

Psychotherapists and Counsellors Professional Liaison Group  
12 May 2010

Actions List

Executive Summary and Recommendations

**Introduction**

Attached is the actions list as agreed at the last meeting of the Group.

**Decision**

The Group is requested to note the document. No decision is required.

**Background information**

Please refer to previous papers and minutes for the background to decisions.

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

None

**Background papers**

None

**Appendices**

None

**Date of paper**

22 March 2010.

## Action points

### Psychotherapists and Counsellors Professional Liaison Group

26 and 27 May 2009

	<b>Action point (and location in the minutes)</b>	<b>For the attention of</b>	<b>Action by</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Draft standards of proficiency: The Group discussed the draft standards and made comments and amendments as indicated in the appendix to these minutes. The Group noted that the Executive would circulate a revised draft of the standards of proficiency to members of the Group, to give members an opportunity to suggest any further minor amendments. The Group noted that the HPC's solicitor would review the draft standards.  (5.4)	MG	June 2009	Action completed.
2	Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register: The Group agreed to recommend that the threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register for psychotherapists should be set at level 7.  (6.8)	MG	July 2009	Action completed.
3	Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register: A majority of the Group agreed to recommend that the threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register for counsellors should be set at level 5. Ms Aldridge, Professor Cooper and Ms McMinn asked that it should be recorded that they would prefer a threshold of level 6.  (6.9)	MG	July 2009	Action completed.

4	<p>Voluntary register transfers – draft criteria for transfer: The Group agreed that the criteria for the transfer of voluntary registers set out in the paper were suitable. The Group agreed to recommend the criteria to the Health Professions Council.</p> <p>(7.8)</p>	CU	July 2009	Action completed.
5	<p>Protecting the title ‘counsellor’:</p> <p>The Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agreed to strongly recommend that the title ‘counsellor’ should be protected on the basis that it was used by a large number of practitioners; it was well understood by members of the public; and that a failure to protect the title would risk large scale evasion of regulation and therefore harm the level of public protection;</li> <li>• recognised that the title was sometimes used by other groups outside of therapeutic interventions (e.g. debt counsellors). However, the Group believed that it was essential that the title should be protected and recommended that this might be achieved by amending article 39 of the Health Professions Order 2001 to specify the circumstances in which misuse of the title would occur; and</li> <li>• agreed not to recommend any suitable alternative titles, in the event that the Department of Health considered that it would not be possible to protect the stem ‘counsellor’ without it being part of an adjectival title.</li> </ul> <p>(8.6)</p>	MG	July 2009	Action completed.

6	<p>Client groups: The Group noted that the Association of Child Psychotherapists and the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy had provided some comments to the Executive on the draft standards of proficiency, including some suggested amendments. The Group noted that the comments had been received too late for inclusion in the papers for the meeting. The Group agreed that the comments should be circulated to members of the Group for consideration.</p> <p>(9.4)</p>	MG	June 2009	Action completed.
7	<p>Dual registration:</p> <p>The Group agreed the following points for inclusion in its recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Group noted that introducing regulation for psychotherapists and counsellors would mean that some professionals might be required to be dual registered, either with the HPC and another regulator or registered twice by the HPC;</li> <li>• the Group had considered whether members of other regulated professions who used psychotherapy or counselling as part of their practice should be able to continue using one of the protected titles without being registered separately as a psychotherapist or counsellor;</li> <li>• the Group considered that the extent of dual registration was likely to be relatively small and that many of those who would be required to register twice were likely to be already voluntarily registered by organisations in the field or would be likely to be able to register</li> </ul>	MG	July 2009	Action completed.

	<p>via having completed an approved training;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Group considered that it was important that those who used the protected titles should be HPC registered, regardless of their professional background, as this was important for public protection and for public understanding.</li> </ul> <p>(10.4)</p>			
--	--	--	--	--

Date  
2009-09-14

Ver.  
a

Dept/Cmte  
SEC

Doc Type  
PPR

Title  
Executive summary actions list  
Psychotherapists and Counsellors  
Professional Liaison Group  
November 2009

Status  
Final  
DD: None

Int. Aud.  
Public  
RD: None