The Association of Clinical Psychologists

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Alumni Group Survey

• Survey developed by RM, AS, MW
• Survey asks about a new body outside BPS
• Training Courses and UK Psychologists’ Facebook page used to obtain responses from all practising CPs in and out of BPS
• Key questions about email addresses and preparedness to pay subscription to new body
Alumni Group Survey Response

• >3,000 responses providing email addresses
• Circa 2,000 willing to pay £150 to £250 p.a.
## Essential functions of new body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Considered essential by %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Representing clinical psychology externally</td>
<td>96.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging with strategic planning</td>
<td>89.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership by elected members</td>
<td>80.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishing practice and service guidelines</td>
<td>79.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting the development of our evidence base</td>
<td>71.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging with service users and carers</td>
<td>66.96%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engaging with clinical psychology training</td>
<td>61.40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting the membership through organising CPD</td>
<td>58.13%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What has been decided by the Alumni Group

• Clinical Psychology-specific organisation to begin with – other applied psychologists can have non-voting affiliate status
• Not a Trades Union to begin with, but could be investigated (cf. AEP)
• Not a [Royal] College to begin with, but could be investigated
• Legal framework will be that of a Community Interest Company
Community Interest Company (CIC)

- A type of company introduced by the Government in 2005 under the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004, designed for social enterprises that want to use their profits and assets for the public good. CICs are intended to be easy to set up, with all the flexibility and certainty of the company form, but with some special features to ensure they are working for the benefit of the community.
Aims, Objectives, Constitution and Terms of Reference of the ACP
Mission

• To encourage the association, co-operation and collegiality of clinical psychologists working in diverse health and social care environments and uphold their shared values, ethics and standards of the profession.

• To represent and promote the profession of clinical psychology at national and local level

• To engage and seek the views of all stakeholders through an assembly representing the UK population and those who use our services
Purpose

• To provide strategic leadership for the profession of clinical psychology which seeks to enhance its influence in health and social care

• To provide a focus for supporting, developing and co-ordinating Clinical Psychology across the UK

• To support the effective, ethical and compassionate delivery of clinical psychology practice to all who require it, across all areas of our diverse society

• To represent the unique contribution of Clinical Psychology to policy makers, commissioners of services and the general public.
Objectives

- To promote the development of the science and evidence base of clinical psychology
- To work in partnership with people who use our services, and wider communities, to shape and improve practice and services to meet psychological needs
- To support professional and practice skills development for members
- To harness the collective power of our members to benefit psychology and society
- To improve public understanding of clinical psychology, particularly its value and contributions to society
- To develop key partnerships to promote mental health and psychological well-being
The Association adopts the ‘Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists’:

- Respect for the dignity of persons and peoples
- Competent and compassionate caring for the well-being of persons and peoples
- Integrity
- Professional and scientific responsibilities to society
Our members will subscribe to the values of:

- Consideration of the needs of service users in all their work
- Openness, honesty and transparency
- Accountability
- Inclusivity
Six Areas of Strategic Activity
1. Maximisation of the impact of Clinical Psychology on services, public policy, guidelines and legislation

- To develop networks and expertise to influence policymakers, legislators and service commissioners and managers
- To work to ensure that services delivering psychological care have clinical psychologists in appropriate leadership roles
- To work with and co-ordinate psychological expertise located in those outside clinical psychology (e.g. graduate psychologists, psychologists from other modalities) where this could increase impact on services
2. Enhancement of the visibility and awareness of psychology and its contribution to society

- To make timely and expert comment, via media and consultations, on relevant health and social care issues. A panel of experts will be formed for this purpose.
- To disseminate knowledge of the profession, its competences and potential contributions to health and social care.
3. Promotion of the profession with individuals, communities and organisations

- To engage with policy makers, service planners and commissioners, and training and education providers at local, regional and national level in order to promote the purchase of clinical psychology services and training
- To draft and publish practice standards and guidelines
- To agree and promote a minimum ratio of clinical psychologists per head of population within a given geographical area by specialty
4. Development of the knowledge and skills of our members

• To organise CPD events and specialist training
• To provide a web-based newsletter/blog to inform, consult and involve members
• To publish a monthly/bimonthly magazine similar to Clinical Psychology Forum
5. Advancement of psychological knowledge through research, education and training

- To publish a peer review journal with a focus on the application of clinical psychology
- To monitor and accredit training programmes relevant to the practice of clinical psychology
- To organise an annual clinical psychology conference with a focus on research and practice
6. Sustaining and increasing its membership through individual and collective support

- To support individual clinical psychologists who may be experiencing professional difficulties through the provision of advice and guidance
THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

- The organisation will be constituted as a non-profit making organisation
- The organisation will obtain suitable premises and infrastructure for its operation
- There will be salaried administrative provision
- In future further salaried posts, such as press officer, may be established
Co-ordination and Direction

• Elected Committee with a **Chair**, a **Vice Chair**, a **Treasurer** and **Secretary** plus **six other elected members** drawn in rotation from subgroups of the organisation. The committee will include one member from each of the **four UK nations**. There will be a **service user or carer representative**.

• All committee members will be elected by the full members for a **term of three years** with the option of re-election for one further term.

• Once established, committee officers will receive appropriate **remuneration** for their time.

• There will be a **stakeholder/citizen assembly** that contributes to the development and implementation of the aims and objectives of the organisation.

• The monthly/bimonthly **magazine** will include a **chair’s report** and material on the activities of the subgroups.
Subgroups

- Permanent subgroups will be formed to represent areas of specialism, research, pre-qualification and training.
- Task and finish working groups will be constituted as and when required.
Membership

- Full membership will be open to all HCPC registered clinical psychologists.
- Affiliate membership at a reduced subscription will be open to any person wishing to further the aims and objectives of the organisation. This could include graduate psychologists that are not HCPC registered and psychologists from other HCPC modalities.
- Service users and carers will be engaged as consultants.
Meetings and Decision-making

- There will be an annual AGM which all members may attend.
- There will be at least three committee meetings per year at intervals between AGMs.
- Election of officers and committee members will be by ballot and a simple majority of full members.
- Resolutions for decision at the AGM may be registered six weeks in advance and will be determined by a vote of those attending the AGM and any registered proxy votes.
Funding

• by individual subscription of members;
• subscription of associated training programmes should the GTiCP become a subgroup;
• from accreditation of training programmes should this function be adopted by the organisation;
• grant income;
• through payments for CPD and other training.
Key Relationships

- There will be an officer responsible for liaison with the HCPC.
- There will be an officer responsible for liaison with the BPS.
- There will be representatives to NHS and government bodies in each nation including those concerned with:
  - the development of mental health policy,
  - commissioning of training and relevant services
  - the development of condition-specific guidelines
  - the development and regulation of the evidence base (NICE)
Recent Events

- Consultation meeting with GTiCP, DCP Exec and Alumni Group 13\textsuperscript{th} June
- Launch of new body at the SGM on 5\textsuperscript{th} July
- Name: \textit{Association of Clinical Psychologists}
- Foundation purposes, constitution & terms of reference document
- Web-based membership database
- Corporate bank account
- Negotiations with senior psychologists re: transfer of representation
- Website
• Have you completed the Alumni survey?
• Do you support the development of a new body outwith the BPS?
• Do you agree with its objectives?

mw125@le.ac.uk
Next Steps

• Steering Group to oversee the implementation of the Purposes, Constitution and Terms of Reference
• We need a working budget: would you be willing to make an initial contribution to assist with pump priming?
Thank you