

Condition Review: Play Therapy UK (PTUK)

1. Outcome

- 1.1 At Play Therapy UK (PTUK)'s notification of change, the Professional Standards Authority ('we') issued 11 Conditions on its accreditation, all of which were to be completed by 1st September 2025 (see paragraph 12 of the published outcome).
- 1.2 This report sets out our assessment of the actions taken by PTUK to satisfy the Conditions.
- 1.3 We found that PTUK had met all 11 Conditions.

2. Background

- 2.1 We assess registers against our Standards for Accredited Registers ('the Standards')¹. Where a Register has not met a Standard, we can issue Conditions. A Condition sets out the requirements and the timeframe that a Register must meet.
- 2.2 At PTUK's notification of change, completed in August 2025, we issued 11 Conditions (a full list is published in the report from that assessment [2025 NoC Outcome](#)). All 11 Conditions had to be implemented by 1st September 2025:
 - 1. PTUK must review its application processes and registration policy to ensure that they are sufficiently robust and take into account the underlying requirements of the proposed new role.
 - 2. PTUK must review its competency framework and address issues of accreditation and supervision, including the standards set for education and training.
 - 3. PTUK must ensure that the issue of continued practice competence is incorporated into the review of registration and re-registration requirements as well as the revision of the competency framework recommended in numbers (1) and (2) respectively above.

¹ Standards for Accredited Registers, 2023 edition:

www.professionalstandards.org.uk/publications/standards-accredited-registers

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4. PTUK must ensure that the Register is updated to reflect the new role and that all entries relating to those registrants are accurate.
 5. PTUK must review its terms and conditions of registration to consider any differences relating to the proposed new role to be added to the register.
 6. PTUK must re-evaluate its code of ethics and professional standards to ensure that they encompass guidelines pertinent to adult counselling.
 7. PTUK must provide specific details on how the new course to be introduced meets National Occupational Skills (or other relevant) requirements.
 8. PTUK must provide detailed information on training providers for the new course and the process for quality assuring them.
 9. PTUK must provide detailed information on how it intends to assess the quality of education and training courses for the new role.
 10. PTUK must establish guidelines on equivalence routes to entry for practitioners seeking the Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults title.
 11. PTUK must update its website and other public materials to provide clear and accessible information about the benefits and limitations of treatments offered by the new role to be added to the register.

2.3 This report discusses the actions PTUK took to address the Conditions, as well as our decision about whether the Conditions are met.

2.4 We reviewed the following evidence:

- PTUK's reported actions about what it had done to meet all 11 Conditions

3. Concerns leading to the Conditions

3.1 Below are the details that led to the Conditions:

Condition 1: PTUK must review its application processes and registration policy to ensure that they are sufficiently robust and take into account the underlying requirements of the proposed new role.

PTUK is proposing to introduce a post-qualifying course on working with adults as a progression or development of the Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellors of Children and Young People. PTUK's registration processes for all entry routes into its accredited register are published on its website: **Membership Grades and Fees**. Its education and training requirements are similarly published on its website: **Training Requirements**. PTUK also has a policy that ensures consistency in dealing with applications that fall under equivalence routes: [APAC Recognised Prior Learning \(RPL\) Policy.PTUK.docx](#). Through these processes, PTUK demands from all registrants a comprehensive declaration of all related qualifications and professional memberships and accreditations. However, these processes would need to be reviewed in consideration of the proposed change. Unfortunately, PTUK has not demonstrated how the proposed new role would require a review of the current application process and registration policy as an acknowledgement of the change being introduced, or what it plans to do in this context. In particular, PTUK would need to review its **Membership**

Grades and Fees policy, which links to its **Membership Application Form**, to reflect the new title to be added to the register.

Condition 2: PTUK must review its competency framework and address issues of accreditation and supervision, including the standards set for education and training.

PTUK is proposing to introduce a post-qualifying course on working with adults as a progression or development of the Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellors of Children and Young People. PTUK informed us that like each of its other six existing titles, the proposed new role has its own competencies and that these have already been developed. The competency framework addresses the importance of the additional knowledge that would be required to support students in understanding the difference between working with children and young people (CYP) on the one hand and adults on the other. Although PTUK boasts of a governance structure that “ensures robust support for delivering counselling courses for adults with a comprehensive and effective framework for clinical and educational excellence”, it has nevertheless carried out some internal reorganisation to ensure that mechanisms are in place to enable registrants to the new role meet their registration requirements. However, the issue of competencies for the new role, and the process through which PTUK arrived at these competencies, remained the most contentious in PTUK’s notification of change (NoC) application. The salience of these issues attracted the keen attention of a few vigilant respondents to our “share your experience” (SYE) request, PSA’s version of consultation with the public prior to making accreditation decisions.

