

Present			
Name	Role		
Julia Ross	Chair/Honorary Officer/Director		
Ann Moir	Treasurer/Honorary Officer/Director/Chair of Finance & Organisational Development Committee		
Janet Walker	Elected Director/Chair of International Committee		
Annie Ho	Elected Director		
Merlin Joseph	Elected Director		
Camelia Chowdhury-Allen	Elected Director		
Katy Jackson	Appointed Director/Vice Chair of National Standing Committee - England		
Christian Beech	Appointed Director /Co-Chair of National Standing Committee - Cymru		
Andrew Pennington	Appointed Director /Co-Chair of National Standing Committee - Cymru		
Caroline McDonald	Appointed Director /Co-Vice Chair of National Standing Committee - Scotland		
Jude Currie	Appointed Director /Chair of National Standing Committee - Scotland		
Orlaith McGibbon	Appointed Director /Chair of National Standing Committee – Northern Ireland		
John Sheridan	Appointed Director /Member of National Standing Committee – Northern Ireland		
Hari Sewell	Co-opted Director		
Sarah Anderson	Co-opted Director/Student/NQSW		
Ioan Racasan	Co-opted Director/Student/NQSW		
Reshma Patel	Non-Director/Experts by Experience UK Forum Co-Chair		
Omar Mohamed	Non-Director/Experts by Experience UK Forum Co-Chair		
Mark Lynes	Non-Director/Experts by Experience UK Forum Member		
Angela Frazer-Wicks	Non-Director/Experts by Experience UK Forum Member		

In Attendance			
Name Role			
Ruth Allen	Chief Executive Officer		
Amanda Govani Director of Communications and External Relations			
Kate O'Regan	Senior Executive Director of Professional Services and Organisational Development		
Luke Geoghegan	uke Geoghegan Head of Policy & Research		
Jane Shears	Head of Professional Development & Education		



Mike Hopkins	Head of HR & Support Services	
Carolyn Ewart	National Director for BASW Northern Ireland	
Sam Baron	National Director for BASW Cymru	
Alison Bavidge	National Director for BASW Scotland	
Maris Stratulis	National Director for BASW England	
Johanna Wathen	Governance Officer/Executive Assistant	
Sian Wilton	National Administrator for BASW Cymru	
Duc Tran	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Group Co-Chair	
Dean Owens-Cooper	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Group Co-Chair	

Apologies			
Name Role			
Neeta Baicher	Vice-Chair/Honorary Officer/Director		
Martin Sexton Elected Director/Chair of Policy, Ethics & Human Rights Committee			
Vava Tampa	Appointed Director /Chair of National Standing Committee – England		
Debs Solomon	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Group Vice-Chair		

Agenda Item	Summary of discussion	Decision taken and Actions Agreed	By when	Lead
1.1 Welcome & Inclusion	Julia Ross welcomes all attendees in person and online.			
	Note to ensure that online attendees feel included.			
1.2 Declaration of Interests	No new interests declared.	New declaration of	May 2024	Jo Wathen
		interests forms to be		
		completed by all		
		directors for 2024		
1.3 Agree Meeting Minutes	Matters identified as confidential or as AOB:			



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	 Item 3.2.1 and 3.7 to be taken in confidential session – Executives and observers to leave. Recommendations and volunteers for invite to Kings Garden Party on the 21st May 2024 to be taken as AOB Reminder of Decolonisation in Social Work meeting on the 27th February 2024 - <u>Decolonisation in Social Work </u> <u>www.basw.co.uk</u> Matters admitted as urgent: 	Upload agreed meeting minutes from the 15.11.2023 to BASW website.	March 2024	Jo Wathen
	 None Minutes from the 15.11.2023: Approved pages 1 – 25 with amendment to Page 5 – take out word 'underway'. Minutes were shared and agreed with Council in advance of meeting. Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the agenda: 			
	 Review Reserve's Policy. Update on Council skills audit to include a review of media training needs of Council. Review social media Policy. Provide Council with an update on sponsorship and finalising Social Worker of the Year Awards. Action table: Social media policy review undertaken and scrutinised 	Ensure all reports to Council are to be submitted with a front sheet	May 2024	Ruth Allen
	 through Risk & Audit Committee on the 22.02.24. Appraisal of Council skills audit. Contract meeting with SWOTYA next week. Action table agreed. 	confirming if the report is 'for information', 'for assurance', 'for decision'.		



