

Psychotherapists and Counsellors Professional Liaison Group (PLG)
29 April 2009

PLG workplan

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

A copy of the PLG's workplan is attached, incorporating an updated indicative timetable and indicative plan of activities.

The timetable and plan of activities include reference to a planned further meeting of the PLG in November 2009 to discuss the outcome of consultation responses about the draft standards of proficiency.

The PLG is particularly invited, at the meeting or by email, to identify any further matters to be considered at the last scheduled meeting prior to consultation on 26 and 27 May 2009.

Decision

This paper is to note.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

None

Date of paper

17 April 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
 - 1st meeting, 4 December 2008
 - 2nd meeting, 28 and 29 January 2009
 - 3rd meeting, 3 and 4 March 2009
 - 4th meeting, 29 April 2009
 - 5th 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 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.
- Protecting the title 'counsellor'
- Voluntary register transfers

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)
- Voluntary register transfers (subject to progress at the fourth meeting)
- Any other concluding matters

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

- Standards of proficiency in light of consultation responses