

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

Timetable and plan of activities

Executive summary and recommendations

**Introduction**

The timetable and plan of activities for the work of the PLG is attached.

**Decision**

This paper is to note; no decision is required.

**Background information**

None

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

None

**Appendices**

None

**Date of paper**

20 September 2010

## **Psychotherapists and Counsellors Professional Liaison Group (PLG) Timetable and plan of activities**

### **1. PLG sponsor**

The Council

### **2. Mission statement / terms of reference**

To further explore and to attempt to resolve the following issues in order to inform the conclusions of the HPC Council:

- Differentiation in the structure of the Register between psychotherapists and counsellors.
- Differentiation in the structure of the Register between those qualified to work with children and young people and those qualified to work with adults.
- Standards of proficiency for psychotherapists and counsellors.
- Standards of education and training – the threshold level or levels of qualification required for entry to the Register.

[N.B: The HPC would be required to consult on the standards of proficiency and the threshold level(s) of qualification for entry to the Register prior to final decisions being made in these areas and prior to the opening of the Register.]

### **3. Planned meetings of the PLG**

The following sets out the meetings of the PLG and broadly its activities. PLG meetings will take place between 10.30am and 4pm unless otherwise stated or advised by the Chair. The meetings will take place in public and will normally take place in London.

- **12 May 2010 (Half day)**

The purpose of this meeting would be to provide an opportunity to review the progress made to date and for the PLG to feed into the plan of activities.

- **September to December 2010 – PLG meetings (1 day each)**

Four meetings will be held at which invited stakeholders will present to the PLG in order to gather information and perspectives to inform discussion.

- 30 September 2010
- 19 October 2010
- 15 November 2010
- 15 December 2010

- **2 February 2011 – PLG meeting (1 day)**

The PLG will meet to discuss the evidence gathered in the September to December 2010 meetings.

- **May 2011 – HPC Council meeting**

Report to the Council. The Council would make its conclusions about whether the Register should differentiate between psychotherapists and counsellors, and between those qualified to work with children and young people and those qualified to work with adults.

#### **4. Subsequent steps**

The decisions at the May 2011 Council meeting would then inform subsequent meetings and/or further work to further refine the standards of proficiency in light of these decisions.

The HPC would need to publicly consult on the standards of proficiency and threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register prior to the opening of any Register.

The final decision about regulation is one for the Government and, ultimately, for the UK and Scottish parliaments. If a decision was taken to proceed with regulation the UK Department of Health would be required to undertake and publish an impact assessment before consulting upon the necessary legislation – a Section 60 Order under the Health Act 1999. The legislation would then need to be agreed at Westminster and in the Scottish Parliament.

#### **5. Changes to the timetable and plan of activities**

The timetable and plan of activities may be subject to change dependent on any emerging legislative timetable.

Any changes to the planned meetings will be made with the agreement of the PLG Chair (i.e. progress will be monitored and, with notice, meetings may be moved or cancelled if unnecessary or if further work is required). Any substantive changes to the timetable will be agreed by the HPC Council.