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Research & Development

Research & Development Director's Report
3rd January 2018

This has been our first month of working in this new role. This position has two distinct remits:

1. The development of ACTO including its constitution and the paperwork that goes with it for each of the section
2. The development of an entirely new Research and Development activity for all work relating to online work in the broadest context.

1) ACTO DEVELOPMENT

As part of this month's activities I have prepared draft paperwork (in this month's meeting folder):

- ACTO Professional Membership Appplication Form v3
- ACTO Research Membership Appplication Form v1
- ACTO Research Membership Appplication Form v1
- ACTO Research Membership Information v1
- ACTO Research Membership Information v1
- ACTO-Professional-Membership-Information-v3

At some stage I will review the full constitution with a working group.

2) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

I have set up a R & D Working Group, which has its first meeting last Saturday. The following key points arose:

a) We agreed confidentiality
b) We agreed to meet monthly on the second Saturday of each month, to consider with the ACTO BoD meetings
c) We thought the group should include:
    a. Expert advice for trainees

Association for Counselling and Therapy Online
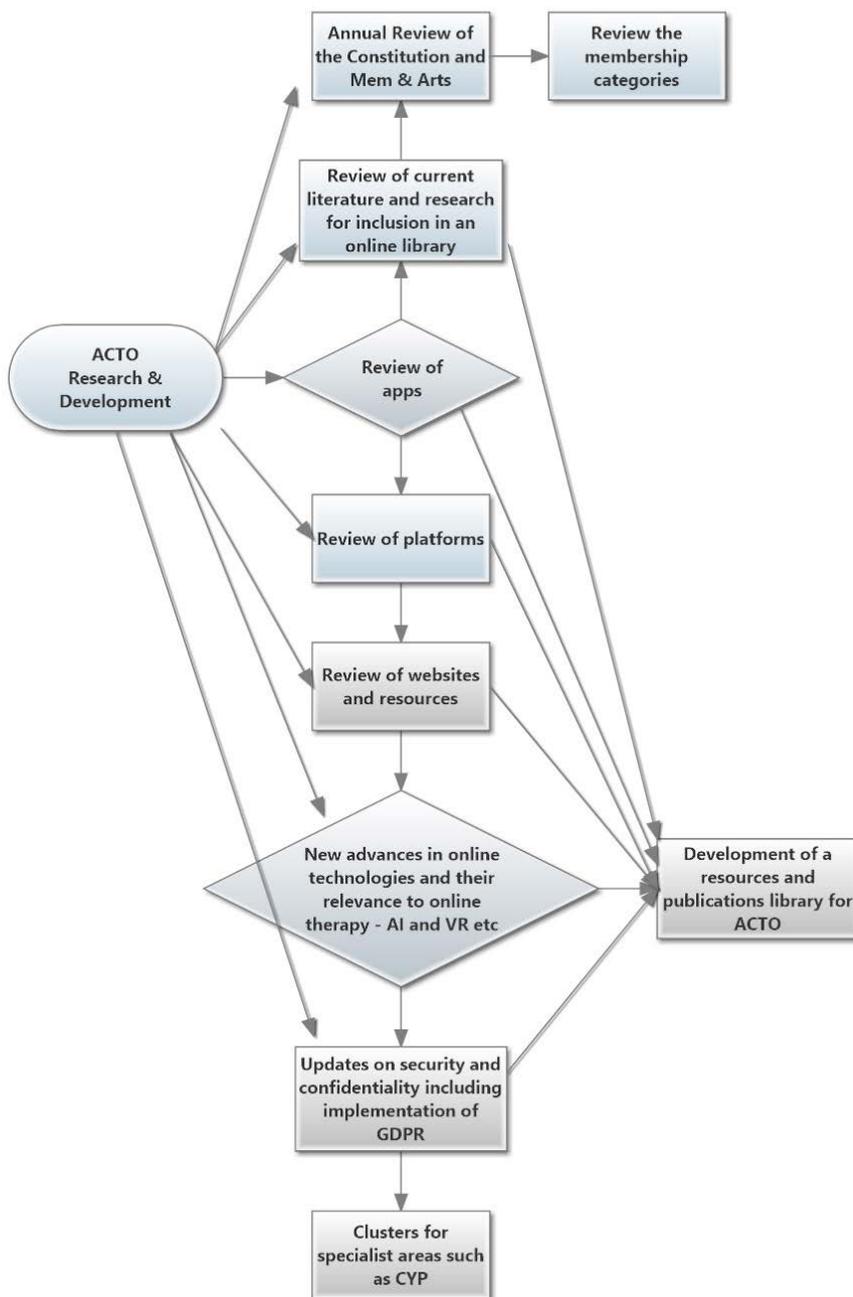
b. Potential research design
c. Ongoing research
d. ACTO resource library including an area for student research projects to be written about
e. Section for research students (done see membership files)
f. Research themes that members could contribute to
g. Framework of online skills, resources, conduct of research in ACTO, modalities of different systems and procedures
h. Any research needs ethical approval
i. Student research review cluster
j. Ethics, standards, safety
k. Supervision
l. Body of resources for online supervisors
m. **Linking recourses – PW to contact Geoff Simons about PPH and links**
n. Key competencies that can be used by employers and researchers – a trainee could conduct some research e.g. a Delphi study (AMP could sources this with the Uni of Surrey, November)
o. Student bursaries for small projects
p. **Priority to develop a library – a project for an IT student AMP to contact IT dept at Surrey.**

Our provisional brief

Welcome to the ACTO Research & Development Working Group.

This is a new role within ACTO and so we will need to start by looking at what we can realistically cover. I have chosen online therapists from a wide range of backgrounds, some trained and some in training, but all of whom are passionate about what we do. In addition, I am delighted to welcome Debbie Van Den Berg, who is not a therapist, but who teaches security to therapists.

I have put together a provisional chart to give an idea of some areas we may wish to cover – we can't possibly do this in one go! Not sure the arrows help but I'm sure you'll get my drift!

Where we will store our collaborations

I am wondering where we should store the material we will produce prior to adding it to the ACTO R & D area.