



ACC REGISTER ADVISORY PANEL (RAP) MEETING

Zoom Meeting

Friday 25th March 2022

2.00pm – 5.00pm

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees

Independent.

Catherine Clarke, Chair RAP (CC)

Richard Needle (RN)

Heather Churchill (HC)

Fiona Stevenson (FS)

Doreen Rowland (DR)

ACC

Kathy Spooner, ACC CEO (KS)

Sue Monckton-Rickett Chair (SMR)

Dawn Sherry, ACC Registrar (DS)

Gillian Stuart, ACC Head of Membership Services (GS)

Apologies

None

1. Welcome

CC welcomed us all, saying how lovely it was to see everyone.

2. Prayer

Prayers were offered.

3. Conflicts of interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

4. Notes of last meeting and matters arising

Matters Arising:

1. The minutes of the last meeting (10/12/21) were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

5. Organisational Update: KS / SMR

Current Priorities

IT Systems:

ACC are close to agreeing the specification and contract with their preferred supplier.

Recruitment:

To provide additional support to ACC while the new system is put in place, we have appointed two new members of staff. They will both work part time working 2.5 days a week each to cover the whole week.

6. ACC Counselling Update:

SCoPEd:

The Framework was published in January 2022. The work to undertake the impact assessment will be outsourced to an independent organisation – several of who specialise in this area. KS will be part of the selection panel.

One of the most helpful aspects of SCoPEd is that it sets out in a table what the different membership criteria/entry points are for the various columns – and clearly shows where the different partnership counselling organisations membership grades align. This is useful information for members to send to employers to support arguments about equivalence.

On 29th March ACC will have an open Forum for members with KS and HC for members to get information and ask questions on SCoPEd.

Regulation of Counselling.

ACC responded to a recent Government consultation on the regulation of healthcare practitioners. Although the government continue to state that they have no plans to regulate counselling ACC in the consultation noted some concerns in relation to counselling and psychotherapy in the UK. In effect there is a two-tier system of regulation for people doing similar work. Counselling and clinical psychologists and Art therapists are subject to HCPC (statutory regulation) and counsellors and psychotherapists to Accredited Registers (voluntary). This in the context of anyone being able to call themselves a counsellor or psychotherapist. The other factor to consider is the government's move to ban conversion therapy and conversion practices – an activity that they consider harmful. This would suggest that 'therapy' is risky to individuals' welfare and therefore should be subject to regulation. ACC's preference would be for regulation through something like the accredited registers programme to allow for different approaches.

Submission for Standard 1b:

ACC will need to submit a revised standard 1b to the PSA Accreditation team. This will summarise the benefits of Counselling in a Christian context and clients having access to a counsellor who resonates with religious faiths and spiritualities.

Risk Register:

RAP discussed the draft Risk Register to be submitted to the PSA. The updated version includes risks identified during a forum facilitated by the PSA with many of the counselling accredited registers. The risk

register includes generic risks to the whole counselling profession and also those relating to ACC members.

8. Complaints Report SMR:

SMR went through the standard complaint report.

13. Practice Review :

ACC has started to send out the new Practice Review to those members who have been chosen for this round of audits.

14. Risks to ACC:

There is a new risk which is the possibility of litigation linked to membership of the Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy.

15. RAP Standing Items

No changes.

DONM :

Next meeting dates will be on June 17th, in person. September 30th by zoom, December 2nd in person