

## **NOTA Research Committee Update NOTA AGM 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

The Research Committee's principal activity is the administration of the NOTA Research Grant Scheme. With £10,000 available in 2022-23, we awarded funds to support two worthy applications; an evaluation of the Keep Safe group intervention programme for young people with intellectual disabilities who engage in harmful sexual behaviour (HSB), and an examination of the outcomes of a Sexual Health Programme designed to reduce incidents of HSB in a special school setting. The latter project has already had some exposure via the very successful NOTA Conference in May 2023.

The Grants Scheme has £15,000 available for funding of research projects in 2023-24; the NOTA Board has confirmed the retention of the two research 'themes' and applications should be clearly aligned with one or both of these:

- 1. Evidence and criteria for the Effectiveness of Existing Treatment Interventions**
- 2. Prevention and Innovative Practice in the Treatment of those who have sexually harmed.**

The 2023-24 Scheme will operate with a new more robust application process reliant on a web-form to be accessible from the NOTA website; development of this form is nearing completion but necessitates a delay to the standard 31<sup>st</sup> December application deadline. This is now likely to be 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Members should look out for the Scheme launch call in your emails.

The Research Committee was involved too in helping shape the Conference content, and a Committee member chaired the Conference Research Sessions. Members of the Committee are always ready to help with research queries too – simply email your queries to [notaoffice@NOTA.co.uk](mailto:notaoffice@NOTA.co.uk) and these will be forwarded to the Committee.

The Committee has five new members joining a core group; new members include an additional very experienced practitioner, a senior representative of a victims' organisation, a very experienced intervention lead from HMPPS, and the Head of Research from a closely aligned charity. We will also be joined by a former NOTA Chair, one of this country's leading researchers in our field. With a strengthened and reinvigorated Research Committee, we will, over the coming year, explore how the Research Committee, and research more generally, can be of value to the NOTA Membership.

**Professor Mitch Waterman**

**Chair, NOTA Research Committee**