

Psychotherapists and Counsellors Professional Liaison Group (PLG)  
26 and 27 May 2009

PLG workplan

Executive summary and recommendations

**Introduction**

A copy of the PLG's workplan is attached.

**Decision**

This paper is to note.

**Background information**

None

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

None

**Appendices**

None

**Date of paper**

18 May 2009

# **Psychotherapists and Counsellors Professional Liaison Group (PLG) Workplan**

## **1. PLG sponsor**

The Council

## **2. PLG Mission Statement / Terms of reference**

To investigate and make recommendations to the Council on the future regulation of counselling and psychotherapy. The group should discuss and recommend the following:

- Structure of the Register
- Protected title(s)
- Voluntary register transfer and Grandparenting arrangements
- Standards of Proficiency
- Standards of Education and Training

The group should also collect information about potential registrant numbers, voluntary registers and existing education and training programmes.

At the chair's discretion, the group may wish to consider and make recommendations about other matters which are relevant to the statutory regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors, but which do not fall under these headings.

The group's recommendations will inform the Council's recommendations to the Secretary of State for Health.

## **3. Meetings**

The timetable allows for five meetings.

## **4. Membership**

The membership of the PLG has been determined.

## 5. Timetable and plan of activities

This section consists of an updated timetable, which now incorporates the PLG timetable and an indicative timetable for subsequent work, together with a plan of activities, incorporating the topics considered at each meeting of the PLG.

### Indicative timetable

This is an indicative timetable, incorporating milestones so far. The dates in this timetable may be subject to change.

- Call for Ideas, July to October 2008
- Professional Liaison Group meetings
  - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, 4 December 2008
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, 28 and 29 January 2009
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, 3 and 4 March 2009
  - 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, 29 April 2009
  - 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, 26 and 27 May 2009
- Report to the HPC Council, 6 July 2009
- Consultation on the HPC's recommendations to the Secretary of State for Health and Ministers in the devolved administrations, July to October 2009
- Reconvened meeting of the Professional Liaison Group to discuss standards of proficiency / threshold level for entry responses, Date TBC, November 2009
- HPC Council considers responses to the consultation and finalises recommendations to the Secretary of State for Health and Ministers in the devolved administrations, 10 December 2009
- Process begins to seek information from voluntary registers in order to make recommendations about register transfers, January 2010

## **6. Plan of activities**

This plan of activities is subject to change in light of the Group's discussion.

### **First meeting, 4 December 2009**

- Department of Health presentation on the statutory regulation process
- HPC presentation – introducing the PLG's work
- Overview of responses to the Call for Ideas
- Preliminary discussion of key issues

### **Second meeting, 28 and 29 January 2009 (2 day meeting)**

- Structure of the Register and protected titles

### **Third meeting, 3 and 4 March 2009 (2 day meeting)**

- Voluntary register transfers
- Grandparenting
- Education and Training
- Standards of proficiency – Background and Context

### **Fourth meeting, 29 April 2009**

- Standards of proficiency.

### **Fifth meeting, 26 and 27 May 2009 (2 day meeting)**

- Standards of proficiency
- Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register
- Client groups (returning to discussion that took place at the second meeting)
- Dual registration
- Protecting the title 'counsellor' (postponed from fourth meeting)
- Voluntary register transfers (postponed from fourth meeting)
- Any other concluding matters

### **Sixth meeting, November 2009 (date(s) TBC)**

- Standards of proficiency and threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register