Condition 3: PTUK must ensure that the issue of continued practice competence is incorporated into the review of registration and re-registration requirements as well as the revision of the competency framework recommended in [Conditions] (1) and (2) respectively above.

PTUK is proposing to introduce a post-qualifying course on working with adults as a progression or development of the Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellors of Children and Young People. PTUK informed us that like each of its other six existing titles, the proposed new role has its own competencies and that these have already been developed. However, PTUK provided no information on how it would ensure that mechanisms for continued practice competence (including continuous professional development – CPD) are in place for the new role. The issue of CPD audits was raised for careful consideration by one of our SYE respondents. We suggested, therefore, that the issue of continued practice competence is incorporated into the review of registration and re-registration requirements recommended in [Condition 1] as well as the revision of the competency framework recommended in [Condition 2].

Condition 4: PTUK must ensure that the Register is updated to reflect the new role and that all entries relating to those registrants are accurate.

PTUK’s registration processes for all entry routes into its accredited register are published on its website. Its education and training requirements are similarly published on its website. PTUK also has a policy that ensures consistency in dealing

with applications that fall under equivalence routes. However, the above processes would need to be reviewed as part of considering the proposed change. Unfortunately, PTUK has not demonstrated how the proposed new role would require a review of the current application process and registration policy as an acknowledgement of the change being introduced, or what it plans to do in this context. In particular, PTUK would need to review its **Membership Grades and Fees** policy, which links to its **Membership Application Form**, to reflect the new title to be added to the register. Furthermore, PTUK provided no information on how it would ensure that mechanisms for continued practice competence (including continuous professional development – CPD) are in place for the new role. It was suggested, therefore, that the issue of continued practice competence is incorporated into the review of registration and re-registration requirements recommended in [Condition 1] as well as the revision of the competency framework recommended in [Condition 2]. In addition, PTUK is silent on how the proposed addition of a new role to the register would invariably affect the information it holds on its register. We recommended, therefore, that as part of the reviews of registration processes and competency frameworks suggested above, PTUK must ensure that the register is updated to reflect the new role to be added and all entries relating to those registrants must be accurate.

Condition 5: PTUK must review its terms and conditions of registration to consider any differences relating to the proposed new role to be added to the register.

PTUK is proposing to introduce a post-qualifying course on working with adults as a progression or development of the Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellors of Children and Young People. However, PTUK submitted no information on how the existing standards for registrants would be considered against the proposed new role to be added to the register. The introduction of any new role requires that any written agreement or contract between PTUK and its registrants would necessarily need to be reviewed. Here, the terms and conditions of registration would need to be explicit about what is expected of the new registrants and what obligations they sign up. In particular, PTUK would need to review its **Membership Grades and Fees** policy, which links to its **Membership Application Form** (contract/agreement document) to reflect the new title to be added to the register.

Condition 6: PTUK must re-evaluate its code of ethics and professional standards to ensure that they encompass guidelines pertinent to adult counselling.

PTUK is proposing to introduce a post-qualifying course on working with adults as a progression or development of the Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellors of Children and Young People. As part of this process, PTUK should re-examine the standards that are engaged under the proposed practice and reach out for appropriate contribution from qualified professionals and other regulators and registers. PTUK must ensure that their standards for registrants are clear on all aspects, including the requirement for supervision of the new registrants and continued professional development, professional behaviour, and ethical basis for practice. Concerned about this, one of our SYE respondents pointed to the need for adherence to a code of ethics and professional conduct by the new registrants:

“Adherence to a comprehensive code of ethics is fundamental in counselling and psychotherapy to protect clients and guide practitioners. PTUK's existing ethical framework for play therapists focuses on therapeutic work with children. It is important to evaluate whether this code adequately addresses the nuances of working with adult clients. Ensuring that the code of ethics encompasses guidelines pertinent to adult counselling is crucial for ethical practice and client safety”.

Condition 7: PTUK must provide specific details on how the new course to be introduced meets National Occupational Skills (or other relevant) requirements.

