



ACC REGISTER ADVISORY PANEL (RAP) MEETING

Zoom Meeting

Friday 24th September 2021

1.00pm – 5.00pm

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees

Independent

Richard Needle (RN)

Heather Churchill (HC)

Fiona Stevenson (FS)

Doreen Rowland (DR)

ACC

Kathy Spooner, ACC CEO (KS)

Sue Monckton-Rickett, ACC Chair (SMR)

Dawn Sherry, ACC Registrar (DS)

Gillian Stuart, ACC Head of Membership Services (GS)

Apologies

Catherine Clarke, Chair RAP (CC)

1. Welcome

RN is standing in a Chair of Rap for this meeting. RN welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Prayer

Prayer was offered.

3. Conflicts of interest

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

4. Notes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting (18/06/21) were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Notes

5. ACC Update: KS / SMR

Current Priorities

The Appeals process for the Complaints Policy has now been finalised and approved by the ACC board. KS shared this with the RAP panel.

RAP enquired about progress with the Ethics & Practice review. KS is constrained by time and other priority commitments.

The new Practice Review (new name for audit) document is almost complete.

Membership Stats:

ACC has had the most growth of new members for many years. Newly qualified members are applying for registration as well as a number of overseas applicants. There is also a growth in students applying. ACC has offered a discount to students studying at an affiliate.

6. ACC Counselling Update:

SCoPEd

SCoPEd is a competence framework for counselling in the UK based on 'what is' in terms of training standards and entry points to the participating membership bodies. The next draft of the Framework is due to be delivered in October / November. There is still work to do reviewing whether the framework captures sufficiently the therapeutic relationship, trauma and other issues raised by an extensive feedback survey e.g. to recognise when client at risk of harm from domestic abuse.

The framework differentiates between 'entry level' competencies and those gained from further study and experience. In some of the membership bodies these differentiated levels attract the title of psychotherapeutic counsellor and psychotherapist – but there is as yet no agreement as to the use of titles and the current iteration of the framework will be published without them.

Professional Standards Authority (PSA) Expectations

The professional standards authority has revised the way that they are assessing registers in relation to benefits of the activities undertaken by registrants.

ACC need to undertake an exercise to review the research literature and any research trials that especially look to the value of Christian faith to those seeking counselling.

The PSA will also dip sample our registrant's websites and directory entries to ensure that they are promoting their services appropriately. For example, they are not using words such a 'heal' and/or claiming competencies that have no foundation in their training.

7. Complaints:

The complaint report was presented by SMR.

Complaints Process Changes:

ACC has produced the next draft of new complaints process which now includes an appeals process.. Panel members stepped through the document giving helpful suggestions for changes and amendments.

8. Audit Summary and Audit Process Issues Changes:

DS read through the annual summary report of audits that had been sent to RAP.

Gillian confirmed that the proposed new processes have been put in place for the next round of audits.

- The name will be changed to Practice Review.
- We will de-couple the audit from the member's renewal date to minimise unnecessary stress.
- We will reduce the percentage audited from 10 to 5% of our registered members (in line with other membership bodies and agreed by the PSA), which should ease pressure on the assessors and the office team.
- We are also going to remove asking for a Christian sponsor reference

8 Continued - Accreditation Process Issues Changes:

The proposed draft new Accreditation form has now been finalised and sent out to the assessors. ACC has removed the requirement for a Christian Sponsor reference for accreditation as this is asked for on joining the ACC accredited register. Three members are going to review the new accreditation application form / process and give critical feedback.

9. Risks to ACC Register:

No new risks were identified

9. Standards & Policy issues and changes:

ACC has nearly completed the revised terms and conditions of membership document.

12. RAP Standing items / Concerns:

RAP / ACC has had no interest from the public on joining the RAP Panel. ACC / RAP will keep looking.

13. Public Engagement:

SMR is appearing on Radio 4's Sunday programme talking on Conversion Therapy.

ACC is continuing to engage with our members and non-members with open forums on several subjects.

KS spoke at a "Mothering Women" conference. Mothering Women is a charity set up to support younger women through the wisdom of their peers and also of older women on Mental Health issues.

ACC have a 3-day online conference in November called "Four Winds".

Resourcing Pastoral Care Courses are continuing to be run and are popular.

14. AOB

None

15. DONM - Next meeting will be 10th December in Sutton. If Covid is still an issue, we will do a zoom. A decision of how we will meet will be made by November 22nd.

Two provisional dates were made for 2022 – 11/03/22 and 17/06/22. DS to email CC to see if she is available for these dates.