



ACC REGISTER ADVISORY PANEL (RAP) MEETING

Zoom Meeting

Friday 19th March 2021

1.00pm – 5.00pm

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees

Independent.

Catherine Clarke, Chair RAP (CC)

Doreen Rowland (DR)

Richard Needle (RN)

Heather Churchill (HC)

Fiona Stevenson (FS)

ACC

Kathy Spooner, ACC CEO (KS)

Sue Monckton-Rickett, ACC Chair (SMR)

Dawn Sherry, ACC Registrar (DS)

Apologies

None

CC welcomed everyone

Prayer – An excerpt from the 21st Century version of the St Patricks Prayer. Read by KS

1. Conflicts of interest

DR is no longer on the Brain Injury Forum.

She has retained professional membership of the Royal College of Occupational Therapy. Professional body for Occupational Therapists (retired).

2. Notes of last meeting and matters arising

Minor typos amended.

Matters Arising:

1. New ACC Find a Counsellor Facility (FAC) is in its final stages of development and will be completed for April 2021. This was brought to RAP as the PSA wanted to know how ACC helped registrants meet advertising guidelines in relation to not misrepresenting themselves.
2. "Peer Review" of HC's Revised Core Competencies Framework has been completed. Final version to be published as The Churchill Framework.
3. The year-to-year complaints format has been completed in January 2021 by SMR.
4. DS to put the ACC joiners / leavers numbers each month into the RAP folder on SharePoint.
5. KS to check where we are with the updating of the PSA Risk Register

The minutes of the last meeting (11/12/20) were accepted as a true record by the chair of the RAP.

Notes

1. Organisational Update: KS / SMR

ACC Recruitment of Head of Membership Services

ACC have recruited a new Head of Membership Services after two rounds of recruitment and the appointment is subject to acceptance and references. A planned start date is May 2021. This role will manage the ACC team and ACC administration.

Covid-19 Update

The Covid-19 Crisis Counselling Support Service, CCSS, which was run on an entirely voluntary basis closed at the end of January 2021 to new referrals. Clients currently in-receipt of counselling will be able to continue to receive counselling with a view to all sessions being completed by the end of May 2021. The scheme accepted 259 client referrals, providing 1900 free counselling sessions.

A new service part funded by the NHS for NHS workers started in February 2021.

Counselling Update

Counselling is still being offered by most members, mainly on a remote basis either by zoom or phone. Walk and Talk Therapy can now resume more easily as the government has eased some lockdown restrictions allowing two people to meet outside.

As with previous government guidance, counselling inside must take place in covid safe environments. Lateral Flow Tests can be ordered by counselling centres, so that counsellors returning to the centres can follow the government's recommendation and check themselves twice a week. Those in private practice can book through their local authority to take the tests at chemists.

ACC have an online open forum on March 25th for members on the impact of returning to face-to-face counselling.

Office Update

ACC plan to decommission their Coventry head office in a safe covid-19 way by the end of June 2021 when the lease will end. ACC have arrangements in place for the safe disposal of confidential information via a third-party company.

Diversity and Inclusion

ACC as part of a profession wide diversity and inclusion forum led by Place2Be, joined other counselling bodies at an on-line event looking at the barriers to diversity in counselling training.

ACC have an ACCEnT group (ACC Ethnic Tapestry) which is formed of counselling and pastoral care members of ACC who are from the BAME community. They are looking at issues that affect BAME members in counselling. The group meets once a month and reports to the Board on a bi-monthly basis. The group is keen to promote good mental health and the take up of counselling to the BAME community within the UK and encourage more people from BAME backgrounds to train to be counsellors.

In February, the ACC Board had training on Unconscious Bias. The ACC team will have this training in June and one day's training will be available to counsellors / supervisors later in the year.

ACC Honorary Fellowships / Fellowships

ACC award Fellowships each year to those members / ex members of ACC who have served us well and made a significant impact within ACC.

Honorary Fellowships are given to non-ACC members who have made a significant contribution to the world of counselling or pastoral care.

Heather Churchill has been made a fellow of ACC for her contribution to the profession by establishing a single honours counselling degree and MA programmes which are taught from a Christian Worldview and for her work on The Churchill Framework. Congratulations were offered by those in the meeting to Heather.

2. ACC Membership Update:

KS gave an overview of the renewal process for registration. The numbers of members is slowly growing despite the covid-19 pandemic over the last year.

3. ACC Annual Re-accreditation (PSA Register):

KS has completed the return for 2020 – 21 and as of today (19/03/21) ACC has had no questions asked by the PSA.

KS has submitted ACC's response to the PSA consultation on the future shape of the Accredited Registers program. RAP commented that ACC's submission was good and reasonable.

4. Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT):

NHS IAPT are conducting a review into the barriers preventing counsellors being recruited into Higher Intensity IAPT roles. ACC's accredited counsellors are eligible to apply for some IAPT roles (opportunities and restrictions are the same for BACP, UKCP and NCS counsellors). It is possible that

IAPT will be conducting a recruitment drive shortly and will do this in conjunction with the IAPT approved professional counselling bodies.

5. SCoPEd Update:

KS and HC are now part of the SCoPEd technical group which looks at the details of the entry standards and competencies set out within the draft framework. ACC have been warmly welcomed, as have the other new partners. ACC have suggested two amendments to the framework which have been accepted.

6. The Churchill Framework

This is now ready to be published. The framework will be published in the Accord magazine and will also be sent out to other professionals, including training bodies.

RN commented saying "it is a fabulous tool". It will enhance ACC's reputation in the counselling world and beyond. He also suggested that we can do some further work in making the framework a self-assessment tool so that counsellors can evaluate their current skills, knowledge and experience and identify any training/development gaps.

7. Complaints - SMR

SMR went through her report on complaints.

8. Audit / Accreditation Report - DS

Audit 2021 (which includes the audit of supervision practice) is now up and running and members have been chosen for audit. ACC now post out a letter to those chosen for audit as well as emailing them the audit forms. This is to ensure that members are properly notified (emails can go into junk).

9. Legislation on Conversion Therapy

The government is seeking to introduce legislation to ban Conversion Therapy.

ACC Counsellors work well within the MOU so ACC are confident that the legislation will have little impact on counsellors. The cabinet office has contacted ACC and a meeting arranged to discuss concerns.

10. RAP Members

ACC has not managed to recruit any new RAP panel members even though it was advertised through email and in Accord. Efforts to recruit, especially from minority groups will continue.

11. Public Engagement

Due to covid-19 ACC has not had the opportunity to engage widely due to the fact we cannot go to places.

However, we have been able to directly engage with members and stakeholders through Zoom which has been a new and welcome change, removing all the barriers associated with face-to-face meetings (travel, room hire etc.).

12. CPD Provision

ACC has extended its provision of the free online events training library to members. This is being widely used by our members.

ACC has also been running training events and free forums for members. The forums are also open to ACC affiliates. The forums have been attracting between 40-80 attendees.

DONM - Next meeting is June 18th, 2021 (zoom)

2021 Meetings:

24/09/21

10/12/21