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Psychotherapists and Counsellors PLG

Outline

- Context
- Meetings
- Timetable
- Report
- Our approach

Context

The White Paper said:

‘The government is planning to introduce statutory regulation for...psychotherapists and counsellors.

‘These are the priorities for the introduction of statutory regulation because their practice is well established and wide spread in the delivery of services, and what they do carries significant risk to patients and the public if poorly done.’

Why statutory regulation?

- **Protect the public**

- Establishing standards
- Protection of title
- Ability to check practitioners' registration
- Taking action when things go wrong (fitness to practise)

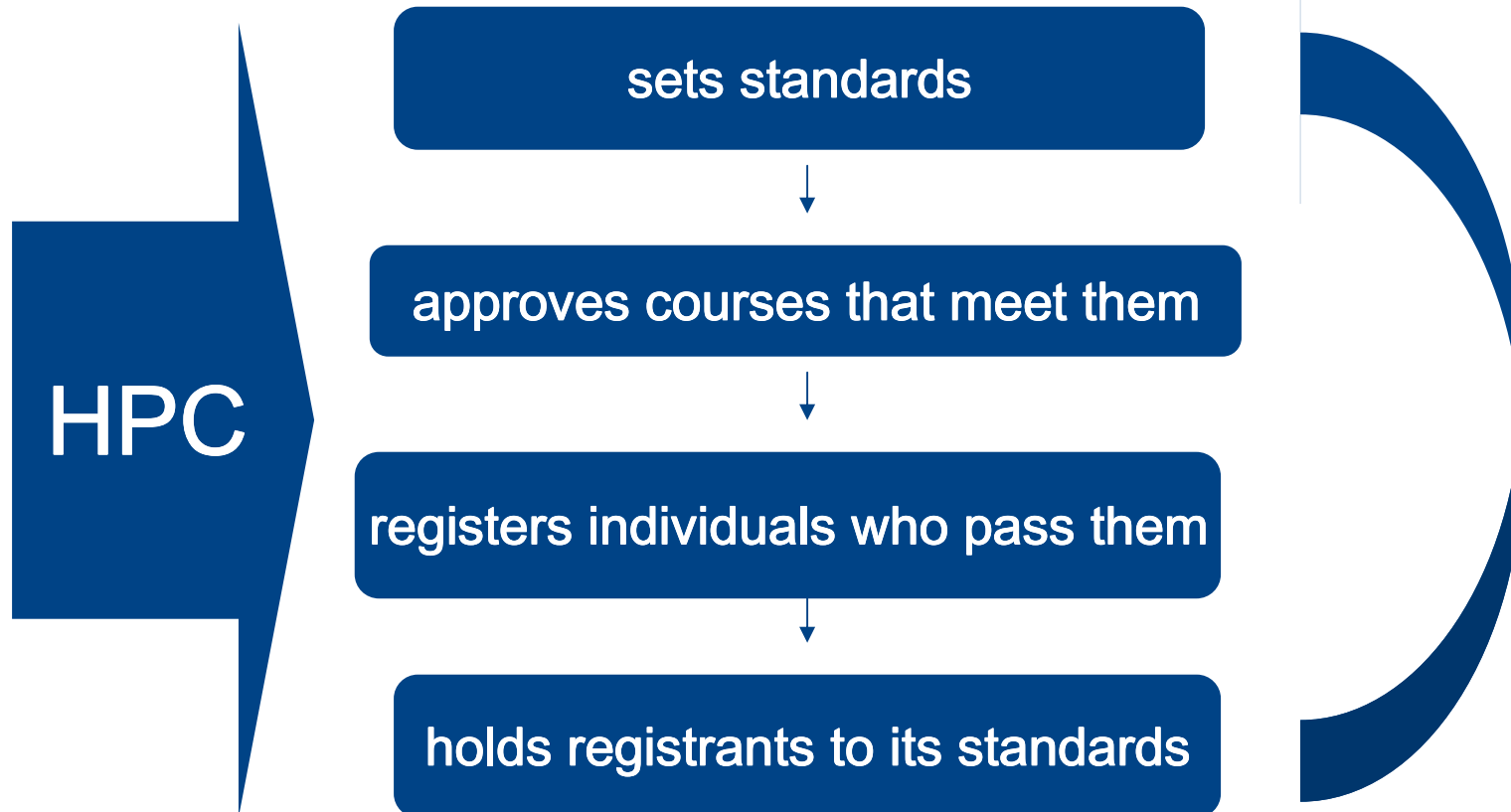
- **But also...**

- Benefits for professionals
- Benefits for education providers
- Benefits for professional organisations

About the Health Professions Council (HPC)

- Independent UK regulator
- 13 professions
- Health Professions Order 2001
- Statutory professional self-regulation
- Purpose: ‘..to safeguard the health and wellbeing of persons using or needing the services of registrants’
Article 3 (4)

Four key processes



Psychotherapists and Counsellors PLG

- **Structure of the Register**
 - How should the Register be structured?
- **Protected titles**
 - Which titles should be protected?
- **Voluntary register transfer**
 - Which voluntary registers should transfer?
- **Standards of proficiency (entry to the Register)**
 - What are the threshold standards for public protection?
- **Standards of education and training (approval of courses)**
 - What educational award or level is necessary in order to protect the public?

Meetings

- 5 meetings:
 - 2 day meetings – 28 & 29/01, 03 & 04/03, 26 & 27/05
 - 1 day meetings – 04/12 and 29/04
- Wider reference group – meeting in late March / early April 09
- Papers at each meeting:
 - Responses to the Call for Ideas
 - Information about the area or process
 - Analysis

Report to the HPC Council

- July 2009
- Recommendations relating to the terms of reference
- Any other areas considered relevant by the group
- Where there is disagreement, the reasons for this will be reflected in the report

The path to statutory regulation..

- PLG reports to the HPC Council
- HPC consults on recommendations, including standards of proficiency and threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register
- Following consultation, recommendations made to government
- Legislation drafted and consulted on
- Legislation passed in UK and Scottish parliaments
- Opening of the Register – 2011?



Our approach to regulation

- Professional and lay input – on the group and throughout our work
- Openness and transparency
- Inclusivity not exclusivity
- Diversity not uniformity
- Public protection, not persecution

Thank you

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