

30th September 2019



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Dear colleague,

bpf is holding its next [AGM on Saturday 23rd November 2019](#) and is inviting members to stand for election to join its next Board of Trustees, which will be based on the updated **bpf** Articles approved at the EGM in July. This is a great opportunity to help steer the future development of our shared professional association and I would very much encourage you to consider putting forward your name, or that of another member, as a candidate.

You will be aware, as I advised several months back, that I am stepping down as Chair at this AGM. It has been a privilege to hold this role, but I think the time is right for fresh leadership to help steer the **bpf** forward.

Today I honestly believe the **bpf** is at an exciting and positive turning point - not least now we have started to significantly improve our financial position over the last year, strengthen the work of the staff team and build the marketing of our courses and events. What's more, with our interim CEO, Mike Owen, exciting plans are taking shape to enhance our membership offer, develop and widen our range of courses, reach out to new audiences, and increase our profile and impact.

One major challenge we still face, though, is getting more members to step up and contribute in the leadership and running of our shared organisation. We all owe a very considerable debt of gratitude to a host of current post-holders who have served on the Board, association committees or other groups over the last six years. But now the **bpf** must encourage and look to a new generation to step up and, in so doing, bring forward fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

five elected vacancies

This starts with the need for someone new to fill the role of **bpf** Chair. I think this role is a truly wonderful opportunity for a senior, experienced member to help put their stamp on the profession as well as the **bpf** itself. To reflect the role's importance, an element of remuneration may be available (subject to Charity Commission approval). Also, although the role's normal term is three years, there's no requirement to commit to that full length in advance: a shorter period (1-2 years) is possible, if a candidate doesn't feel able to commit to the full term initially.

It is my sincere hope that my successor will be someone from the **bpf** membership but, if no member comes forward, then the Board will have to look externally to fill the post, which would be a pity. Of course, as in any organisation, a close relationship between the Chair and the CEO will be important, with mutual respect for each other's skills and focus essential for effective strategic leadership of the **bpf**.

Along with the vacant position of **bpf** Chair, the Board have defined *seven other vacant positions*, as detailed below. These positions will be alongside five current Board positions which do *not* need election: the three Chairs of **bpf**'s associations (BJAA, IPCAPA, and PPA) and current members Jean Carr (Vice Chair) and Robin Smith who were both elected at the 2018 AGM for a three-year term. Current Trustee Deborah Abrahams, elected at the 2018 AGM, has, sadly, decided to step down.

As well as the Board Chair role, the four other Board vacancies to be filled by member *election* are:

1. Chair of **bpf** Training & Education Committee
2. Chair of **bpf** Membership & Professional Activities Committee
3. General Member position – **bpf** Qualified Member
4. General Member position – **bpf** Trainee Member

A summary outline of each of these roles is given in the **Appendix** to this letter.

In addition to these five elected vacancies, and applying **bpf**'s new Articles, the current **bpf** Board have decided to seek *two, external 'lay' individuals* to join the Board, with these positions to be openly advertised, interviewed and appointed. For the moment, the Board has decided to leave the third 'lay' external Trustee position unfilled.

about the role of board trustee

The **bpf** Board is the governing body of the charity and oversees all its activities to make sure they are properly and effectively delivered. Each Trustee is also a Company Director and as well as fulfilling one of the specific 'roles' above has a shared responsibility to ensure sound corporate governance of the charity in terms of serving the interests of all **bpf** members and the general public. The term of office for trustees is up to three years. The role is voluntary and unpaid, but reasonable pocket expenses will be reimbursed. The Board will meet about seven times a year, usually in the evening but also occasionally on a Saturday. Each meeting typically lasts about 2.5 hours. Outside Board meetings, the time commitment needed is equal to about 8-10 hours a month to deal with specific duties of the trustee role held.

For more information about the governance of the charity, please look up the **2019 Trustee handbook** (attached), also accessible on the **bpf** website ([click here to access it](#)).

Please return your nomination form by 12 noon on Thursday 17th October.

Standing for election to the **bpf** Board is straightforward. Simply fill in the short nomination form attached and email or post back as shown before the above deadline. In the form, we ask for some brief information about yourself, what you would hope to bring to the role in question, and contact details of two other **bpf** members who will be prepared to 'endorse' your application.

To help anyone who is considering standing for election, or nominating someone, Mike and I would like to extend an open invitation to you to come and have an informal discussion with us – over a glass of wine or a coffee – at a **short Q & A session to be held between 7.15 pm and 8.45 pm on Thursday 10th October** at **bpf**'s offices. If you would like to attend, do email Mike in advance, if you can, at ceo@bpf-psychotherapy.org.uk. Alternatively, please ring him anytime at the **bpf** office; if he is not available, please ask for Cathie Moore, who will be able to make arrangements with him.

Thanks for giving these Board vacancies serious thought and I certainly look forward to seeing you at the AGM itself, which will be at [2 pm on Saturday 23rd November](#) in central London. Full details of the AGM, including the agenda, will be sent to members by early November.

With very best wishes, **Julian Lousada**,

Chair of **bpf** Board of Trustees