

The introduction of “Light touch regulation” in the UK

In 2010, a newly elected UK Government stopped all pending processes to establish statutory regulation for a number of profession including psychotherapy and counselling. Subsequently, the Government created a new framework as an alternative to statutory regulation to accredit voluntary registers such as UKCP's Register and described this as “light touch regulation”. UKCP duly applied and the UKCP Register was accredited as voluntary register in December 2013:

Independent quality mark for the UKCP



UK Professional Standards Authority accredits the UKCP register

The UK Council for Psychotherapy's (UKCP) voluntary register has been accredited by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care an independent Statutory body, accountable to Parliament.

Psychotherapists on UKCP's register will be able to display the Accredited Voluntary Register quality mark, a sign that they belong to a register which meets the Professional Standards Authority's robust standards.

David Pink , UKCP Chief Executive, said:

'The quality mark will give extra peace of mind for anyone looking for a psychotherapist, letting them know that anyone who holds the mark is committed to high standards. UKCP is pleased to offer the quality mark to psychotherapists that meet the far reaching standards of our register, as approved by the Professional Standards Authority.'

Harry Cayton, Chief Executive of the Professional Standards Authority, said:

'We are very pleased to accredit UKCP's register of psychotherapists. Bringing psychotherapists into a broad framework of assurance is good for patients, service users and the public and is the best way to promote quality. The scheme offers enhanced protection to anyone looking for health and social care services, and gives psychotherapists the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to good practice.'

Accreditation does not imply that the Authority has assessed the merits of individuals on the register. This remains the responsibility of UKCP. It does not mean that the Authority has endorsed a particular therapy, people will need to consider the information provided and decide if it is suitable for them. Accreditation means that UKCP's register meets the Professional Standards Authority's high standards in governance, standard-setting, education and training, management, complaints and information.

As the scheme develops, accredited registers will encompass a growing range of occupations and organisations, and the Professional Standards Authority may accredit more than one register in any particular occupation. Further information on the accredited voluntary register scheme is available at www.professionalstandards.org.uk/voluntary-registers