



For readers new to HCPJ, The Faculty of Healthcare Counsellors and Psychotherapists is a professional body for counsellors and psychotherapists working in the NHS and in related healthcare settings. It currently has in the region of **1500 members**

Membership of FHCP is open to all those who are interested in the work of FHCP, providing they are existing members of BACP. Full details of BACP membership are provided on the BACP web site ([www.bacp.co.uk](http://www.bacp.co.uk)) or via BACP Membership Services on 0870 443 5175. All members of BACP may join FHCP for an additional fee. The benefits are extensive:

- A 48-page quarterly journal
- Advice on employment criteria and NHS pay scales for employees
- Information for employers on appropriate working conditions, salaries and related issues
- Setting of quality standards for the profession in the healthcare sector
- Involvement in government consultation exercises on members' behalf
- UKRC registration via Registered Occupational Group (ROAG)
- Information on research activity that impacts on practice
- Information on changes in Government policy which impact on practice
- Representation on Government planning and policy committees
- Promotion of the professional identity of counsellors and psychotherapists in the NHS
- Strategic alliances with other professional bodies, like Unison
- Guidance and support on CPD
- Provision of training days, workshops and an annual conference
- A comprehensive members network across the UK

## New route to individual counsellor accreditation via FHCP ROAG

A new route to accreditation has been proposed by FHCP for all members on the ROAG register from December 2003. FHCP has recommended that the following procedures be adopted for this route. Those who have been registered with ROAG for more than two years as of December 2003 will be given an eligibility statement by FHCP, which will confirm the following accreditation criteria have been met:

- 1:3 unit route
2. Supervised practice
3. Commitment to CPD
4. Membership of BACP and FHCP

For those who have been registered with ROAG for less than two years as of December 2003, the FHCP statement will confirm that the following accreditation criteria have been met:

- 1:3 unit route
2. Supervised practice
3. Membership of BACP and FHCP

These candidates will also be required to submit evidence of meeting criterion 3 on CPD. *All* candidates will be required to provide evidence that they meet the following accreditation criteria, and supply a supervisor's report:

5. Philosophy
6. Ethical practice
7. Personal therapy or equivalent activity consistent with applicant's core theoretical model
8. Issues of difference

It is proposed that a reduced fee (to be determined but in the region of £100) be charged for this route in recognition of the fees already paid by the applicant as an FHCP ROAG member. This route to accreditation still has to be approved by BACP but it is important members are aware of the proposal put before BACP. For further information, contact Lynne Thompson of the FHCP Exec: [lynthom1926@btopenworld.com](mailto:lynthom1926@btopenworld.com)

# What does the Agenda for Change mean for you in the NHS?

If you are an NHS counsellor or psychotherapist, find out more about how Agenda for Change will affect your working life by coming to the one-day Annual FHCP Conference in York on Saturday, 4 October. Members of FHCP and non-members are welcome, especially service managers, and all those who refer to, or work closely with, practitioners.

Is Agenda for Change an opportunity or a real threat to practitioners working in the NHS setting, and what are its day-to-day implications? The following keynote speakers will attempt to answer these questions:

- Professor Antony Sheehan, National Institute for Mental Health England (NIMHE): Changes in the NHS organisation
- Jon Richardson, Unison: Changes in the working environment
- Terry Lewis, NIMHE: Changes in patient expectations
- Colin Sloane, Bradford Cancer Support Centre: The expert patient: how to set up patients forums

FHCP will present 'the profession's response' to Agenda for Change. To find out more about this conference, see the back cover of this issue of HCPJ, or ring BACP Events on 0870 443 5229.

## FHCP recommended events

1. 'Meeting the Challenge: New Roles, Relationships and Responsibilities in Primary Care Mental Health' is the title of the conference taking place in Manchester on Friday 3 October, the day before FHCP's annual conference in York. This event is being organised by the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre, the Primary Care Mental Health Research Group, the University of Manchester and the Institute of Health Sciences. FHCP will be represented at this meeting and supports its aims. The programme is aimed at all clinicians and managers concerned with the planning, delivery and management of mental health care in primary care. For further information contact Helena Wilton at the NPCRDC: hwilton@fsl.cpcr.man.ac.uk
2. **Person Centred Approach (SW)** is an association of nearly 200 counsellors in southwest England who work to the person-centred model. FHCP is supporting the Counselling Outcomes Research Conference they are organising on Friday, 17 October at the Postgraduate Medical Centre at Wonford Hospital, Exeter. Attendance is *by invitation only*. The programme will bring together nationally known speakers looking at research into the effectiveness of counselling and is targeted at counselling providers and NHS Executives and Managers of PCTs.

## BACP as an expert consultative body

Penny Thomas, BACP's Policy Officer, reports that BACP has been involved with the following public consultation exercises since the April issue of HCPJ was published:

1. April 2003: Insurance Cover Working Group Paper to Ministers. BACP's interest stems from the disproportionately high costs of insurance facing practitioners who work part-time, student counsellors, or those who are volunteers
2. May 2003: Trustee Exemption Clauses. Exemption clauses act to reduce trustee from liability.
3. May 2003: Domestic Abuse – A Draft Training Strategy. This multi-agency consultation follows on from the Scottish Executive's National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland.
4. June 2003: Protecting Children – A Shared Responsibility.
5. July 2003: Futurebuilders – Investment fund for the Voluntary and Community Sectors. As a result of the 2002 Spending Review, the Government announced a £125 million fund to assist service delivery in the voluntary and community sectors.
6. July 2003: Eating Disorders – core interventions in the treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and related eating disorders.

## Healthcare 'surgery' for BACP members who work in the NHS

The date of the next surgery is 12 August. John Eatock, BACP's Lead Advisor for Healthcare Counselling and Psychotherapy, will be available on 0870 443 5227 between 10.30 and 1.30 p.m. John will endeavour to help or advise on any healthcare-related issue. Membership numbers need to be quoted at the start of the call.