PTUK is proposing to introduce a post-qualifying course on working with adults as a progression or development of the Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellors of Children and Young People. However, PTUK has provided no specific information on how the new course would meet National Occupational Skills (or other relevant) requirements. All we know is that PTUK intends to “add (a) new title/occupation to the register as progression in post-qualifying courses accredited by PTUK”. Furthermore, PTUK informed us that “a post-qualifying course working with adults has been developed which meets PTUK competencies and standards as a further development of the Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellors of Children and Young People”. The new course is intended to function as an additional post-qualification specialisation for existing play therapists. However, we are left to assume from these submissions that the course would invariably meet National Occupational Skills (or other relevant) requirements. As noted by one of the respondents to our SYE request on PTUK’s NoC application, “it is the specific information regarding the qualifications and assessment criteria for this proposed adult counsellor title that is limited”. It would be helpful, therefore, if PTUK could clarify its position on this by providing specific details of how this minimum requirement is met.

Condition 8: PTUK must provide detailed information on training providers for the new course and the process for quality assuring them.

PTUK has established processes for quality assuring education and training providers for the existing titles on its register. However, the question of how PTUK plans to accredit training providers for the new course is unclear, and PTUK has provided no information to that effect. This has been raised as a concern by one of the respondents to our SYE request to PTUK’s NoC application. The respondent suggested that there is a need for “clear information on how PTUK plans to assess qualifications, approve new training providers and conduct CPD audits for registrants who hold this new title...”. In view of the above, we required that PTUK should provide detailed information on training providers for the new course and the process for quality assuring them.

Condition 9: PTUK must provide detailed information on how it intends to assess the quality of education and training courses for the new role.

PTUK has established processes for assessing the quality of education and training courses for the roles it currently registers. Once more, the question of how PTUK plans

to assess the quality of the education and training courses for the new course is unclear, as PTUK has provided no information to that effect. While PTUK outlines certification requirements for play therapists working with children, details about the assessment and ongoing audit processes for the proposed adult counsellor title are not readily available. Again, this did not escape the attention of vigilant respondents to our SYE request. Accordingly, we suggested that PTUK must provide further information on how it intends to assess the quality of education and training courses for the new role.

Condition 10: PTUK must establish guidelines on equivalence routes to entry for practitioners seeking the Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults title.

For the current roles it registers, PTUK has a policy that ensures consistency in dealing with applications that fall under equivalence routes: [APAC Recognised Prior Learning \(RPL\) Policy.PTUK.docx](#). However, PTUK has provided no information on how this policy would be affected by the new role it intends to add to its register. The accreditation schemes of most of the other counselling and psychotherapy registers provide for working with either adults or children and young people, not both as PTUK now intends to do. For PTUK to be able to do this, one respondent to our SYE request suggests that “significant further training is required post-qualifying to extend practice competencies to be able to work with [both] client groups – we would need to see evidence of equivalent requirements for rigour to be demonstrated for this scheme too”. In the view of the same respondent, “the current information provided within the consultation documentation does not specify whether PTUK will recognize alternative pathways for professionals seeking the 'Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults' title. For instance, will experienced counsellors or therapists from related fields be eligible through recognition of prior learning or experience? Establishing clear guidelines on alternative routes to entry is crucial to ensure inclusivity while maintaining rigorous standards. We would expect the standards of this adult training to align with, at minimum, SCoPEd Column A”.

Condition 11: PTUK must update its website and other public materials to provide clear and accessible information about the benefits and limitations of treatments offered by the new role to be added to the register.

PTUK has an easily accessible website which holds information on the benefits and limitations of the six roles it currently registers. However, PTUK is proposing to add a new role to its register, focusing on the provision of counselling and psychotherapeutic services to adults through play and creative arts. Therefore, information on the benefits and limitations of this new role would invariably need to be incorporated into PTUK’s website and other public materials in a clear manner and made accessible to the broader public. Updating PTUK’s website and other public materials is, therefore, inevitable in the quest to add a new role to the register. However, PTUK has submitted no information on how it plans to do this. We noted that this requirement is also applicable to some minimum requirements in Standard Eight.

