

# Senior Accreditation - A Guide for Members

Professional Standards – January 2012

## Senior Accreditation – the history

Senior Accreditation was previously awarded on a 'time served' basis – an accredited member had to successfully renew their accreditation for six years and could then apply.

Whilst this was valued by accredited members, that scheme was designed when the profession was very different from that of today.

There were few criteria and it was not an assessed award – that is, providing the eligibility criteria were met, there was no further assessment of practice. It was also a membership category rather than an accreditation category which caused confusion for both members and the public alike.

In 2011 this changed and Senior Accreditation has now become an accredited status. The outgoing scheme closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

## Previous Senior Accredited Members

If you already held Senior Accredited Status under the outgoing scheme, we will have automatically transferred you to the new category/ies.

Senior Accredited Supervisors who did not also hold counsellor/psychotherapist accreditation have been automatically transferred to their new category as accredited

supervisor is now a Senior Accredited category but must make this clear to potential clients.

## Senior Accreditation Structure

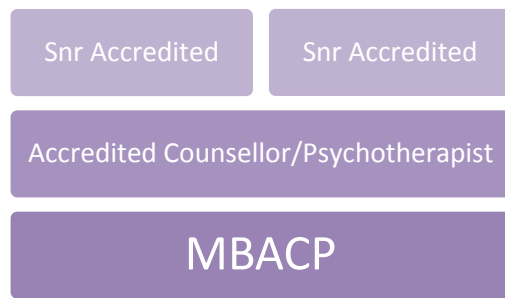
Accreditation as a counsellor/psychotherapist is now the foundation and starting point for a journey towards Senior Accredited status.

We know that it is important for our more experienced members to have their status rewarded and recognised. We also know that the profession is changing and over the next few years, more specialist opportunities will open up. We believe that senior accreditation will position our members ready to take advantage of these opportunities.

Alongside this, we also know the public are becoming more aware of the benefits of counselling and psychotherapy and more ready to seek therapy themselves. Therefore it is also important for practitioners who work with a broad range of clients to also be able to distinguish themselves in the market-place.

Accredited members can apply for and hold one, or a number of Senior Accredited categories to reflect your developing career or to expand your employment opportunities.

For example;



At present the following schemes are available;

- Senior Accredited Counsellor/Psychotherapist
- Senior Accredited Counsellor/Psychotherapist – Children & Young People
- Senior Accredited Supervisor of Individuals
- Senior Accredited Supervisor of Groups

During the first quarter of 2012 we are planning to introduce a further Senior Accredited category for those working in IAPT/Healthcare.

## Fees

The fees for applying for Senior Accreditation schemes are currently £110\* for each scheme you apply for.

You can apply for more than one at a time if you feel you are ready. Each application will be treated entirely separately.

## Renewing your Senior Accreditation Status

You **must** renew your Senior Accredited categories each year along with your membership and initial accreditation.

There is nothing additional to do above the normal renewal process for both membership and accreditation that you will already be familiar with.

Once you have successfully renewed your accreditation categories, we will send you a new authentication letter for each accreditation that you hold. Remember that if you lapse your counsellor/psychotherapist accreditation, any Senior accreditation categories that you hold will also automatically lapse as you cannot hold these without the initial accreditation.

There is no extra annual fee to pay if you are a Senior Accredited member.

## Publicising your Senior Accredited Status

You may use your Senior Accredited status on any of your marketing materials and if you are applying for employment as a counsellor/psychotherapist.

Remember that you should always describe your membership and advertise your services in line with our Policy on Advertising.

If you've not thought of it before, you might want to use our accredited member logo. To find out more, log into the BACP website and go to [www.bacp.co.uk/members/logo](http://www.bacp.co.uk/members/logo)

If you have an entry in our 'Seeking a Therapist' Directory, we will update your entry automatically.

\*correct at time of writing – visit the website or call us to check the current fee.