

The British Psychological Society (BPS)

Once accreditation has been granted, a register must tell us of any significant changes it has made or plans to make. We consider these through our Notification of Change process.

The process

The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) accredits registers of people working in a variety of health and social care occupations that are not regulated by law. To become an Accredited Register, organisations holding registers of unregulated health and social care roles must prove that they meet our **Standards for Accredited Registers** (the Standards).

Once accreditation has been granted, a register must tell us of any significant changes it has made or plans to make that may affect whether it meets our Standards. We consider these changes through our **Notification of Change** process. Not all changes will require a notification of change and in some cases, it will be sufficient to tell us about them at either an annual check, or full renewal assessment.

Changes requiring a notification of change application are considered by an Accreditation Panel (the Panel). The Panel will decide whether to accept the change or not.

The options available to the Decision-maker are:

- Accept the change
- Accept the change, with Conditions and/or Recommendations
- Not accept the change at this time, with reasons specified
- Adjourn to request further information from the Register

Notification of change

The British Psychological Society (BPS) currently operates an Accredited Register for psychological workforce practitioners who work in a role which is not regulated by law. The Wider Psychological Workforce (WPW) register is a part of the Accredited Registers Programme.

The BPS' WPW registers a range of roles including:

- Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners (PWP)
- Children's Wellbeing Practitioner (CWP)
- Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP)
- Clinical Associate in Applied Psychology (CAAP) Scotland only, and;
- Clinical Associate in Psychology (CAP).

The BPS applied to add Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioners (MHWP) to their WPW Register.

The outcome

We decided that the changes would not affect the BPS' compliance with the Standards for Accredited Registers. We approved the change following a review of evidence supplied by the BPS and gathered by the Accreditation team.

The Register

This section provides an overview of the BPS and its register.

Name of Organisation	British Psychological Society
Website	https://www.bps.org.uk/
Type of Organisation	The British Psychological Society is a charity registered in England and Wales, Registration Number: 229642 and a charity registered in Scotland, Registration Number: SC039452
Role(s) covered	The PSA Accredited Register only extends to the Wider Psychological Workforce (WPW). Roles covered include psychologists and psychotherapists as well as a range of associated professions including: Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners (PWP) Children's Wellbeing Practitioners (CWP) Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHP)

Clinical Associate in Psychology (CAP)
Clinical Associate in Applied Psychology (CAAP)

The BPS are submitting a Notification of Change to add the Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioner (MHWP) role to the WPW Register.

Number of registrants	693 on the WPW Register (as of February 2025). In addition to this, it is estimated that there is approximately 450 MHWPs.
Overview of Governance	A board of trustees, a management group, and five boards and six committees. The board of trustees is the society's primary governing body, with responsibility for the management and control of the society's affairs and transactions, which ensures that the BPS conforms to the terms of its charter and that it observes its legal obligations as a charitable body. A Senior Management Team (SMT) which is made up of a number of directors whose responsibility it is to oversee the smooth and efficient running of the society's internal workings. The Registration Advisory Panel (RAP) has oversight of the WPW Register.
Overview of the aims of the register	To be a forward-facing voice that speaks up for psychology and psychologists. To develop a psychological approach to policy-making that puts people first. To give members the tools and resources to enhance their careers.

Assessment against the Standards

1. Standard 1 | Eligibility and 'public interest' Standard

- 1.1 The addition of MHWPs to the WPW Register falls within the scope of the Authority's powers of accreditation as set out at Section 25E of the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2022.
 - 1.2 The BPS, as an established Accredited Register, has demonstrated that the benefits of the MHWP role are supported by evidence and national guidelines. Risks related to the role are adequately managed through a combination of the register's functions and employment setting governance. The system of registration supports working within scope at all times.
 - 1.3 The MHWP role is embedded in the NHS Long Term Plan and delivers evidence-based, psychologically informed interventions for adults with severe mental health problems. Interventions are grounded in NICE guidance and the stepped care model. Risks are managed through professional standards, codes of conduct, mandatory supervision, accredited training, and engagement with employers. The BPS has a comprehensive risk matrix and mitigation strategies. MHWPs are required to work within their scope of practice, under supervision, and refer complex cases as appropriate. The register's requirements and NHS governance provide additional assurance.
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2. Standard 2 | Management of the register

2.1 We have not identified any impacts from the proposed change affecting this Standard.

3. Standard 3 | Standards for registrants

3.1 The framework for settings standards for MHWP registrants is the same as for the other roles on the WPW Register. This includes first becoming a member of the BPS and abiding by the Code of Ethics and Conduct. When joining the WPW register, a MHWP will agree to abide by the Fitness to Practise Standards.

3.2 To apply to the register, applicants will need to evidence the required competence by uploading the transcript of their BPS accredited MHWP training as evidence. A supervisor report is provided to evidence that an applicant is working within their scope of practice and under appropriate supervision.

4. Standard 4 | Education and Training

4.1 To be eligible for registration, MHWP applicants must have completed a BPS accredited MHWP training, and evidence this through uploading the transcript of their qualification. Accreditation of training ensures that the training route is robust and coherent and that there is fair and reliable assessment to ensure the required level of knowledge, skill and experience is met so that on completion of the training qualified MHWPs can enter the workforce and provide service users and the public with good quality care and maintain public confidence in training. This is in line with the approach for the other roles registered as a part of the WPW Register.

4.2 During 2022 and 2023, the BPS worked with NHS England, education providers, and stakeholders involved in the education and training of MHWPs, to develop standards for MHWP training. The standards were developed using the BPS' accreditation framework and were organised around their eight overarching standards and align to the national curriculum for MHWP training.

5. Standard 5 | Concerns and complaints about registration

5.1 The BPS' Complaints Policy has been updated to include the MHWP role. The complaints policy applies to all registrants and we did not identify any further impacts which would affect this Standard.

6. Standard 6 | Governance

6.1 The Registration Advisory Panel (RAP) will be the panel responsible for assurance that competency, safe practice and high standards are maintained for MHWPs on the WPW Register and to ensure that voluntary register functions for the addition of the new MHWP role are carried out effectively, proportionately and transparently in line with the Standards for Accredited Registers. This is in line with the approach for the other roles registered as a part of the WPW Register.

7. Standard 7 | Management of the risks arising from the activities of registrants

7.1 We have not identified any impacts from the proposed change affecting this Standard.

8. Standard 8 | Communications and engagement

8.1 We have not identified any impacts from the proposed change affecting this Standard.

9. Standard 9 | Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

9.1 We have not identified any impacts from the proposed change affecting this Standard.

Share your experience

We ran a public consultation for the BPS between 16 June 2025 and 24 July 2025. We did not receive any responses during this time.

Impact assessment (including equalities)

The impact of the addition of the MHWP role is similar to the impact of existing BPS registers, with increased benefits for a wider range of individuals as more mental health professionals are subject to appropriate oversight.

We therefore found that it is in the public interest to accredit the addition of the Mental Health Wellbeing Practitioner to the Wider Psychological Workforce Register.