3.2 Further details can be found in PTUK's notification of change outcome².

4. Assessment of Conditions

4.1 PTUK provided its response to the Conditions on 1st September 2025.

4.2 Below are the details of the actions taken by PTUK and our assessment:

Condition 1: *PTUK must review its application processes and registration policy to ensure that they are sufficiently robust and take into account the underlying requirements of the proposed new role.*

PTUK informed us that its application and registration processes have been strengthened by comprehensively revising forms, updating terms and conditions of registration, requiring new evidence on safeguarding and supervision, setting clear entry standards, and developing a formal Certificate of Standards which they intend to make mandatory by 2027. PTUK submitted evidence in support of these claims.

From the evidence submitted, we confirmed that PTUK has executed a comprehensive review and updating of all the application processes and registration policies relating to its register entry. We checked all reference documents cited and confirmed that they have all been revised and updated to ensure that they are sufficiently robust and take into account the underlying requirements of the proposed new role as required by the Condition. Application and revalidation forms and all declarations have been revised and updated; entry requirements, terms and conditions of membership, and the requirement for supporting documents have all been included in the register entry criteria for the new role. PTUK has also developed a specific competency framework for the new role, to be backed up by a Certificate of Standards and competence which would be made mandatory from 2027. Register entry also requires mandatory completion of safeguarding training relevant to registrant client group and revalidated annually. By so comprehensively reviewing its entry processes for the new role, PTUK has demonstrated compliance with the Condition. We concluded that this Condition has been met.

Condition 2: *PTUK must review its competency framework and address issues of accreditation and supervision, including the standards set for education and training.*

PTUK informed us that in line with the requirements of the Condition, it had undertaken substantial reviews of its competency framework, accreditation standards (education and training), supervision standards, and education and training (governance) standards. We confirmed PTUK's claims and the evidence it submitted to substantiate its report.

We had confirmed in our NoC assessment that PTUK had updated its competency governance structure in preparation for the introduction of the new role. PTUK informed us that they "have made changes within [their] clinical team which comprises of a

² PTUK [2025 NoC Outcome](#)

Clinical Manager, a newly appointed (September 2024) Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), a Professional Conduct Officer who handles complaints, Supervisor support (appointed February 2024), a CPD lead (appointed February 2024), and assistance with general enquiries and data management through Fortuna, [their] data management system”.

In line with the requirements of the Condition, PTUK has developed a comprehensive competency framework for the new role, including a new supervision agreement that takes account of the new role. We also confirmed evidence that PTUK has reached out to the SCopEd partnership with a view to ensuring collaboration around the development of its competency framework and the mapping of those competencies to the ScopEd framework. Through their training provider, the Academy of Play and Child Psychotherapy (APAC), PTUK has also published a comprehensive set of standards for education and training as well as developed guidelines for direction and supervision of the new course to be introduced. These clearly set out the registry entry requirements for the new role and the accreditation criteria for tutors and directors. In addition to that, PTUK has undertaken a substantial internal governance reorganisation to ensure effective management and quality assurance for the new role to be introduced. We concluded, therefore, that Condition 2 has been met.

Condition 3: *PTUK must ensure that the issue of continued practice competence is incorporated into the review of registration and re-registration requirements as well as the revision of the competency framework recommended in [Conditions] (1) and (2) respectively above.*

PTUK pointed to several actions it has taken in compliance with the requirements of the Condition. We confirmed that PTUK has carried out an extensive review of its registration and re-registration processes. In addition, it has also reviewed its competency framework, ethical framework and other public accountability processes. In all of these reviews, PTUK has ensured that continued practice competence, evidenced through CPDs and embedded in public and ethical accountability policies, has been taken into full account with regards the new role it intends to add to its register. PTUK’s complaints and disciplinary processes are linked to failure to maintain competence (sanctions may include removal from register). Continued competence is also monitored through the Fortuna clinical record system, used in annual revalidation to check that members are practising within competency and ethical scope. There is, therefore, a full integration of CPD into PTUK’s competency requirements. Accordingly, we concluded that Condition 3 has been met.

Condition 4: *PTUK must ensure that the Register is updated to reflect the new role and that all entries relating to those registrants are accurate.*

PTUK submitted that its Accredited Register has been developed flexibly to accommodate new titles and that once permission is granted by PSA, the new title of Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults would simply be added to the list of titles. PTUK submitted the register link for verification: [PTUK Play Therapy Register](#).

Furthermore, PTUK informed us that its internal systems are configured to support the easy addition of the title to the list (drop-down search functions, grading categories, DBS and safeguarding checks).