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	2024 Council	2024 Council meeting dates:					
	Date	Meeting	Place	Time			
	08 May	Council	Virtual	11am- 4pm			
	10 July	Council – Budget Setting 2024/25	Virtual	11am- 4pm			
	15 October	Council Development Day	Birmingham with virtual option to join	11am- 4pm			
	16 October	Council	Birmingham with virtual option to join	11am- 4pm			
1.4 Committee Updates							
1.4.1 National Standing Committee – Wales	& Sam Baron: Key highlights Presentation s o Turbu instab o Budge impac worke o In 202 of offi	shared by Nationa lence around hea ility around finance et reduced for age ts on service delive ers. 25 many Committe ice coming to an e	ndrew Pennington I Standing Commit Ith services in Wale cial situation in Wa ncy staff across Wa very and the pressu ee members will se nd. es which needs son	tee Cymru. es lots of les. ales, this ires of social e their term	BASW Welsh language Policy to be reviewed	May 2024	Sam Baron



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1.4.2 National Standing Committee – Northern Ireland	 Focus on employer relationships and rebuilding strategic relationships with Welsh government. Work plan in place to ensure clarity around the BASW offer in Wales. Welcome to Orlaith McGibbon, John Sheridan & Carolyn Ewart: Presentation shared by National Standing Committee Northern Ireland: Key Highlights - Supported frontline social workers in strike of public sector strike. Government restored recently in NI, there is now the debate around how social care issues will be supported. BASW Honorary Officers will be attending the joint Northern Ireland BASW and Ireland Association of Social Workers conference on the 29th February 2024. Independent Review of Children's Social Care Services has received lots of media coverage and at forefront of social workers. Mental Health Order Collaborative working, lobby and campaigning work around this, pressures remains. Notable four nations community practise sessions with campaign collective funding. Northern Ireland Committee members visited in 			
	Jordan in October 2023 and delivered a series of lectures, met with ministers, and visited young people mental health units. 3 x Jordan social work reps will be			



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		Actions Agreed		
	spending time in NI in May 2024.Present to			
	International Committee in May. Carolyn's recent interview:			
	https://x.com/BASW_NI/status/1753838647453876241?s=20			
	https://x.com/BASW_N/status/175383804743387024115-20 https://x.com/BASW_N/status/1753838810717123011?s=20			
	<u>nttps://x.com/BASW_N/status/1/53838810/1/123011/s=20</u>			
1.4.3 Professional	Membership for Committee shared, 5 new members appointed			
Development & Educational	to Committee for an initial two year term of office. Vacancies			
Committee Update	being held back for four nation representation.			
	Terms of reference ratified by Council. Committee approved			
1.4.4 Independents	establishment of Committee approved by Council September			
Committee – Ratify Terms of	2023.			
Reference				
	Strategic work plan to report to Council twice per year.			
	There remains a need to appoint an executive lead for the			
	Committee, secretariat support will be provided through the			
	business development team.			
	Council discusses if 'Independent' is the right term to refer to			
	this member category.			
2.1 Equality, Diversity &	Duc Tran and Dean Owens-Cooper (Co-Chairs of Equality,			
Inclusion (EDI)	Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Group - EDIAG) present on this			
	item:			
	Presentation shared with Council:			
	Key Highlights -			
	Key Highlights -			



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	 EDI is a multi level strategy, following on from discussions at the Council development day. The EDIAG are proposing a formalised structure which supports members in EDI campaigns. The EDIAG at the moment isn't currently structured to enable this. Work at a national level needs to be communicated as a single resource and point of reference. There is a need to enable support of EDIAG activities and those delivering the activities. Following consultation with it's members the EDIAG is proposing a committee structure as this would be an easily recognisable structure, which would provide consistency and transparency. The Committee would have a four nation approach potentially through nations subcommittees. The Committee could bring about more impact and influence across BASW. 			
	 To support the consultation process with wider membership. 	Finalise process for consulting wider membership	May 2024	Ruth Allen
	Council reiterates that EDI functions can be defused but that there is still a case of having clear governance and having a Committee in this context.	alongside the terms of the consultation with the wider membership.		
	Detailed discussion on the benefits and concerns about different approaches which needs more time to consider and			



