

BACP Policy Team

Third Sector Workstream

Jeremy Bacon - Third Sector Lead

Current Policy Priorities



Influencing party manifestoes across the four nations of the UK ahead of the General Election.

- Third sector organisations recognised as equal partners in delivering psychological support - referral accompanied by funding.
- Funding cycles increased in length and procurement processes revised to encourage and deliver secure paid roles.
- Removal of VAT on counselling and psychotherapy provision.



Cost-of-living report detailing the impact on mental health and wellbeing and the pressures on therapists and counselling services.

- Recognition of the relationship between poverty and poor mental health.
- Increase the length of funding-cycles.
- Early intervention and prevention

Connecting with Services

Online event for organisational members led to formation of Expert Reference Group.

Case studies and insights from services informing our policy work.



VIDEO

To pay or not to pay: the role of paid and unpaid work ...

Survey of organisational members (Vol/not for profit) in England in November 2023

- 68% of services report not having sufficient funding to meet demand for therapy
- 30% say that funding is secure
- 52% report experiencing financial difficulties

Key messages and next steps.....

EDI Grant Scheme

Pilot grant scheme completed in 2023

Grants of £30K awarded to fund projects to remove barriers to therapy for clients from racialised community backgrounds

Independent Evaluation

Partnership and co-production key to the success of projects in removing barriers to therapy.

Limitations of short-term funding.

Value in diversifying workforce in support of client choice.