Moreover, PTUK submitted that when updated, the public-facing information on the website will clearly show

- Title
- Competencies
- Level of training

PTUK also refers to the several revised processes and policies discussed under Conditions 1, 2 and 3 above and through which it ensures the accuracy of the information its register holds. As far as the public is concerned, PTUK submits that its website is regularly updated to enable members of the public access accurate information on registrants, and this includes personal details. However, current updates will only be uploaded after PSA approval. Accordingly, we concluded that Condition 4 has been met.

Condition 5: *PTUK must review its terms and conditions of registration to consider any differences relating to the proposed new role to be added to the register.*

PTUK responded by submitting that it has reviewed its membership terms and conditions to explicitly include reference to the title of Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults. The revised document was submitted for verification.

According to PTUK, the updating of its terms and conditions of registration has ensured that adult-specific practice is covered under several sections discussed extensively in Conditions 1 to 4 above. PTUK further reported that distinctions have been made for the new role. The terms and conditions now distinguish between children and young people (CYP)-focused roles and the new adult role. As noted in our analysis under Conditions 1 and 2 above, registrants applying for the new adult role must complete a Supervision Agreement Form to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the new role. Furthermore, we noted under the various Conditions discussed above that PTUK is introducing a Certificate of Standards and Competence (mandatory by 2027) to formalise adult role standards across membership categories. The terms and conditions have been updated to require this certificate at renewal/revalidation. Similarly, the Declaration Form has been updated (starting in 2025) to capture compliance with adult role obligations.

In summary, PTUK has undertaken an extensive review of its terms and conditions of registration taking into consideration the differences between the roles of children and young people and that of adults. Issues relating to safeguarding obligations, supervision standards, CPD requirements and competencies have all been reflected in the revised terms and conditions. The terms and conditions now distinguish between CYP-focused roles and the new adult role to be introduced to the register. A supervision agreement, certificate of standards and competence, and declarations form have all

been revised as part of this review of terms and conditions for registration to the new role. We concluded, therefore, that Condition 5 has been met.

Condition 6: *PTUK must re-evaluate its code of ethics and professional standards to ensure that they encompass guidelines pertinent to adult counselling.*

PTUK submitted that it has reviewed and updated its code of ethics and related professional standards to include explicit mention of adult-specific counselling principles. The revised and updated code of ethics was submitted for verification.

In the view of PTUK, the revised Code ensures:

- Accountability - registrants working with adults must evidence competence for this demographic. This will be completing the course with competencies to be evidenced through completing the certificate of competence and standards and their viva (all referenced above)
- Professional Duty of Candour - full transparency with adult clients, particularly around risk, consent, and safeguarding
- Boundaries - additional guidance on emotional, personal, and sexual boundaries when working with adults, with document for members completing the course
- Safeguarding - explicit alignment with safeguarding policies for vulnerable adults, including fluctuating capacity and exploitation risks.

PTUK also reported that the new role has been properly integrated within its other professional standards and cited three key examples:

- Competency framework for adults includes distinct ethical considerations not included in CYP-only roles
- Declaration Form (from 2025) updated to ensure members confirm adherence to updated Code of Ethics covering adult practice
- Ethical guidance reinforced through clinical supervision requirements.

PTUK also referred to its efforts at consultation and alignment discussed under Condition 2 above, for which evidence was submitted.

In effect, in addition to its code of ethics, PTUK has also reviewed its related professional standards to include explicit reference to adult-specific counselling principles. Its revised Code ensures accountability, professional Duty of Candour, respect for boundaries and a commitment to safeguarding. Some of the related professional standards reviewed include its competency framework, declaration form process, and supervision arrangements. PTUK has also mapped its competency framework to that of SCopEd and is seeking collaboration at all levels, including with other accredited registers through the Accredited Registers Collaborative (ARC). This is all aimed at ensuring that its Code and professional standards encompass guidelines pertinent to and consistent with adult counselling. Accordingly, we concluded that Condition 6 has been met.

Condition 7: *PTUK must provide specific details on how the new course to be introduced meets National Occupational Skills (or other relevant) requirements.*

In its response, PTUK informed us that it has developed National Occupational Skills (NOS)-structured units of competence for the new role and provided evidence of this for verification. PTUK explained that it has created a unitised course structure for the new role of Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults that mirrors NOS design (performance outcomes; knowledge; skills; behaviours) and outlined the 11 Units that cover the full scope of NOS-aligned themes, including EDI (equality, diversity and inclusion).