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	there is a desire by Council to consider direction of travel via further scrutiny of the proposed terms of consultation with members. BASW are undertaking a EDI strategy review which will also	EDI strategy review	May 2024	Ruth Allen
	come back in May.			
2.2 Sustainability	Update on 2024 conference. 111 workshop proposals have been submitted and are being considered further.			
2.2.1 UK Conference 2024	Chief social workers from England and Scotland will be in			
Update	attendance, NI to be confirmed.			
2.3 Overarching Campaign Priorities & Motions	Report shared with Council and motions update from 2023.			
	Motion 2 - On agenda, work to completed through discussion			
	today in item 2.3.1. To host a discussion with members.			
	Motion 3 – The policy work has been remitted to the			
	International Committee. This is on the agenda for March meeting.			
	Motion 4 – BASW action on this is embedded in the extensive			
	work to highlight the discriminatory and harmful nature of new			
	UK immigration law and policies led by Policy Ethics and Human			
	Rights (see notes of recent meetings) and reflected also in the work of IC.			
	Motion 5 - Remitted to Policy, Ethics and Human Rights (PEHR)			
	committee. The new category has been included in the latest			
	BASW member survey. Feedback from this has been sought			
	from the Jewish SW Group but none has been received as yet.			



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2.3.1 International Committee report on Motion 2 (2023)	 Motion 6 - Remitted to Policy, Ethics and Human Rights committee to ensure the standards are being promoted with UK employers via BASW. Agenda Item presented by Janet Walker (Chair of the International Committee). 			
	 Report submitted and shared with Council: International Committee met on 2 August 2023 and commissioned a paper on the issues to supplement other resources. This was presented to the next International Committee on 1 November. An additional meeting was then scheduled for 10th Jan 2024. A paper 'Additional Information – Israeli Apartheid' had also been previously circulated. This paper follows from those deliberations. Apartheid does have a legal definition and use within the international criminal court. Currently it's being used as a campaign term until such time as the International Criminal Court decide to use it. Both background papers are available to Council members if needed. BASW has both engaged with the complexity of the issues while responding to the ask of AGM Amended Motion 2 (amended) swiftly and comprehensively. 			



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	• Please note that the report 'International Committee			
	Report on Motion 2' sets out the relevant situation and			
	statistics at the time it was written (17th Jan).			
	Actions being asked of Council:			
	1) That Council affirms the commitments within the			
	Motion and publishes a statement to this effect for			
	members and stakeholders.			
	2) That Council approves the recommendation of			
	International Committee that the term apartheid is not			
	adopted by BASW at this time for the reasons outlined			
	above.			
	3) That Council notes and appreciates the work done to			
	date by International Committee and the reports			
	provided to develop a policy statement on the situation			
	in Palestine/Israel. Council asks that a final integrated			
	document is completed for publication to the	Issue statement	February/March	Ruth Allen/Luke
	membership and (as appropriate) wider stakeholders.	affirming the	2024	Geoghegan
		commitments within		
	A full detailed discussion amongst Council takes place including	Motion 2.		
	consideration to if an alternative term could be used instead of			
	apartheid.	To update the	February/March	Ruth Allen/Luke
		membership on the	2024	Geoghegan
	Council vote on each action:	recommendation		
	1) With a majority Council vote in favour of this.	from the International		
	2) With a majority Council vote in favour of this.	Committee that		
	3) With a majority Council vote in favour of this.	BASW will not use the		



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2.3.2 UK Manifesto	Council agreed to consider further how to acknowledge high level of feeling about this debate. Council would welcome the offer from the International Committee to host a discussion on this. Council should consider how to follow up on the feelings in the	term apartheid at this time. Publish an integrated document.	February/March 2024	Ruth Allen/Luke Geoghegan
	 room. Presentation shared by Kerri Prince UK Manifesto shared with Council: Document brings together established BASW positions that are already in place and have been passed previously by Council and various Committees. General elections and devolution explained in document. Four nations policy are separated and are existing BASW policies and positions. The manifesto now needs to go to design before general elections are held. Shared with Council for comments before this is finalised. Need to cross reference with SWU anti-austerity approach from a campaign approach. Need to cross reference with what SWU have in their manifesto and try and align some areas. Feedback from Council required by Monday 13th February to policy team. 			



