



Snapshot: COSCA (Counselling & Psychotherapy in Scotland)

Re-accreditation decision



ACTIVITIES & ACTIONS SHOWING HOW COSCA IS MEETING THE STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITED REGISTERS

► Commitment to protecting the public/promoting confidence

COSCA has been working with the Scottish Government, on two initiatives, Counselling in schools in Scotland and Counselling in Colleges and Universities. COSCA was also invited to be a member of the Scottish Government Ministerial Working Group on the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Students in Scotland.

► Managing risk

COSCA has actively considered the Covid-19 national emergency, it has published guidance for its registrants on its website which includes the use of technologies in remote counselling. It has updated its risk matrix to include a specific risk relating to the epidemic and this will continue to be monitored.

► Governance

COSCA reported that it has a new Vice Chair. COSCA continues to publish its Board minutes on its website.

26

accredited registers

55

occupations

89k

practitioners

KEY STATS

COSCA registers:

○ Counsellors and Psychotherapists in Scotland

○ 684 registrants on COSCA's register (as at March 2020)

○ Met 11/11 Standards

○ First accredited on 9 June 2014 (this is its sixth annual review and covers 19 June 2019 to 19 June 2020)



ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS SHOWING HOW COSCA IS MEETING THE STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITED REGISTERS

► Handling complaints and concerns

COSCA has carried out work to make its complaints procedure accessible to the public, including the development of a video to inform the public about its procedure. COSCA publishes information about its complaints procedures and its standards for registrants on its website.

COSCA has developed and published guidance for its registrants on the professional Duty of Candour and how it links to its Statement of Ethics and Code of Practice.

COSCA held an ethics event which explored domestic abuse. Following this discussion and the implementation of the Domestic abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, COSCA developed and published guidance for its registrant on counselling and domestic abuse.

COSCA publishes guidance for its registrants on record keeping and has added further guidance about the retention of client records to this suite of documents.

You can find more details of how COSCA has been meeting the Standards for Accredited Registers in its *Annual Review of Accreditation 2019/20* on our website.



Find out more about:

- ➔ COSCA and its register
- ➔ the Accredited Registers programme
- ➔ the Standards for Accredited Registers

REMEMBER TO USE OUR **CHECK-A-PRACTITIONER** TOOL TO CHECK AND CHOOSE PRACTITIONERS ON ACCREDITED REGISTERS

2020 re-accreditation

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Conditions

2

Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ➊ COSCA should consider:
 - a) how it can make its complaints processes more accessible to the public, such as by placing a link on its homepage.
 - b) how it can further support members of the public who wish to make a complaint, for example by signposting to its guidance or providing clear contact details. (Standard 11)
- ➋ COSCA should consider adding details about how it will take into account the impact of continuing health conditions on fitness to practise for those who have taken a career break for health reasons. (Standard 11)