

**ACC Board Meeting Thursday 9th September 2025**

**Venue: Zoom**

**(Meeting commenced 1.30 pm)**

	<b>Title</b>
	<p><b>Opening:</b> CP led reflections based on the Beatitudes. SMR led in prayer</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b> Sue Monckton-Rickett, Chair (SMR); Chris Williams, Deputy Chair (CW); Tony Ruddle (TR); Gathoni Hamilton-Foster (GHF); Leroy Harley (LH); Kate Pozzo (KP); Christine Pinder (CP); Lyn Smailes (LS); and Jennie Fytche (JF).</p> <p>Kathy Spooner, CEO (KS).</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Sean Charlesworth (SC); Peter Roberts (PR).</p> <p>Introductions – for new Board members – Lyn Smailes; Jennie Fytche and for new Chair of RAP – Alison Evans (AE). Each board member and AE introduced themselves sharing something about their role and life.</p> <p>AE then left the meeting.</p> <p>LH shared that he had been involved in the production of two podcasts. SMR asked for him to share the details, so that members could be informed and links could be placed onto ACC website.</p>
1.	<p><b>Approval of Minutes of 10th July 2025</b></p> <p>One change in Matters arising from Banks to a bank.</p> <p>The minutes were then approved.</p> <p><b>Matters Arising:</b> LH is standing back from Ethnic Tapestry, and 2 others are going run the group.</p> <p><b>AOB</b> – Proposal to support letter requesting update to NICE Guidelines</p>
2.	<p><b>Standing items</b></p> <p><b>Conflict of Interest:</b> - None declared.</p> <p><b>RAP/PSA</b> – covered under KS and SMR report.</p> <p><b>Diversity &amp; Inclusion:</b> At the meeting of the Anti-Oppressive Practices coalition a potential set of principles on inclusion and anti-oppressive practices was suggested and this is being reviewed. KS believes these will be helpful for members to have a simple easy to understand guidelines.</p> <p>SMR suggested that this could be shared with Ethnic Tapestry and the Disability / Neurodiversity Community of Practice for comments</p> <p>KS reported that the PCPB is looking at two different aspects with regard to conversion therapy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to draw up a list of key principles that any legislation should consider to be proactive rather than reactive if the government announced a legislative process</li> <li>• to draw up guidelines for counsellors about how to work well with sexuality and gender</li> </ul> <p><b>Legal / Governance updates</b> – SMR reported that the consultation process on Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), which may change the requirements for annual reporting and also the requirement for charities to submit annual reports on-line to Companies House. PR would look at both and work with our independent examiners to implement changes.</p> <p>All company directors need to provide proof of identity and SMR provided a guide for all Board members. SMR will circulate the board member details held by Companies House for each board member to check before completing the verification.</p>
3.	<p><b>Chair Report</b></p> <p><b>Complaints Update</b> was presented by SMR.</p>

	<p><b>Approval of Memorandum and Articles of Association</b></p> <p>After response from the Charity Commission: Article 2:1 will now read</p> <p><i>2.1 The advancement of education for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively by providing training, resources, professional development and support to counsellors, psychotherapists and related professionals, and the general public, and promoting professional standards and public understanding of the role of these professions in society.</i></p> <p>As a result, on 29<sup>th</sup> August the Charity Commission confirmed that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the articles relating to Income and Property had been approved</li> <li>the charitable purposes had been approved subject to the removal of the clause "<i>and the promotion of individual and community well-being</i>" in 2.1 and 2.1 reading as above</li> </ul> <p>The Board was asked to approve the full document subject to the above</p> <p>The resolution was: -</p> <p><b>Board to approve the final version of the Articles submitted to the September 2025 Board meeting, which have the one amendment to 2.1</b></p> <p><b>Special Resolution: Following the granting of special consent from the Charity Commission for the proposed Charitable Purposes and Articles 8 and 9 relating to Income and Property, ACC Board approve and accept the revised Articles of Association submitted to the Board on 10 September 2025.</b></p> <p><b>This was approved unanimously.</b></p> <p>ACC Board will convene an Extraordinary General Meeting open to all members for approval of the revised Articles of Association.</p> <p><b>PCPB Policy Group and commission:</b> mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse in the draft Crime and Policing Bill – Section 5 Chapter 2 "Duty to Report Child Sexual Abuse".</p> <p>The PCPB had sent a letter to Home Office detailing the issues. The response (provided in the Board papers) said that the Home Office did not believe that any of the concerns needed further consideration. The PCPB will pursue other avenues via opposition MPs and the House of Lords.</p> <p><b>Transform Work:</b> - A report was presented with the recommendation to sign up to the current level of membership. <b>The board agreed this proposal.</b></p> <p><b>Application to PSA from an organisation. ACC will consider whether to respond to PSA and the PCPB may make a collective response.</b></p> <p>EDI data was provided to the board. This should be available at least quarterly for the board to see trends.</p>
4.	<p><b>CEO Report</b></p> <p>Membership numbers showing 4% growth.</p> <p>A report on Practice Review and Accreditations was provided.</p> <p>A proposal for a new initial Accreditation Assessment fee was presented.</p> <p><b>The board approved the proposal of new fees.</b></p> <p>KS presented the need to recognise training courses being provided by ACC training organisation members so that students know that they are aligned to PCPB (SCoPEd framework competencies) so that Level 4 and above would qualify for registered membership. In 2026 ACC will need to look at assessing other courses for alignment to competencies</p> <p><b>The board approved recognising the courses listed in the proposal that are being delivered by ACC training organisations.</b></p>

	<p><b>2026 Conference:</b> The venue is most likely to be Kent Hill Park in Milton Keynes in October for at least 2 days.</p> <p><b>The Board agreed with this proposal</b></p> <p><b>Changes in regulation in Eire</b> (Southern Ireland) and implications for cross border training and employment. This is being investigated by PCPB as to what this might mean for the UK register members</p> <p><b>Staff Reports:</b></p> <p><b>Website accessibility:</b> The Board received this report and accepted the recommendations.</p> <p><b>Cyber Security:</b> The Board accepted the recommendations for improving security. CW suggested that anyone having access such as Board should have access to some training and SMR agreed.</p> <p>Thanks were given to the staff members for their work.</p> <p><b>Coaching and Mentoring Update</b> – hoping to go live during the late Autumn / early winter.</p> <p>The Board noted other parts of the report.</p> <p>TR asked about the potential overspend as part of due diligence on preparing Pastoral Care courses. SMR said that she would look into this and report back at the next meeting.</p>
6.	<p><b>Finance Report</b></p> <p>SMR presented the reports in the absence of PR.</p>
7.	<p><b>Policy Reviews</b></p> <p>SMR highlighted the policies that should be reviewed before the end of 2025, including safeguarding and those impacted by the new Articles.</p> <p>CW raised the issue of consultation with members regarding any changes to the complaint processes. KS responded that relevant parts of this work will be consulted on.</p>
8.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>KS requested permission from the board to support the proposal (PCPB) to the review of the Nice Guidelines concerning stress and depression.</p> <p>GHF said that a report was coming to the board and for Accord from Uganda KS was concerned about raising expectations because funds through appeal do not seem to be forthcoming. GHF will speak to colleagues in Uganda to seek more local funding.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 17.02</p> <p><b>Next meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b></p>

Approved



Chair of ACC

14 October 2025