

## Response to Transforming children and young people's mental health provision: a green paper

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care promotes the health, safety and wellbeing of patients, service users and the public by raising standards of regulation and voluntary registration of people working in health and care. We are an independent body, accountable to the UK Parliament. More information about our work and the approach we take is available at [www.professionalstandards.org.uk](http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk)
- 1.2 As part of our work we:
- Accredit registers of healthcare practitioners working in occupations not regulated by law through the Accredited Registers programme
  - Oversee the nine health and care professional regulators and report annually to Parliament on their performance
  - Conduct research and advise the four UK governments on improvements in regulation
  - Promote right-touch regulation and publish papers on regulatory policy and practice.
- 1.3 We welcome the opportunity to respond to the Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Education's Green Paper: Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision.

### 2. Response

- 2.1 We are pleased to see planned greater investment in mental health provision for children and young people. Within this, we would like to emphasise the need for practitioners working in healthcare to be registered either through statutory regulation or the Accredited Registers programme.
- 2.2 The Accredited Registers programme has accredited organisations holding registers of practitioners in a range of mental health occupations, including counselling, psychotherapy, child psychotherapy, and play therapy. There are approximately 50,000 practitioners on Accredited Registers in these disciplines, representing oversight of a significant workforce.
- 2.3 Registration with an Accredited Register provides reassurance to the public, employers, commissioners and other healthcare practitioners that an individual has met verified levels of education and training, adheres to codes of conduct and undertakes continuing professional development, among other areas. This is especially important as the occupations covered by the Accredited Registers

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programme are by definition not statutorily regulated and therefore practitioner titles are not protected.

- 2.4 We would encourage Designated Senior Leads for Mental Health and individuals within Mental Health Support Teams to be appropriately trained and registered. We agree that schools and colleges have a frontline role to play here, and note that it is critical that appropriate oversight is in place for those working with children and young people with mental health conditions.
- 2.5 For more information on the Accredited Registers programme, please visit <http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/what-we-do/accredited-registers>.