

Frequently asked questions regarding service user involvement in BAMT Conference Belfast 2020

The process for grant application has been planned carefully in order to make it accessible for service users. Below are some questions and answers that may be of use to service users and Music Therapists in considering making an application.

Why are service users being supported to attend the conference?

Over the past few BAMT conferences, service users have been involved in more active ways. Those of us who were at Barbican 2018 will remember one of the highlights being Dean Beadle talking about his experiences of music therapy in a roundtable question debate chaired by Leslie Bunt. In the planning of BAMT Belfast 2020, we wanted to include more co-production from the beginning of planning.

Co-production is a commitment to valuing and learning from the users of services. More and more in clinical practice, research and training we are asking the people who use music therapy to work with us to shape the future of services and of the profession. For example our regulators, HCPC, require that training courses include service users and carers in planning and delivery of training courses.

In planning Belfast 2020 a co-production workshop was undertaken, with principles for good practice around the conference being constructed with a group of service users. One of the principles generated was a commitment to service users being supported to attend the conference. BAMT is committed to develop service user and carer partnership and this is why we have launched this grant initiative.

How do I decide if it is a good decision for me to attend the conference?

We suggest that you talk with a trusted person (a family member, carer or professional, or maybe a couple of these people) to help you come to a decision. You might want to take your time thinking about your decision. You might want to talk about the following in order to think together about what is possible for you;

- The content of the conference and how this might impact upon you
- The practicalities - for example how will the journey be for you, the 2 busy days of the conference, and think about where you would stay

Be realistic about your ability to attend – we do not want to put you under any pressure.

The programme for the conference is loaded on the webpage and can be accessed here:

<https://www.bamt.org/conference/conference-programme.html> This will give you an idea of the kinds of presentations that will take place over the weekend.

You can make your own decision. It is important that you don't feel you should say yes if you want or need to say no. You can change your mind about this decision at any stage.

How will you support me when I am at the conference?

BAMT is committed to supporting service user wellbeing during BAMT Conference Belfast 2020. Consideration of any support and adjustments that might be required during the conference is part of the process of grant application.

Once the applications have been received, the Conference Organising Committee will look at these to decide how to distribute the grants. If you are awarded a grant, we will then be in touch with you to find out what kind of support you think you will need to support you during the conference. Individual support will be discussed with each applicant.

We will offer you the opportunity to sit with one of the BAMT Trustees prior to the conference beginning so that you can look through the abstracts and think about the content of these, and what might be most interesting for you to attend. We will be providing a 'chill out' quiet space for service users to take some time to relax and recharge during the conference. We will also be able to provide some support for service users from Chairs of individual sessions. We cannot provide 1:1 support during the whole conference period.

A note for Music Therapists who are considering nominating service users:

BAMT expects that as in all your work, you will consider HCPC standards of conduct, performance and ethics in considering nominating any service user/s. Ensure that you have fully considered the implications for their wellbeing prior to discussing the nomination with the service user. Music Therapists and service users may wish to consider whether attending during active engagement in music therapy treatment is appropriate. As in all the work that Music Therapists undertake, consent must be gained prior to nominating service users for this grant.