

To facilitate provision by Christians of quality counselling and pastoral care

ACC is a professional body whose purpose is to facilitate quality counselling, psychotherapy, pastoral care and related training by:

1. Providing a framework for ethics and practice for counsellors/psychotherapists

Ethics and Practice is currently under review but the present framework will remain in place until any amendments are agreed.

All counsellor members are required to be aware of the contents of Ethics and Practice. Upon joining as a member of ACC, all counsellors sign a declaration to say they agree to abide by the principles of good practice and ethics contained within this framework.

[Ethics and Practice](#) including a statement notified to all members in January 2014:

[ACC Board Statement](#)

2. ACC has an accreditation system which is open to any counsellor member who fulfils the criteria for becoming accredited. Accreditation ensures that counsellors practice within agreed levels of competence and safety. ACC has four main categories of accreditation:

‘Counselling Practitioner’ (CP); [Link](#) to further information

‘Accredited Counsellor’ (AC); [Link](#) to further information

‘Accredited Supervisor (AS); [Link](#) to further information

and Counsellor Manager (CM) [Link](#) to further information

Each type of accreditation has specific requirements for training and qualifications, practice hours and supervision. There are also re-accreditation criteria for annual renewal of accreditation status. Full details of the Accreditation and Re-accreditation Criteria can be found on the ACC website.

[Reaccreditation](#)

3. A quarterly journal (accord) to resource members. This publication is written by a range of counselling and related professionals, giving a breadth of articles pertinent to members’ practice. You can find more about this here.

4. Provision of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities throughout the UK via:

(i) the ACC National Conference (biennial);

(ii) a continuous programme of Network Training Days and Conferences across the eight ACC UK Networks spanning the four Nations (approximately 15 events each year throughout the UK).

These events are also open to and attended by interested non-members. All ACC training is open to members and non-members giving a mix of professions and knowledge to share together.

5. Providing advice and guidance to both members of ACC, the public and other organisations with an interest in ACC on a range of topics including: policies, complaints, training, insurance, how to find a counsellor/supervisor etc. This advice is available nationally over the phone, via email, on our website and in person (e.g. through meetings, conferences, exhibitions (e.g. Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE), etc.) and locally through a team of Network Representatives.

6. ACC has a Training Development Group (TDG) that oversees the work of several training agencies who deliver core counselling training and some CPD. The activities of TDG include:

- a) assessment of training courses, verifying academic and professional standards
- b) assessment of training delivery and content, in relation to awarding body's criteria, once the course has started,
- c) issuing certificates of validation of training,
- d) reviewing courses, every 5 years or earlier if significant changes to the course are made.

7. ACC has held its Accredited Register in line with Professional Standards Authority (PSA) guidance on standards since 8 April 2015, conforming to the PSA's criteria that have been established. There are several possible routes onto the Register:

- a) Accreditation
- b) Qualification
- c) Experience

For further details on these routes, please contact Head Office

8. ACC is a registered umbrella agency for processing Disclosure and Barring (DSB) checks (formerly CRB) on behalf of other agencies. For further information see: [DBS information](#)

9. ACC UK has been instrumental over many years in helping other countries to set up their own Christian Counselling Associations. These now operate in Finland, Germany, France, Switzerland, Romania, Netherlands, Poland, Croatia, Italy, Kenya, and India, amongst others. The UK and European associations meet annually in a different country each year, to share information, good practice and to network, thereby building supportive relationships.

10. ACC has a complaints procedure as outlined within the document Ethics and Practice.

ACC have a duty to investigate if a client is found to have a prima facie case to answer against an ACC member/registrant. ACC also support their member through the process by offering a person from within the country or region to be available during the complaints process.