We have noted above that PTUK has produced a comprehensive competencies document for the title of Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults which specifies the knowledge, skills and behaviours expected of registrants. These competencies map directly onto NOS themes (professional framework, assessment, therapeutic relationship, knowledge & skills, self-awareness and reflection). This is in addition to the fact that PTUK has mapped the adult role competencies against SCoPEd Columns A–C, which are themselves underpinned by NOS and national counselling and psychotherapy standards. This ensures consistency with wider sector benchmarks, while also incorporating adult-specific elements (e.g., neurocognitive disorders, trauma management, advanced boundary practice).

We also noted that PTUK had outlined the specific course requirements and assessment methods for the role as part of its Standard One submission in support of its NoC application. The course requires:

- 125 training hours (face-to-face, online modules, assignments)
- 100 supervised clinical hours with adults
- Supervision ratio of 1:6 with adult-qualified supervisors
- Minimum 12 hours personal therapy during the course.

As noted in our discussion under Condition 3 above, to quality-assure ongoing practice competence, PTUK's annual revalidation requires members to provide evidence of CPD, safeguarding training, supervision, and fitness to practise relevant to grade. We have also noted in our analysis under Condition 5 that by 2027, the Certificate of Standards and Competence will be made mandatory at re-registration, formalising NOS-aligned competence checks. Clinical governance checks by the professional conduct officer will also continue.

In effect, PTUK has provided specific details on how the new course to be introduced meets National Occupational Skills (or other relevant) requirements. PTUK has developed National Occupational Skills (NOS)-mapped competencies for the new role. It has also created a unitised course structure (11 in total) for the new role of Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults that mirrors NOS design. PTUK has also mapped the adult competency framework against SCoPEd Columns A–C. Continued practice competence is assured through PTUK's annual revalidation process. We concluded, therefore, that Condition 7 has been met.

Condition 8: *PTUK must provide detailed information on training providers for the new course and the process for quality assuring them.*

PTUK informed us that it sets training provider requirements for all its courses and that it only approves training organisations and providers that meet its established standards for delivering play therapy and creative arts counselling. Its main training provider is [APAC- Academy of Play And Child Psychotherapy](#), which is accredited for meeting PTUK standards. Established in 1998 and described as currently “the largest and most experienced dedicated training organisation worldwide” in play therapy, APAC is also the accredited provider that PTUK so far permits to teach the proposed course. Since 2000, we were informed, “APAC has trained over 10,000 practitioners in the UK alone, and run over 500 Play Therapy training courses internationally, making it by far, the largest Play Therapy training provider in the UK and the rest of the world”.

PTUK outlined the criteria to be met by all training providers:

- Be formally accredited with PTUK and listed as approved centres
- Deliver teaching through qualified tutors who have completed the Assistant Course Director pathway and the CYP and adult counselling postgraduate qualification before being permitted to deliver adult modules
- Use the NOS-aligned Units for Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults as the required curriculum framework
- Provide sufficient placements for trainees to complete 100 supervised adult clinical hours.

PTUK also informed us that it has a system of tutor and course director accreditation. To this effect, APAC has a clear banding and progression system for tutors (qualified play therapist, accredited play therapist, supervisor, assistant course director, course director, counselling qualification and experience of adult counselling work).

For the adult course, however, PTUK has included additional criteria for course provider qualification and submitted the link for verification: [Certificate in Creative Arts and Play Therapy Counselling with Adults](#).

- Evidence of Level 7 training and specialist competence in adult counselling
- Commitment to CPD in adult practice and safeguarding
- Engagement in regular supervision at the correct ratio

Moreover, PTUK outlined its multi-layered quality assurance processes for training providers. In terms of how training providers are integrated with PTUK’s overall clinical governance, tutors and providers must evidence compliance with PTUK’s Code of Ethics, Safeguarding policies, and Clinical Governance framework. In addition, the adult course will require tutors to evidence competence in certain areas: trauma informed adult practice; adult safeguarding; managing complex and neurocognitive adult presentations; and clinical governance checks of tutors carried out by professional conduct officer.

