



The UK Association for Gestalt Practitioners

Working as a Volunteer Member of the UKAGP Organising Committee

Welcome to the Organising Committee

Introduction

This document describes the sort of experience you can expect working with colleagues as a member of the UKAGP Organising Committee (OC). The information below describes what this voluntary position offers you, as well as describing how we work together as a committee to ensure that we best represent our members' interests.

What are the benefits of volunteering as a member of the OC?:

Membership of the OC offers engagement with a supportive, creative and dynamic group of gestalt practitioners who are committed to promoting and developing the interests of the gestalt community in the UK and further afield.

Volunteering as a member of the OC offers good company, creative opportunities, community involvement, job satisfaction and appreciation. We meet formally three to four times each year, usually on a Saturday, sharing lunch and fun. We have a chance to check in and to ask for support as we make collective decisions, have rich discussions and put into action the day-to-day management of the Association.

Previous experience of committees and associations is not a requirement. The most valuable voices in committee meetings are often those asking "Why is this done like this?".

The role enables excellent personal and professional development opportunities as you develop new connections; skills; travel; and, develop an increased understanding of the wider gestalt community. The time spent on the committee can contribute to your CPD requirements.

Travel expenses will usually be met for Organising Committee meetings and for other meetings when representing UKAGP, subject to current constitutional guidance.

The UKAGP Organising Committee

The OC is the group responsible for the day to day management and execution of decisions made on behalf of UKAGP members. The committee represents the membership of the association and as far as possible the UK gestalt community, organisations and categories of practice (see [UKAGP Constitution](#), section 6).

The roles available to all OC members consist of a Chair; Secretary; Finance Officer; Membership Officer; Trainee, Pre-Accreditation and Institute Engagement; UKAGP Representative to the EAGT (normally the Chair) and, any other roles as required, up to a maximum of nine OC members. There are links to more detailed summaries of each role listed below.

The OC meets at least three times a year and takes responsibility for activities including but not limited to the following (see [UKAGP Constitution](#), section 6):

- Keeping a Register of Members
- Keeping account of all financial transactions, arranging for them to be audited annually and presented at the AGM
- Approving membership applications
- Setting the level of subscription fees and collecting subscriptions
- Ensuring appropriate liaison with relevant national organisations and with EAGT
- Submitting applications by UK Gestalt practitioners to EAGT for registration, accreditation or certification
- Keeping members and appropriate UK professional organisations informed of the EAGT Code of Ethics and Complaints Procedure
- Contributing as relevant, on behalf of the UK Gestalt Community, to the upkeep of the EAGT Code of Ethics and Complaints Procedure.
- Taking final responsibility for the work and recommendations of any Sub-Committees and Working Parties

How we work together as OC members?:

An important starting point in working together as a committee is to read the [UKAGP Constitution](#). The Constitution sets out the scope of the organisation as an association designed to support and voice the interests of the UK Gestalt community in the UK and the wider field.

It is important for us as OC members to question and test the constitution and committee actions with reference to UKAGP constitution. OC members are invited to test the boundaries and frame in which we work with a 'Gestalt spirit', using dialogue and paying attention to process and context as well as tasks, engaging with fellow members concerning policies, values and how we steer the strategic direction of the organisation.

"Communication, communication, communication", to quote an often shared phrase may sound an obvious aim for any group of people working together. Even so, in our experience 'communication' often needs a deliberately created and creative space in order to allow for the possibility of communication. Being available and present at OC meetings, at monthly voluntary check-ins, or through written updates to colleagues are important ways in which we work together. There are opportunities for communication and engagement with the wider gestalt

community through work undertaken with trainees and training organisations. Attendance at major annual events such as the AGM and conference, as well as understanding how the UKAGP manages financially are also ground work for communication in our role as membership representatives, and part of our collaborative way of working with one another.

As people who have chosen to volunteer to support the UKAGP by giving our time and energy in representing our membership, and also being members ourselves it is our ardent wish that you enjoy your period of working as a member of this group.

Organising Committee Roles:

For a summary of the published OC roles please [click here for a link to the UKAGP Website](#).

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