

Service Accreditation Scheme

Guidelines for Services working with Children & Young People

We expect that all practitioners who work with Children & Young People (CYP), qualified or trainee, should have some training or experience in working with this age group. In addition, those working with CYP, must receive robust and appropriate supervision from supervisors who have undertaken training and be experienced in working with CYP themselves.

Service policies and procedures need to be relevant to all clients groups the service is working with. Thus the service needs to take into account, that when working with any particular client group, the onus is on the practitioner, and the service they are working for, to take responsibility for their own ethical stance. If counsellors are in training, this ethical stance must also be taken by the supervisor.

Whilst there are currently no specific criteria on working with CYP in the service accreditation scheme, we would expect you to pay particular reference to the following nine criteria within your application for accreditation:

Criterion 3

Include at least three qualified practitioners who undertake counselling or psychotherapy.

The service will need to:

- Confirm the age range of clients practitioners are working with.
- If counsellors are working with clients under the age of 16 years, information is required as to what training has prepared them to work with this age group.
- Confirm if student placements are available.
- If student placements are available, specify the age range of the clients that the trainee counsellors are working with.
- If trainee counsellors are working with clients under the age of 16 years, further information is required to show what formal training trainee counsellors have received to prepare them for working with CYP, especially if they are undertaking a training course that is preparing them for work with individual adults.
- Students on adult client oriented training courses may work with CYP on placement provided that, either the training provider and/or the placement service provider ensure that the student is assessed as having the basic competences to practice safely and ethically with CYP. Please click on the hyperlink to see [minimum level of competencies required to work with CYP*](#)

*Please note that from May 2019 the basic YP competences will be replaced by the elements included within Stage 1 (Introduction) of the Counselling Young People (11-18 years) Training Curriculum. The curriculum can be downloaded here:
https://www.bacp.co.uk/ethics/competences_and_curricula/

Criterion 4.1 Aims & Objectives

A statement of aims and objectives, available to all staff and service users, must set out clearly: the purpose of the services provided; the type of counselling or psychotherapy offered; the ethical framework adhered to; the limits of confidentiality; the context and contracting of the work (this includes payment for services, relationships with the host organisation, if relevant, and times of service availability)

The service will need to pay particular attention to the clarity of information provided in relation to CYP with specific reference to the type of counselling and psychotherapy offered and the limits of confidentiality appropriate to the age range of clients staff are working with.

Criterion 4.3.1

A specified person must hold clinical responsibility for the service. They should be a member of an appropriate professional body, subject to its complaints procedure and accredited, or equivalent, with it.

The service will need to show that the clinical lead for the CYP counselling service has undertaken appropriate training in this specialist field.

Criterion 4.3.2

A training and development policy should exist for all staff.

The policy needs to show that this includes the appropriate training and development for those working with CYP.

Criterion 4.3.3

A clear selection procedure for counsellors and psychotherapists should exist.

The service will need to demonstrate that within the selection procedure for staff recruited to work with CYP, there is a stipulation such staff have undertaken training or continuing professional development (CPD), appropriate to working with CYP.

Criterion 5.2 Community Liaison

Links with referral resources and specialist services in the community should exist.

The service will need to demonstrate there is a resource list of local and national agencies pertinent to CYP work that is available to staff and service users for referral or consultation.

Criterion 5.3.1

The service must comply with the current Health and Safety at Work Act and other relevant legislation.

The service needs to ensure all policies and procedures are relevant to CYP. Particular attention needs to be paid to those policies and procedures referring to risk assessment, confidentiality, supervision, complaints, child protection and safeguarding.

Criterion 6.2.3

Counsellors/psychotherapists should monitor and develop their professional work through regular supervision and consultation and CPD.

The service will need to provide evidence that all staff working with CYP receive robust and appropriate supervision from supervisors who have undertaken training and/or be experienced in working with CYP themselves. In addition, further ongoing development, needs to be relevant to the client groups staff are working with.

Criterion 6.2.1

The service must be run in accordance with BACP's *Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions*.

We would expect that services will demonstrate throughout all criteria that they work within the BACP *Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions* and therefore, this is assessed under this criterion. Whilst all aspects of the *Ethical Framework* apply, your attention is directed in particular to the following sections:

Working to professional standards

13. We must be competent to deliver the services being offered to at least fundamental professional standards or better.

Respect

28. Careful consideration will be given to working with children and young people that:

- a. takes account of their capacity to give informed consent, whether it is appropriate to seek the consent of others who have parental responsibility for the young person, and their best interests
- b. demonstrates knowledge and skills about ways of working that are appropriate to the young person's maturity and understanding

The following core ethical principles of counselling and psychotherapy are also of particular relevance to working with CYP:

Beneficence: a commitment to promoting the client's wellbeing.

Non-maleficence: a commitment to avoiding harm to the client.

Justice: the fair and impartial treatment of all clients and the provision of adequate services.

When thinking about training and CPD for practitioners working with CYP, please refer to BACP's Competences for humanistic counselling with young people (11-18 years) and BACP's Counselling Young People (11-18 years) Training Curriculum both of which are available to download here: https://www.bacp.co.uk/ethics/competences_and_curricula

You may also wish to look at the [Counselling MindEd e-learning programme](#) which provides supplementary CPD on working with CYP, and are free to access. Also, don't forget the [Good Practice Guidance](#) papers available from the BACP website for CYP practice.