

# Memorandum of Understanding between the British Psychoanalytic Council (BPC) and UK Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP)

## Introduction

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishes a framework for cooperation and information sharing between the BPC and the UKCP, collectively referred to as “the parties” throughout this document. The shared aims of this MoU are to enable closer working between the parties, including the exchange of appropriate information, to assist the parties in discharging their regulatory functions.
2. This MoU is a statement of intent that does not give rise to legally binding obligations on the part of either the BPC or the UKCP.

## Role of BPC

3. The BPC is the leading professional association for the psychoanalytic profession and a Professional Standards Authority (PSA) accredited Register for the psychoanalytic and psychodynamic psychotherapy profession in the UK.
4. The BPC has training organisations which are professionally associated with the regulator and referred to as Member Institutions (MIs). The BPC accredits the trainings of the MIs, ensuring they each meet the regulator’s standards.
5. The BPC is accredited by the PSA and is monitored annually to ensure compliance with the PSA’s eight standards for Accredited Registers. These standards include:
  - i) Eligibility and public interest
  - ii) Management of the register
  - iii) Standards for registrants
  - iv) Education and training
  - v) Complaints and concerns about registrants
  - vi) Governance
  - vii) Management of risks arising from the activities of the Registrants
  - viii) Communications and engagement.
6. On 31 January 2022 the BPC introduced a new fitness to practise complaints procedure in line with recommendations by the PSA. The new process incorporates the following:

- i) Introduction of Acceptance Criteria e.g. a complaint or concern has to meet a threshold prior to being formally accepted for investigation by the BPC
  - ii) A simpler 'Realistic Prospect' test e.g. the test applied by the Screening Committee when deciding how best to dispose of the concern/complaint
  - iii) Elimination of the Practice Review Procedure and instead enabling the Screening Committee to issue Letters of Advice and Warnings
  - iv) Introduction of Decision Review e.g. the decision of the Screening Committee can be subject to review providing the criteria is met
  - v) Introduction of Agreed Panel Disposal e.g. cases where facts and impairment are conceded by the Registrant can be decided by a Panel on the papers alone.
7. As well as a regulator, the BPC advances the knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytically informed therapies in a range of critical policymaking and opinion-forming arenas in the UK.

### **Role of UKCP**

8. The UKCP is the leading organisation for Psychotherapists and Psychotherapeutic Counsellors in the UK and is accredited by the PSA.
9. The UKCP has training organisations which are professionally associated with the regulator and referred to as Organisational Members (OMs). The UKCP accredits the trainings of the OMs, ensuring they each meet the regulator's standards.
10. The UKCP is accredited by the PSA and is monitored annually to ensure compliance with the PSA's eight standards for Accredited Registers. These standards include:
  - i) Eligibility and public interest
  - ii) Management of the register
  - iii) Standards for registrants
  - iv) Education and training
  - v) Complaints and concerns about registrants
  - vi) Governance
  - vii) Management of risks arising from the activities of the Registrants
  - viii) Communications and engagement.

## Purpose of information sharing

11. The purpose of this MoU is to enable the parties to share relevant information which assists them in exercising their respective regulatory functions in relation to fitness to practise complaints. This can include the following:
- i) Sharing of hearing determinations regarding mutual registrants i.e., registrants that hold dual registration with both the BPC and UKCP.
  - ii) Communication where both parties receive the same complaints to discuss which is the most appropriate regulator to investigate.
  - iii) Ensure two way sharing of information, which may be volunteered by one regulator to the other or provided in response to a particular request.
12. The MoU should not be interpreted as imposing a requirement on either party to disclose information in circumstances where doing so would breach their regulatory responsibilities.

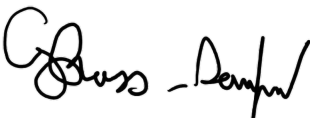

## Confidentiality

13. Where confidential material is shared between the parties every effort should be made to ensure the information is transferred securely i.e. password protected.
14. The parties should ensure that any disclosure of personal data is fully compliant with UK GDPR and DPA 2018.
15. Where one party has received information from the other, it will consult with the other party before passing the information to a third party or using the information in any other enforcement or court proceedings.

## Review of MoU

16. The parties will monitor the operation of this MoU and review it annually.

March 2023

Signed on behalf of the BPC	Signed on behalf of the UKCP
NAME: 	
DATE: 14 March 2023	14 March 2023