In short, PTUK has outlined the requirements and criteria to be met by training providers for all its courses and informed us that it only approves training organisations and providers that meet its established standards for delivering play therapy and creative arts counselling. PTUK also informed us that it has a system of tutor and course director accreditation which its preferred and accredited provider, APAC, consistently meets. Acutely aware of the specific requirements of the course for the new role, PTUK has included additional criteria for course provider qualification. We have also been provided with sufficient detail of PTUK's multi-layered system of quality assurance for training providers and how training providers are integrated with PTUK's code of ethics, safeguarding policies, and clinical governance. Based on this evidence, we concluded that Condition 8 has been met.

Condition 9: *PTUK must provide detailed information on how it intends to assess the quality of education and training courses for the new role.*

PTUK outlined several actions it has taken, and will continue to take, to quality-assure the education and training courses for the new role of Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults.

First, PTUK ensures curriculum and competency alignment:

- PTUK requires that all education providers deliver the Units for Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults, structured in line with NOS format (performance outcomes, knowledge, skills, behaviours)
- Course delivery must demonstrate that trainees can meet the Adult Competency Framework, which specifies standards in ethics, trauma work, neurocognitive disorders, risk management, CPD, and supervision.

Both criteria above ensure quality assessment, which begins with curriculum alignment to national benchmarks (NOS/SCoPEd). Furthermore, PTUK has set clear entry, training and supervision requirements for the new course. These requirements set measurable standards against which training quality is checked:

- Entry requirements: Level 7 core play therapy qualification, CYP grade, 450 clinical hours.
- Training structure:
 - 125 training hours (face-to-face, assignments, online)
 - 100 supervised adult clinical hours
 - Supervision ratio 1:6 with adult-qualified supervisors
 - Minimum 12 hours personal therapy.

From a trainee assessment perspective, PTUK informed us that it has built a multi-layered assessment framework for trainees. This is made up of five components:

- Observed practice – tutors and supervisors assess skills against unit performance outcomes

- Assignments and portfolios – written work to evidence integration of theory, ethics, and practice
- Case studies – demonstrate ability to assess, plan, and deliver interventions safely
- Reflective journals – capture development of self-awareness, boundary management, and use of supervision
- Outcome measures – trainees must evidence use of Clinical Outcomes in Routine Evaluation (CORE) or other recognised psychometrics, with results logged on PTUK’s clinical system (Fortuna).

We have noted in Condition 8 above that PTUK also has a robust system of quality assurance for its training providers and that the course is well integrated with PTUK’s overall ethical and clinical governance frameworks. Moreover, we have noted elsewhere PTUK’s preparedness for continued collaboration with SCopEd and other external stakeholders, such as other accredited registers bilaterally and through the Accredited Registers Collaborative (ARC). This is because PTUK recognises that the quality of education and training for the new adult role must be underpinned not only by internal standards but also by ongoing collaboration with the wider profession. In the view of PTUK, “this ongoing collaboration ensures that PTUK’s education and training quality assurance is sector-informed, benchmarked against national standards, and responsive to professional practice contexts”.

In short, PTUK not only ensures curriculum and competency alignment, but it has also set clear entry, training and supervision requirements for the new course. These requirements set measurable standards against which training quality is checked. PTUK has also developed a multi-layered assessment framework for trainees made up of five components – observed practice; assignments and portfolios; case studies; reflective journals; and outcome measures. This is in addition to PTUK’s system of quality-assuring training providers, integration of course with PTUK’s ethical and clinical governance frameworks, and continued collaboration with external stakeholders. Based on the several actions PTUK has taken and will continue to take in quality-assuring the education and training course for the new role, we concluded that Condition 9 has been met.

Condition 10: *PTUK must establish guidelines on equivalence routes to entry for practitioners seeking the Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults title.*

We have noted in our discussions under Conditions 7, 8 and 9 above that PTUK has identified the core entry pathway into the course for the new role. This ensures that candidates already meet a recognised national training level prior to progressing to adult training.

Similarly, for this new role, PTUK has established criteria for assessing equivalence routes for practitioners from other backgrounds who may not have followed PTUK’s training pathway but can demonstrate comparable competence:

- Qualifications – Applicants with postgraduate counselling/psychotherapy qualifications (minimum Level 7) in related disciplines may apply
- Clinical Hours – Evidence of a minimum of 450 supervised clinical hours (including those with adult clients)
- Supervision – Clinical hours must have been overseen by a Level 7-qualified supervisor or equivalent.
- CPD – Applicants must evidence at least 30 hours of CPD annually post-qualification, including safeguarding and adult-specific competencies
- Safeguarding – Completion of adult safeguarding training (delivered in partnership with NHS England) is mandatory
- Mapping Evidence – Applicants must submit documentation (certificates, supervision logs, CPD records) that PTUK will map against the NOS-aligned and the Adult Competency Framework.