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	 This is in Teams folder for Council to view. 			
	 Each nation indicates they would like to put out 			
	something aspirational specific to each nation.			
2.4 Experts by Experience UK	Presented by Reshma Patel & Omar Mohamed:			
Forum Update	Update presented to Council:			
	 The forum met on the 17th January. 			
	 Co-ordination in place with the appointment of Emily 			
	Reynolds.			
	 Contributing to UK conference. 			
	 Ensuring contribution is across all committees and 			
	groups.			
	 Will be doing an anonymous skills audit. 			
	 Funding of EbE at BASW UK conference needs to be 			
	finalised.			
	 Work plan and terms of reference in place and in line 			
	with the budget for the forum.			
	• Timescale as to when the other nations will be included			
	within the co-ordinators plans.			
3.1 Chairs Report	Presented by Julia Ross:			
	Report presented to Council.			
3.2 Chief Executives Report	Presented by Ruth Allen:			
	Report shared with Council:			
3.2.1 International Federation	CONFIDENTIAL ITEM			
of Social Workers (IFSW)	Executive team and observers leave whilst this confidential item			
Europe Presidency Candidacy	is discussed.			
– Confidential item				



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3.3 Finance & Organisational	Introduced and Chaired by Honorary Treasurer Ann Moir:			
Development Committee Update	Report from Finance & Organisational Development Committee accepted by Council.			
3.3.1 Balanced Scorecard				
3.3.2 Management Accounts				
3.4 Risk & Audit Committee Update	Presented by Hilary Tompsett, Andy Morris from Dains Auditors also attends:			
3.4.1 External Audit Clearance and Final Audited Accounts	Hilary Tompsett introduces herself as Risk & Audit Committee Interim Chair.			
	 Andy Dains confirms that the external audit is being recorded as a clean audit: Audit team were onsite at Waterloo Street in September 2023. Clearance meeting with Ruth Allen, Ann Moir, Hilary Tompsett and Joanne Lloyd in December 2023 			
	 clearance in December. Audit clearance memorandum scrutinised at Risk & Audit Committee on the 22nd January 2024 with no matters of significance being noted, all current systems and controls working well with no high risk or low risk points. 	Draft Audited Accounts received and agreed by	February 2024	Ruth Allen/Joanne Lloyd



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	Audited Accounts shared with Council.	Council. To be signed by relevant Directors and returned to Dains		
3.4.2 Risk Register	The Committee will deep dive and focus on risk register items 'reputation' and 'cyber security' at the next Risk & Audit Committee meeting in April 2024.			
	The current register is a narrative register, the Committee will need to look at this format of the register and how risk appetite is assessed.			
	No substantial areas of change to the risk register. No significant new risks since September 2023.			
3.5 Nominations Committee	Presented by Ann Moir (appointed Chair of the Nominations			
Report & Elections Timetable	Committee):			
	Nominations Committee met 24 th January, report submitted			
	with following recommendations:			
	• Reappoint Chair/Honorary Officer for a two year term			
	of office, commencing June 2024 (Uncontested).			
	 Reappoint Elected director - Chair of International Committee (Elected Director for a two ways term of the second director) 			
	Committee/Elected Director for a two year term of office, commencing June 2024 (uncontested).			
	 Election for Policy, Ethics & Human Rights Committee 			
	Chair (contested).			
	 Readvertise for Vice-Chair/Honorary Officer Readvertise 			
	for 1 x Elected Director.			



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3.5.1 Extraordinary General Meeting Update (20.12.23)	Council vote to agree the recommendations of the Committee: Julia Ross to be reappointed as Chair of Council for a further two year term of office commencing at the AGM in June 2024. Janet Walker to be reappointed as Elected Director - Chair of International Committee for a further two year term of office commencing at the AGM in June 2024. Offer both candidates for Elected Director – Policy, Ethics & Human Rights Committee Chair to opportunity to run for election. Readvertise the roles of Honorary Officer – Vice-Chair and 1 x Elected Director Role. Council will further review how best to fill current Elected Director casual vacancy for remainder of the term of office (until AGM 2025). Results and passed resolution noted by Council.	Run election for role of Elected Director – Policy, Ethics & Human Rights Committee Chair Readvertise the roles of Honorary Officer – Vice-Chair and 1 x Elected Director Role.	February 2024 February 2024	Ruth Allen/Jo Wathen Ruth Allen/Jo Wathen
3.6 Standing Orders	Presented by Janet Walker:			
Committee 3.6.1 Ratify Motions	Motion 1 – Following legal advice (as attached) the Committee recommend that this motion is not put forward for a member	Motion 1 will not be put forward for a	February 2024	Julia Ross/Ruth Allen



