

IACP AGM Meeting MOTIONS - October 2018

Motion 1 - This motion was carried

To extend voting rights to Pre-Accredited Members, as currently enjoyed by Accredited Members, to allow those members to vote on elections to the Board of Directors and also on motions put to a general meeting.

Rationale:

IACP company documents state that it is only accredited members that can vote in a General Meeting.

This means that accredited members only can vote on motions put at an AGM or EGM and can also vote on elections to the Board of Directors. Pre-accredited members cannot vote at General Meetings.

When the company documents were prepared a number of years ago, the membership of IACP comprised only accredited members and some version of associate or affiliate members. It would have made sense then to separate accredited members from associate members when it came to voting rights.

However, we now have the situation of a large group of fee paying members not being able to have a full say at an AGM, because they are not allowed to vote. Furthermore, this category of members are allowed to be elected onto the Board as a full director but cannot vote when they attend an AGM. They can also propose motions to the AGM but cannot vote on the motion they propose.

We believe that Pre-accredited members have sufficient knowledge and experience that should now allow them full voting rights.

Proposed by: Eamon Fortune

Seconded by: Seamus Sheedy

Motion 2 – The amended motion was carried

Amended Motion Text agreed at General Meeting

That the requirement that there be a minimum of two years from the successful completion of a core course and application for IACP accreditation be amended to a minimum of one year from the successful completion of a core course.

Original Motion Text

That the requirement that there be a minimum of two years from the successful completion of a core course and application for IACP accreditation be amended to one year from the successful completion of a core course.

Rationale:

As per feedback from Members (including Supervisors) we seek your permission to change the minimum time frame for application for accreditation from 2 years to 1 year.

IACP receives, on a regular basis, applications that would meet accreditation criteria and have full support from the Supervisor, but because these were submitted before 2 years post completion of

the course, the applications are turned down. We feel that this is unfair to those who work very hard to become accredited with the IACP and put their heart and soul into their work.

The examples include applicants, who have qualified from degrees and Master's programmes with over 700 practical hours completed and were successful in accreditation with IAHIP and other accreditation bodies but were still asked to wait for several months before would be deemed eligible to apply for accreditation with the IACP.

IACP has received calls from Supervisors who think their supervisees are competent, experienced and ready to apply, but must wait for months before can become fully accredited for no specific reason. Such therapists cannot gain in many cases paid employment / get referrals / be listed on IACP website because they must wait for the 2 years to pass.

There will be no reduction in standards in allowing members to become accredited within 1 year of completing their core course as our training standards are increasing and moving towards a minimum of 3 to 4 year-long programmes rather than previously available 2 year-long diploma courses.

Proposed by: Seamus Sheedy

Seconded by: Michelle Coyne

Motion 3 - This motion was withdrawn

Original Motion Text

That the IACP Code of Ethics and Practice for counsellors and psychotherapists be revised by a specialist sub-group, to include Ethical and Standards Guidelines of those counsellors, psychotherapists and supervisors working with children adolescents and their primary carers. Budgetary provision be made available for such a Revision.

Rationale:

The welfare of children and adolescents is of paramount importance. IACP plays an essential role in ensuring that counsellors, psychotherapists and supervisors have the necessary competencies and knowledge in providing therapeutic services to this cohort of clients.

IACP welcomed the planned State regulation of the profession by promoting the highest standards of conduct, education, training and competencies.

Many IACP members are currently working with children and adolescents and their primary carers. The current Code Ethics and Practice does not include children, adolescents or their primary carers.

This motion proposes the introduction of an IACP Ethical and Practice Code for those Counsellors, Psychotherapists and Supervisors working with children, adolescents and primary carers, to include reference to training, competences, supervision, CPD and legal requirements.

Revision of the current IACP Code of Ethics and Practice is urgent. A provision within the Annual Budget should be made available for this Review.

Proposed by: Patricia Ashe

Seconded by: Patrick Harraghy

Motion 4 – This motion was not carried

CPD for self-care to be reinstated for CPD points

Rationale:

Counsellors

Many counsellors work with complex traumatic clients.

Research

All the clinical research indicates the importance of self-care and reflective practice to prevent vicarious traumatisation and burnout.

Counselling Organisations

Many organisations identify the importance of self-care but do not invest or provide such.

Yoga and Meditation - The Rationale

The research has identified the value of yoga and meditation. We know we hold trauma in our bodies, - “The body holds the score”. As therapists we listen attentively to our clients and can absorb their emotional world’s leading to vicarious traumatisation and burnout.

Therefore, we need to find ways of releasing and replenishing the impact of the work. The focus of the self-care sessions is to do exactly that. Rather than recognize the need it is to implement the practice in its simplest form through movement breath work and silence. The objective is tuning into self – releasing the psychological turmoil we absorb from our clients. It’s coming out of our heads – into our body – connecting mind body and soul. This monthly practice will also provide an opportunity for counsellors to connect with each other.

Guidelines for Self Care

Maximum CPD points per year 8.

Proposed by: Liam Neville

Seconded by: Paul Loughlin

Motion 5 - This motion was carried

Original Motion Text

BACP members seeking accreditation under the reciprocal agreement should meet the same criteria set down for IACP members seeking accreditation for the first time, from either accredited or non-accredited courses.

Rationale:

Therapists who gain BACP accreditation are entitled to gain full accreditation with IACP under this agreement. BACP do not require therapists to undergo personal therapy at any stage during their training. IACP members are expected to have a minimum of 50 hours personal therapy during training.

IACP requires of its own members for first time accreditation to meet the following standards,

- A) Name of the course and the training organisation
- B) Start and end dates of the course
- C) Entry requirements for the course

- D) Qualifications of staff
- E) Number of hours of theory and skills training
- F) Number of class contact hours on the course
- G) Number of supervised client hours as part of the course
- H) For client work a minimum of 1-5 ratio of supervision hours to client hours
- I) Minimum of 50 hours of personal therapy as part of the course

Reciprocal Agreement

(vii) BACP Accredited Members who wish to take advantage of this agreement must complete the IACP – BACP Recognition of Accreditation Application Form available on IACP website www.iacp.ie/BACP-accreditation.

(viii) Once the form is complete and IACP terms and conditions accepted, a BACP Accredited member will become eligible for IACP Accredited status.

Proposed by: Liam Neville

Seconded by: Paul Loughlin

Motion 6 – This motion was withdrawn

To amend Article 25 Articles of Association of the Irish Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy Limited & Bye Law number 9. to:

“The Board of Directors to consist of an elected representative from each region.”

Rationale:

The current Board is not representative of the membership Nationally. We believe each of the regions should have a representative on the Board of Directors. The current procedures of elections to the Board of Directors is imbalanced and unfair with regards to:

- (a) The membership may know very little about the proposed Board Members;
- (b) have had little contact with, or;
- (c) may not have any knowledge of previously;
- (d) many members will also be unable to attend a National AGM;
- (e) most AGM’s are held in the Dublin – Leinster region therefore it’s a disadvantage for rural therapists.

The Board of Directors is not reflective of the geographical nature of the membership. The Board ought to have representation from the 4 corners of Ireland each presenting with unique issues pertaining to the membership, i.e. the Border counties with respect to the imbalanced reciprocal arrangement with the BACP. This would ensure inclusivity and safeguard openness and transparency to incorporate all the members feeling part of a National Organization.

This would involve yearly Regional AGMs and the regions members to vote in a Director.

Proposed by: Liam Neville

Seconded by: Paul Loughlin
