

# Regulation of Psychotherapists and Counsellors

First meeting of HPC Professional  
Liaison Group

4<sup>th</sup> December 2008

# Why Statutory Regulation?

- The principles set out in Trust, Assurance and Safety
  - Overriding interest: public safety
- Regulation will mitigate the risks to public and patients posed by malpractice of a minority of practitioners

# Why Regulation through the HPC?

Trust, Assurance and Safety, Ch. 7, para 7.16

“The Government’s view is that most new professions should be regulated by the **Health Professions Council** which was **designed for this purpose** and has the **most expertise** in bringing **new professions into statutory regulation** and also in regulating a wide range of professions within a common system.”

## Linked work in this area

- Skills for Health National Occupational Standards
- IAPTs New Ways of Working for the Psychological Therapists programme
- HPC Professional Liaison Group

# Legislating for Statutory Regulation

- Achieve via an Order under s.60 of the Health Act 1999 (secondary legislation)
- Equivalent of a medium sized Act of Parliament (primary legislation)
- Experience shows that this is a 18-24 month process

# What Happens Next?

- Role of Department of Health's Professional Regulation Branch
- Turning the policy into legislation