's reached the decision to suspend all social work students placements in Scotland. The Coronavirus pandemic has seen such unprecedented times and impacted on everyone's lives. ScOPT recognised the difficult decision to suspend student placements and welcomed the steps taken to safeguard students and others involved in practice learning. It was also recognised the impact this would have on many including the progression of education and also employment of many working in practice learning. From this ScOPT wrote to HEIs and SSSC to highlight the potential impact on many of our members. We have welcomed the invitations to be involved with those working nationally to develop the safe resumption and return to placements for social work students and Practice Educators. We will continue to provide input and feedback to this area of work both nationally and regionally alongside HEIs, SSSC and SWEP.

Future Plans

We have a number of plans for 2020 and beyond.

We continue to contribute to national conversations with both the Scottish Government and the Scottish Social Service Council on the implementation of the outcomes of the review of social work education and participate in forums such as SWEP.

We will be 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 mentioned above, 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
June 2020

The Scottish Organisation for Practice Teaching
 Financial Report - 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020



	INCOME				EXPENDITURE					
	Toolkit Sales	Grant Funding	Conference / Training	Other	Website Hosting	Printing and Stationery	Conference / Training	Board Expenses	ScOPTbox	Bank Charges
April 2019					8.44					
May 2019					8.44					
June 2019					33.60					
July 2019	15.00				8.44			125.50		0.71
August 2019					8.44					
September 2019					33.60		307.20			
October 2019					8.44					
November 2019	15.00				8.44					0.74
December 2019	15.00									0.74
January 2020	30.00									1.55
February 2020	15.00	1000.00								0.74
March 2020							283.55			
Total	90.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00	117.84	0.00	590.75	125.50	0.00	4.48

Total Brought Forward	340.34
Total Income	1090.00
Total Expenditure	838.57
Surplus / (Deficit)	251.43
Total Carried Forward	591.77

Notes:

Closing Bank Balances

25.55	Co-Op
409.25	RBoS
156.97	Paypal
<u>591.77</u>	

APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts					v2
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity name	Scottish Organisation for Practice Teaching					
	Registered charity number	SC 046818					
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	April	2019	to	31	March	2020
Set out on pages						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	<p>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.</p>						
Basis of independent examiner's statement	<p>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.</p>						
Independent examiner's statement	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>have not been met, or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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:	18 December 2020	
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