

# Governance

## The way we work...

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What are our governing documents?



**British Association for  
Counselling and Psychotherapy**

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# What are our governing documents?

Our governing documents are the foundations of how we run as an organisation.

They set out the rules we follow, how decisions are made, and how we stay accountable to our members. They help us ensure we operate fairly, transparently and in line with our purpose.

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## Why they matter

Good governance isn't just about rules, it's about making sure BACP works well for everyone we support.

### **Our governing documents help us to:**

- Make clear, consistent decisions
- Define who is responsible for what
- Act in the best interests of our members
- Build trust through openness and accountability

Our governance framework helps us stay effective, responsible and focused on delivering for members.

# The key documents that guide us

## Articles of Association

As our main governing document, The Articles of Association are essentially our rulebook.

### **They explain things like:**

- The role of the [Board of Trustees](#)
- How decisions are made
- What rights members have, including voting

They provide the overall framework for how we operate.

## Standing orders

Our Standing orders support the Articles by setting out how things work in practice.

### **They cover the day-to-day detail, such as:**

- How meetings are run
- How decisions are progressed
- The processes that keep things running smoothly

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## How members are involved

Governance isn't separate from members, in fact, you're an essential part of it.

### **This includes:**

- Voting on key decisions
- Taking part in the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Raising motions or resolutions
- Volunteering for our Board, Committees and Divisions

As members, you have a direct role in shaping how BACP is run.

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## In short

### **Our governing documents help ensure we are:**

- Clear in how we operate
- Accountable to our members
- Consistent in decision-making
- Focused on delivering for you
- Help us deliver our charitable objectives

They're there to support a well-run organisation, one that continues to grow, improve and serve its members effectively.

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## Bringing it all together

**You can think of our governance as a simple framework:**

**The Articles of Association**  
set the direction

**The Standing orders**  
set out how we deliver the Articles

**Our governance**  
(Board, committees and members)