

Psychotherapists and Counsellors Professional Liaison Group (PLG)  
30 September 2010

Plan for meetings September to December 2010

Executive summary and recommendations

### **Introduction**

At the last meeting the PLG discussed plans for specific stakeholders to be invited to present to the PLG at its meetings between September and December 2010.

This paper outlines those plans and invites discussion.

### **Decision**

This paper is for discussion.

### **Background information**

- 12 May 2010 PLG meeting : 'Workplan' and 'Discussion paper'

### **Resource implications**

None at this time

### **Financial implications**

None at this time

### **Appendices**

None

### **Date of paper**

30 September 2010

## **Plan for meetings September to December 2010**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At the last meeting, the papers included a workplan for the continuing work approved by the HPC Council in March 2010.
- 1.2 This included plans that a number of stakeholders not already represented on the PLG would be invited to attend the meetings planned between September and December 2010 to present to the PLOG and to participate in the following discussion. The intention would be that these presentations would ensure that the PLG benefits from 'external' expertise and would help to gather information and perspectives to inform discussion.
- 1.3 The workplan set out that the Chair of the PLG and the Director of Policy and Standards would identify those stakeholders not already presented who might provide additional expertise and extend invitations to those groups to attend and present to the PLG. Information would be provided to these groups about the issues that should be particularly addressed.

### **2. Previous discussion**

- 2.1 At the last meeting the PLG had an initial discussion about the additional perspectives or expertise that might assist the PLG in its work and a number of possible areas were identified:
  - Service users including both negative and positive experiences of therapy; this might also consider how the proposals for regulation would affect the diversity of service users. There was some discussion about the feasibility of gaining this input as part of the PLG work.
  - The international perspective - to be considered in the form of a paper.
  - Education and training perspectives - but there was no clear agreement about the value of this; some value seen in exploring with employers their requirements.
  - Perspectives from service providers.
  - Perspectives on working with children and young adults – employers and service provider perspectives were considered to be important.
  - Perspectives from those opposed to regulation.
- 2.2 The above perspectives important in as far as they pertain to the outstanding issues within the PLG's terms of reference.

### **3. Terms of reference**

3.1 The outstanding areas within the PLG's terms of reference are as follows:

- The question of whether the structure of the Register should differentiate between psychotherapists and counsellors.
- The question of whether the structure of the Register should differentiate between those qualified to work with children and young people and those qualified to work with adults.
- The standards of proficiency for psychotherapists and counsellors.
- The threshold level(s) of qualification for entry to the Register

3.2 The information gathered and discussed in the next meetings needs to be relevant to these terms of reference rather than to broader issues which, whilst important to the overall decision about regulation taken by government, are not directly relevant to the terms of reference.

3.3 For example, in making its final decision about whether to progress with regulation (and indeed, whether regulation should be progressed by the HPC), the government will need to undertake a broader impact assessment which will need to consider the impact of regulation upon the profession, service providers and service users amongst other groups.

### **4. Plan for forthcoming meetings**

4.1 At the time of writing this paper, 5 invitations have been made for groups / individuals to attend and present to the PLG. These are included in the table overleaf.

4.2 The number of presentations needs to be limited to a reasonable number to ensure that the PLG has sufficient time to discuss the evidence gathered and reach conclusions on the outstanding issues in the terms of reference. The Executive considers that the maximum number of presentations that can reasonably be accommodated to allow for discussion is two per meeting (allowing approximately 30 minutes for a presentation and 30 minutes for question and discussion with the presenter). This is a maximum number of presentation of eight across the four meetings.

4.3 A further meeting will follow in February 2011 (at which presentations are not planned) for more discussion to take place. The Executive plans to produce more detailed notes (separate to the minutes) on the information gathered and discussion related to each presentation.

## **5. Discussion**

- 5.1 The PLG is invited to discuss whether there are any additional groups / perspectives that should be invited to present at subsequent meetings.

Planned presentations 17092010

	<b>Main presenter (if known)</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>Issues to be covered (not exhaustive)</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
1	Peter Wilson	Place2be	Psychotherapy / counselling  Service provider  Employer	Service provider of psychotherapy / counselling for children and young people.	Children and young people differentiation	Sept 2010
2	Beverley Tydeman	Association of Child Psychotherapists	Child and Adolescent psychotherapy	Specific group whom it has been argued should be separately recognised in the Register. Competent authority for child and adolescent psychotherapy in the UK.	Children and young people differentiation	Sept 2010
3	Catherine Wilson	Youth Access	Membership body for service providers providing information, advice and counselling for children and young people	Youth access argues that the Register should differentiate to reflect the skills required for counsellors to work with children and young people.	Children and young people differentiation	December 2010

Planned presentations 17092010

4	Greta Randle	Association of Christian Counsellors	Counselling Professional body and education provider Voluntary sector Faith based services	Information and views on a range of subjects, particularly about the threshold level of entry and standards of practice related to voluntary sector counselling.	Differentiation Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register Standards of proficiency	Oct 2010
5	Emmy van Deurzen	Director, New School of Psychotherapy and Counselling	Psychotherapy	Information and views on the full range of topics being considered by the PLG, with specific reference to psychotherapy and education and training.	Differentiation Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register Standards of proficiency	Nov 2010

Please note that timings / other details included in this table may be subject to change.