Rationale for ethical decision-making

bacp counselling changes lives

1. What are the ethical issues?



2. How will you engage the person in the decision-making process (or not)?



3. What are the internal factors?



4. What are the external factors?



5. What decisions were made, actions taken, and outcome(s)?



6. How and with whom was the process reviewed?



1. What are the ethical issues?



- What are the ethical issues? Consider: context, people involved, priorities, are they in conflict?

2. How will you engage the person in the decision-making process (or not)?



- Who are the people involved in the decision-making process?
- Are those impacted involved?
- If not have you considered and recorded why not?

3. What are the internal factors?



- What internal factors within the relationship may affect the counselling relationship (e.g., age, culture, gender, disability, sexuality, religious beliefs, race or ethnicity)?
- What is the nature of the work?
- What is the context?
- How has the work been contracted?
- How will these internal factors influence the collaborative decision-making?

4. What are the external factors?



- What external factors could influence the relationship or decisions made?
- Are there legal obligations and duties?
- What is the context?
- Are there other people to consider: friends, family or services?
- Are there organisational expectations?

5. What decisions were made, actions taken, and outcome(s)?



- What were the decisions made?
- What was the outcome?
- What was the impact on you and on the other person/people?
- Are the decisions consistent with the Ethical principles and Core responsibilities in the *Ethical Framework*?

6. How and with whom was the process reviewed?



- How was the process reviewed?
- Did you discuss it with your supervisor?
- Was it considered with a line manager?
- Has it been reviewed with your client?
- Are there other external bodies who need to review your decisions; e.g., do you have legal or safeguarding duties?
- Has the process been reviewed by your insurer?