



ISLE LISTEN

Because Minds Matter

Governance Protocol - Practitioner qualifications & supervision

Isle Listen is a registered trading name of MCH Psychological Services (MCH) which is an Isle of Man registered charity number 1024 and organisational member of The British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

MCH Psychological Services can trace its roots back over 35 years to The Lisa Lowe Centre and Manx Cancer Help and we have explicit standards for practitioner qualification and supervision. It is the strict adherence to these standards of care, which more than anything, has cemented the Charity's reputation. For a third sector organisation on a small island, with no university or established post-qualification training programmes, this is particularly difficult.

Eligibility for Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) or the General Medical Council (GMC) registration is a minimum requirement for our health care professionals. The Clinical Lead should be eligible for consultant NHS status. Our Clinical Lead of over a decade is a former band 9 Consultant Clinical Psychologist and is the most senior such post on the island.

Counsellors are required to have, or be eligible for, British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) accreditation. On occasions, a counsellor may be appointed who is working towards BACP accreditation. The BACP is the leading UK accreditation body for training courses and individual counsellors and psychotherapists. It has on public record, stringent training, supervision and CPD requirements and a clear Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions. MCH is always careful to draw the distinction between accreditation and registration. The latter does not constitute a counselling qualification. We regard the BACP supervision requirements as a minimum and in most cases our counsellors enjoy additional supervision from a range of appropriately qualified professional staff.

With the increase in efficacy of cognitive behavioural and 3rd wave psychotherapies, as indicated by their exponential increase in National Institute for Health Care (NICE) guidance, the British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies (BABCP), established in 1974, has become the key CBT accreditation body in the UK and Ireland. The BABCP essentially offers accreditation for cognitive behavioural psychotherapists and their supervisors & trainees. BABCP accreditation requirements are equivalent to the BACP and it is the key qualification requirement for the UK NHS Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme (IAPT).

This ensures a high standard of clinical practice, clinical supervision and continued professional development. Indeed, the latter is routinely audited by the BABCP.

Like the BACP, the BABCP also accredits university training courses on a number of different levels. We could appoint individuals with what is called "provisional" BABCP accreditation but who are working towards full accreditation. Like the NHS, MCH regards these two organisations as the key counselling and psychotherapeutic accreditation bodies in the UK.

Isle Listen follows the training and supervision template of the UK NHS Education Mental Health Practitioner model, which is aimed at provision of healthcare for children and young people in schools. The role of our practitioners is to provide low intensity, level 1 and level 2 interventions, essentially guided by the principles of CBT. The Isle Listen practitioners must have access to supervision for a minimum of four hours per calendar month regardless of the number of clients. Supervision is provided by a qualified counsellor or psychotherapist and must be a mix of group facilitation as well as one-to-one work. Isle Listen staff will be funded to complete level 5 accreditation in partnership with the Chester University counselling course. As with the Education Mental Health Practitioner programme, entrance requirements for our programme do not require previous degree qualification although our Wellbeing Practitioners (Listeners) are required to demonstrate their ability to work at degree level and require a similar skill set and personal characteristics of the NHS Education Mental Health Practitioners.

Essentially MCH has specific practitioner qualifications, standards, and skill sets. It is not enough to describe practitioners as "accredited professionals" or use other historical euphemistic language of some third sector organisations. Rather, MCH at the very least, ensures qualification equivalence with the statutory sector.