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	vote as it will fetter the responsibilities of Directors. Legal	membership vote.		
3.6.2 UK & International	advice has been sought and shared with Council.	Proposers to be		
Policy & Ethics Forum General		updated.		
meeting 2024	Council accepts this recommendation and will not put forward			
	this motion for a membership vote.			
3.6.3 Annual General Meeting				
2024 Constitutional Timetable	Motion 2 – Committee recommend that this motion is not put	Motion 2 will not be	February 2024	Julia Ross/Ruth
	forward for a member vote as it is a repeat of the motion voted	put forward for a		Allen
	in in June 2023 of which all actions will have been completed by	membership vote.		
	March 2024.	Proposers to be		
		updated.		
	Council accepts this recommendation and will not put forward			
	this motion for a membership vote.			
	Motion 3 – Committee recommend that this motion is put	Motion 3 will be put	February 2024	Luke
	forward for a member vote at the UK & International Policy &	forward for a		Geoghegan
	Ethics General Meeting on the 30 th April 2024. Further	membership vote at		
	recommendation is that some rewording is required but	the Policy GM on the		
	without changing the substantive elements of the motion.	30 th April. Luke		
		Geoghegan to work		
	Council accepts this recommendation and will put forward this	with proposers to		
	motion for a membership vote.	reword elements of		
		the motion.		
	Motion 4 – Committee recommend that this motion is put			
	forward for a member vote at the UK & International Policy &	Motion 4 will be put	February 2024	Luke
	Ethics General Meeting on the 30 th April 2024. Further clarity	forward for a		Geoghegan
		membership vote at		



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	relating to this motion was asked for and provided by the Branch.	the Policy GM on the 30 th April. Luke Geoghegan to work		
	Council accepts this recommendation and will put forward this motion for a membership vote.	with proposers to reword elements of the motion.		
	Motion 5 – Committee recommend that this motion is not put forward for a member vote as it would need to go to the AGM in June 2024 and this would change the substantive ask of the motion. The Committee recommend that Council to commit to ask of the motion without it going to a member vote.	Motion 5 will not be put forward for a membership vote. Proposers to be updated.	February 2024	Jo Wathen
	Council accepts this recommendation and will not put forward this motion for a membership vote but will commit to the spirit of the motion.			
3.7 Review Memorandum of Understanding for Social Workers Benevolent Trust (SWBT)	CONFIDENTIAL ITEM Executive team and observers leave whilst this confidential item is discussed.			
3.8 Major Organisational Projects	Update provided by Amanda Govani: Reports submitted to Council.			
3.8.1 CRM & Website Development	 Reports fully scrutinised in F & OD Committee 22.01.2024. O CRM governance board O Detailed separate risk register. 			



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3.8.2 Membership strategy	 Benefit realisation plan. Underpins membership strategy. Detailed training and system support plan, including comms plan. Launch in April 2024. Measuring outcomes and member behaviours to understand if outcome has been reached. Multiple work streams and enhanced EDI data. Walk through at Council in May 2024. Includes cross cutting stakeholders. Focus on recruitment and retention. Increased membership fee 2024 and membership levels have remained stable. Ongoing recruitment activities both face to face and digitally. Need to focus and improve retention, this should improve overall growth. Ongoing advertising campaigns. End of tear review of social media, over 100k followers across all platforms. In the main member get member is the way that members are recruited, this will become easier to facilitate with the new CRM. 			



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4.0 Leadership	 Luke Geoghegan presents on leadership alongside Jude Currie: Discussion on leadership – Document shared. Leadership is a skill set that can be learned and so becoming a leader can be developed by practicing the role of leadership. Council are all leaders even though within in that are on differing curves of leadership Debate within Council as to how leadership can be viewed and progressed. 			
5.0 AOB	Volunteers for invite to Kings Garden Party on the 21 st May 2024: • Ann Moir • Merlin Joseph • Omar Mohamed Reminder of Decolonisation in Social Work meeting on the 27 th February 2024 - Decolonisation in Social Work www.basw.co.uk Julia Ross asks for Council to provide feedback on inclusivity	Sara Hickin to contact volunteer to attend garden party. Ruth Allen to agree invite.	9 th February	Ruth Allen

Meeting Ends at 4.00pm

Signed by Chair:

Date: 16.02.2024