



## STATEMENT OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

This statement underpins all BCPC Codes of Practice and is an explanation of the basic values and principles by which BCPC members aim to work. However, only the Codes of Practice define actual practice and therefore are relevant to any complaints and grievance concerned with a members' professional conduct.

### 1. Introduction

**1.1** The BCPC Ethical Principles represent the values and philosophy underpinning the professional codes of practice and training policies of BCPC.

**1.2** The Ethical Principles cannot cover every potential ethical or practice related concern. BCPC members must depend on their thoughtful evaluation of the principles but are encouraged to refer any ethical issues or situations, which they feel have not already been addressed by the Principles, to the Diversity, Standards & Ethics Committee for consideration.

**1.3** Acceptance of any category of membership through the BCPC Student and Professional Register, commits a member to acceptance of the BCPC Statement of Ethical Principles, the BCPC Codes of Practice, the BCPC Equal opportunities Statement, and the BCPC Complaints and Grievances Procedure.

### 2. Ethical Principles

**2.1** BCPC members aim to respect the dignity, autonomy and integrity of each individual. They are committed to the promotion and protection of basic human rights and the notion of the potential for development and growth within each person.

**2.2** All BCPC members recognise the position of trust they hold in their professional work and the potential vulnerability of those they work with. BCPC members are concerned for the best interests of those who seek their services and are expected to behave in a non-exploitative manner. They use their skills and knowledge only for the purposes consistent with these values. They take whatever steps are necessary to protect the welfare of those in receipt of their services.

**2.3** BCPC members are not to have sexual contact with clients and not to utilize their relationship with any past or present clients for emotional, financial or sexual gain.

**2.4** BCPC members to decline any gifts, monetary or otherwise, that may be seen as exploitative, manipulative or indicative of a lack of boundaries.

**2.5** BCPC members show respect for other professionals working in the field.

**2.6** BCPC members respect the privacy and preserve the confidentiality of any information acquired through their professional practice or research. In general, and subject to the requirements of law, they take appropriate care to prevent the identity of individuals or organisations being revealed deliberately or inadvertently without permission.

**2.7** BCPC members acknowledge there are limitations to their knowledge and understanding and aim to recognise the boundaries of their own competence, remaining open to new ideas and feedback from clients, students and colleagues. Where appropriate, they are prepared to refer on to other professionals.

**2.8** BCPC members explain to clients or prospective clients their fees and terms and conditions and provide a clear statement of their qualifications and the type and nature of psychotherapy or counselling practised.

**2.9** BCPC members are positively committed to opposing discrimination against people on the grounds of *gender, race, colour, nationality, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, class, age, disability, having dependants, HIV status or lifestyle*. They welcome the enrichment and cultural diversity that would follow as the result of this policy.

**2.10** BCPC members recognise that health, personal problems, behaviour outside their professional life and other conflicts may on occasion interfere with their professional effectiveness. As appropriate, they withdraw from practice or seek appropriate professional assistance, supervision, support or advice.

**2.11** Members recognise that BCPC is a participatory organisation and are encouraged and need to make themselves available to support BCPC activities such as serving on committees and in complaint enquiries. Such support may be used in their curriculum vitae as part of material for re-accreditation.

*NB: The following extracted from the original Statement of Ethics, will be added to each of the here Codes of Practice.*

All BCPC members have an obligation to report according to the laws of the land to the Chairperson of the Diversity, Standards and Ethics Committee any criminal convictions that they have been found guilty of, as well as any other offences or actions that may bring the profession into disrepute. This information will be held in confidence except for purposes affecting registration or re-accreditation, but the UKCP Registration Board requires that information regarding criminal offences is reported to them, and they will decide upon action following recommendation from the Diversity, Standards and Ethics Committee. Failure to inform the Diversity, Standards and Ethics Chair may result in the members being struck off the Student and Professional Register.

This statement was agreed by the S&E Committee, Mar 2001  
Approved AGM 23rd Nov 2001  
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