In terms of assessing equivalence applications, PTUK has stipulated a number of processes. The first is that applicants must submit a portfolio that includes:

- Qualification transcripts
- Clinical supervision and practice logs
- CPD and safeguarding certificates
- Reflective statement demonstrating alignment to PTUK's adult competencies
- Proof of membership with accredited body relevant to core training

In addition, PTUK's Education and Clinical Governance teams, in collaboration with APAC's learning and development team, review submissions and may require:

- Bridging training modules to address gaps
- Additional supervised practice hours
- Formal assessment (written assignment or viva) to evidence knowledge and skills

PTUK has undertaken to ensure that this equivalence route to the new role will be published on its website alongside the standard entry pathway. Clear guidance documents will outline minimum thresholds, acceptable evidence, and remediation processes. All equivalence route decisions will be subject to audit and moderation to ensure consistency and fairness.

In summary, PTUK has identified the core entry pathway into the course for the new role. This ensures candidates already meet a recognised national training level before progressing to adult training. Similarly, for this new role, PTUK has established criteria for assessing equivalence route applications for practitioners from other backgrounds who may not have followed PTUK's training pathway but can demonstrate comparable competence and experience. These include equivalent qualifications, minimum number of clinical hours, evidence of supervision and CPD, and safeguarding training. Applicants must submit documentation (certificates, supervision logs, and CPD records) that PTUK will map against the NOS-aligned Units and the Adult Competency

Framework. PTUK also has an established assessment system for equivalence route applications, including a formal assessment (written or viva) to evidence knowledge and skills. We concluded, therefore, that Condition 10 has been met.

Condition 11: *PTUK must update its website and other public materials to provide clear and accessible information about the benefits and limitations of treatments offered by the new role to be added to the register.*

We have noted in our analyses under Condition 1 through to Condition 10 above that PTUK has updated several of its systems and processes. We accept, therefore, PTUK's assertion that in terms of the need to update its website, register and public-facing information, PTUK is committed to doing so to reflect the new role of Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults. As corroboration for this assertion, PTUK commenced its response to this Condition by citing some of the key corporate policy documents that have already been updated, reflecting its determination to ensure that these reflect the requirements of the new role.

As noted above, several PTUK forms, processes, procedures and systems have been updated and will be uploaded to the website. PTUK also informed us that it will ensure that website updates are written in plain, accessible language, avoiding jargon to aid accessibility and has identified other key sections of the website that are under review in consideration of the specific requirements of the new role to be added to the register:

- “What this therapy can help with”
- “What this therapy cannot do”
- “Who this therapy is for (and not for)”.

On processes for ongoing monitoring of public-facing information, PTUK reminded us of the annual audits of registrants' websites it undertakes to ensure no unproven claims are made about treatment effectiveness; enforcement of compliance with PTUK's code of ethics, which prohibits misleading statements and requires registrants to practice within their scope of competence; and publication of its complaints processes, which allow the public to raise concerns if misleading or inaccurate claims are detected.

PTUK submitted, however, that most of these actual and ongoing updates to PTUK's website and other public-facing materials are taking place offline. We have been assured that they will all be uploaded to PTUK's website and will go live following approval from PSA.

In short, the updating of PTUK's website and other public-facing materials has both been undertaken and in progress. This comes on the back of PTUK's confirmation that it is committed to updating its website, register, and all public-facing materials to reflect the new role of Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults. We have

confirmed that several PTUK forms, processes, procedures and systems have been updated. These will be uploaded to the website. PTUK will also ensure that website updates are written in plain, accessible language, avoiding jargon to aid accessibility. These updates to PTUK's website and public-facing information are taking place offline. They will all be uploaded to PTUK's website and will go live following approval from PSA. Accordingly, we concluded that Condition 11 has been met.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 PTUK has given significant thought and effort to demonstrating that the conditions we imposed during the consideration of a notification of change have been met. In all cases, we have received verifiable evidence of the action that has been taken to fully incorporate the new register into the overall scheme of PTUK registration. It is particularly notable that PTUK has thoroughly addressed the different risk profile of the practitioner group and prepared tailored documents to those risks.
- 5.2 We, therefore, found that all Conditions are met and as a result, all Standards are met.