

Ethical Framework Review - project update

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**Ethical
Framework
for the
Counselling
Professions**

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Agenda

- What is the *Ethical Framework for Counselling Professions 2018*?
- Why we're conducting this review?
- What are the aims of the *EF (Ethical Framework)* review?
- What have we done so far?
- What are the next steps of the review?

What is the *Ethical Framework for Counselling Professions* 2018?

All BACP members must work in accordance with the *Ethical Framework*. It has a dual purpose, supporting members to embed ethics in practice and accountability through professional conduct process.

Why are we conducting this review?

- The *Ethical Framework* is a living document and needs to reflect the work that our membership are involved with. It is regularly reviewed and updated.
- So much has happened in the world and the way our members work has changed since it was last updated in 2018 with a global pandemic and new ways of working.

- We want to ensure it supports members' practice in whatever context they work and is accessible and inclusive for all. So, we've been consulting members through many different methods to gain their feedback.
- When we have an updated draft *Ethical Framework* we will be consulting with members and our Accredited Courses and Services again.

What are the aims of the *EF* review?

- To further develop confidence in and credibility of the profession by developing and upholding professional and ethical standards, informed by an evidence base.
- To equip our members to be able to work in a fast-changing world, to influence and contribute to the wellbeing of society.
- To listen to, learn from and work with our members to inform the work of the Association.
- To be the professional home of choice for members and communities of practice, providing relevant services and opportunities to learn, develop and inspire each other.

What have we done so far?

Phase 1 of the *EF* review project:

- Reflected on usage of *EF* and feedback received between 2018 and 2020.
- Commissioned a study from the Behavioural Insights Team on how to improve ethical competence of our members.
- Had legal experts analyse our *EF* in respect of its format and compare it with other Counselling and Psychotherapy professional bodies, Ethical Codes and Frameworks.
- Put together a project plan and recruited staff to support the implementation of the review.

What have we done so far?

Phase 2 part i:

- Created a team to support the project including members with specific ethics and equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) expertise and staff members.
- Consulted with members - first consultation coming to the end and closes 30 April 2024 by email - efnew@bacp.co.uk.
- Diverse member focus groups have provided in depth feedback as part of the consultation.
- Evaluated all feedback between 2018 and 2023 from members on how the *Ethical Framework* is currently used.

What are the next steps of the review?

Phase 2 part ii - Consultation and evaluation

- Webinar for members on 10 April gave members an opportunity to hear about the process and what we've learnt so far.
- Survey for members and for accredited courses and services was conducted.
- Staff consultation and drop-in sessions to allow staff to give feedback, discuss queries and concerns.

Phase 2 part ii - Consultation and evaluation continued

- Finding opportunities within Therapy Today to discuss the *Ethical Framework* and aspects around it.
- We've artificial intelligence (AI), equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and legal consultants in place who are helping to advise and support the project.
- We'll analyse the consultation data we've before moving into phase 3.

Phase 3 - Creation/publication

- Draft will be shared with members, accredited courses and services, staff and external stakeholders and enter a second consultation phase.
- Ensure that we listen to members and collect all their feedback, and where we cannot, give a reasonable explanation for this.
- Publication of an updated *Ethical Framework* and produce new supplementary guidance.
- Refresh and update our Good Practice in Action
- (GPiA) resources.

Thank you

If you have any other questions or would like to share feedback, please email efnew@bacp.co.uk.

OR

Come and ask questions at the table discussions today.